

Memo

TO: GAD Coach – District-level Championship and Wild Card Teams
FROM: Michelle Crawford, State Director
DATE: January 22, 2021
SUBJECT: Virtual State Competition

Congratulations! You are now eligible to participate in the virtual state competition for Georgia Academic Decathlon. This is an event where you will continue the learning process you began last fall; and the learning will take place in an exciting state competition format.

Registering for State Competition

All the forms necessary for registering your team for the state competition of Georgia Academic Decathlon can be downloaded or submitted from the GAD website (www.pageinc.org/gad). Once on the GAD home page, select “State Competition” from the left-side navigation menu. After you have downloaded the forms, please review each carefully. Your Team Registration and Team Roster Spreadsheet must be submitted by January 27 so that preparations for the online state art and essay competitions can be completed. The remaining forms and the **deadline for registering your team for state competition is NOON on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**. It is imperative that we receive your registration materials by this date so that we may do the preparatory work for the state competition. **You will need to make 9- 12 copies of the Student Registration and Parent Permission Form.** (One copy per team member, include forms for any alternates.) You will receive a confirmation of your team’s registration once we receive your team’s completed registration packet. (The Student Registration form must be returned for every student participating on your team, even if they are only an alternate.) You’ll find a helpful checklist on the last page of this document.

IMPORTANT: USAD has instituted a National Competition registration fee of \$250 (online) to participate in National Competition. In order to assist Georgia's National representatives we require a \$75 per team State Competition registration fee. As soon as our National representatives are identified, PAGE GAD will pay each team’s National Competition Registration fee from the State Competition fees collected. You will receive an invoice prior to state competition. (Teams who participated in State Competition last year have a credit on file and will be exempt from this fee.)

T-Shirts

T-Shirts can be pre-ordered at a cost of \$10 per shirt. You must place your order online by February 15. Shirts will be shipped directly to your school from our vendor. Invoices will be emailed to the head coach.

State Wild Card Teams

Any teams receiving a Wild Card invitation must adhere to all deadlines.

Team Identification Number

Your team’s identification number will be placed on the GAD section of the website on/around February 1. A very important reason for getting your team’s registration information in on time is that we will need to know what systems will be participating in the state competition as well as the enrollment of each of the participating schools in order to determine team identification numbers for Division I and II assignments. **Please be sure to include your school’s enrollment in the space provided on the Team Registration Form.** Be respectful to all participating teams by meeting the registration deadline and making sure that the line requesting the enrollment of your school is filled in.

Competition Schedule

We are currently working on the State Competition schedule. The General Assembly will be held via Zoom in the morning on Friday, February 26, and Testing will happen shortly thereafter. Speech and Interview will take place via Zoom on Saturday, February 27. **The updated 2021 State Competition schedule will be emailed to you and posted on the State Competition section of the website ASAP.** See below for the Essay competition information.*

Reminder for Speech and Interview Competitions

In order to facilitate speech competition, we are requiring that each decathlete provide a written copy of his/her speech. Coaches please collect these and email them to the State Director prior to State Competition. All medaling speeches will be checked for originality. Students should be prepared to deliver their speeches from a SEATED position.

We are not requiring resumes for Interview this year.

Speech and Interview will take place via Zoom. Students should all prepare a half sheet of paper (8.5 x. 5.5) with their name and GAD ID number on it to show to the judges once they enter their competition room. We'll discuss this in more detail during our General Assembly. More information about Speech and Interview including your team's scheduled times and Zoom login info will be emailed as soon as it's finalized.

State Winners and National Representatives

The PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon state competition will have a Division I (large school) and a Division II (small school) championship team. The championship team (either Division I or Division II) with the highest team score will represent Georgia at the virtual national finals April 29-May 1, 2021. (State division population sizes can vary from year to year and will be posted online as soon as state competition registration is complete.)

We will identify as many national representative teams as possible. We are still awaiting information on how many teams will be invited to Nationals this year.

*** Essay Event**

The Essay Event takes place online a couple of weeks prior to State competition. The mandatory practice log-in for the online essay event is scheduled for February 4 - 5. This practice log-in is mandatory so that we can make sure you can connect to the testing portal. The Official Essay Event is scheduled for February 8 - 9. We suggest you attempt to use the first date in case you encounter any problems. More instructions including usernames and passwords will be sent to you via email on or around February 1.

Testing

Tests will be completed virtually, just like they were in Rounds 1 and 2. Instructions and the specific testing schedule will be sent to you via email. Every student MUST take the tests at the scheduled time. Any student testing outside of the schedule will be disqualified.

Competition Odds and Ends

The Super Quiz will not be collaborative this year nor will it count toward overall team scores. There will be rounds of 13 questions for Varsity students, Scholastic students and Honor students. It is very important that Varsity students receive the VARSITY KEY, Scholastic students receive the SCHOLASTIC KEY and Honor students receive the HONOR KEY. You'll get more information about these instructions closer to competition. Only team awards will be given for Super Quiz; no individual medals will be given.

Awards

Score reports will be sent as soon as possible after competition is completed (likely on Monday, March 1). All medals, trophies, plaques, and banners will be shipped to the winner's schools.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 404-414-3041, or via email at mcrawford@pageinc.org. We look forward to your participation in the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon Virtual State Competition.

State Competition Paperwork Checklist

All of the below documents are available on the State Competition page of the website (referenced above).

Due by January 27:

- Team Registration Form – online form (you will need to know your school’s enrollment to complete this form)
- Team Roster Spreadsheet – Excel document with 2 tabs – save to your computer and complete both tabs. Email to mcrawford@pageinc.org
- Virtual State Competition Honor Code – every participating decathlete will have to submit this form prior to taking any tests. The link to this form will ALSO be on the testing instructions you receive prior to the Essay practice on Feb 4-5.

Due by February 3 (or date on form):

- State Coaches Agreement – online form
- USAD GPA Transcript Evaluation Worksheet – do not use an old Georgia form. On the website you will find 2 links to this worksheet. The first link takes you to a GPA training section of the USAD website. One of the links listed in this training section is the ACTUAL Worksheet – the second link on the GAD website takes you directly to the worksheet. REMEMBER – if a student failed a class you still list the ATTEMPTED credit hours on the worksheet.
- OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS/REPORT CARDS MUST ACCOMPANY THE WORKSHEETS Call or email Michelle with ANY questions.
- Student Registration/Parent Permission Form – this must be completed and returned for each participating student, even alternates. (Some of the language pertains to face-to-face competition, obviously that language doesn’t apply.)
- Request for Special Needs/Consideration – please complete and return this form if you have a student who receives accommodations. We will need a copy of the students IEP in order to allow any accommodations to be made.
- T-Shirt order form – online form