

Memo

TO: GAD Coach – District-level Championship and Wild Card Teams
FROM: Michelle Crawford, State Director
DATE: January 19, 2023
SUBJECT: State Competition

Congratulations! You are now eligible to participate in the state competition for Georgia Academic Decathlon.

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 ASAP but **no later than January 26** 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 1, 2023**. 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 who will be attending.) You will receive a confirmation of your team’s registration once we receive your team’s completed registration packet. 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.

T-Shirts

T-Shirts can be pre-ordered at a cost of \$10 per shirt. You must place your order online by February 8. Shirts will be distributed at State Competition. We cannot accept cash payments.

Hotel Reservations – There is not a hotel block this year. Competition is at Kennesaw State University and the Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites Kennesaw. There are many hotels in the area for you to choose from. We would encourage you to NOT stay at the Embassy Suites for several reasons including: 1) small parking lot, 2) all suites with a very limited number of doubles, 3) an evening alcohol reception in the lobby.

Are You Bringing Alternates?

If you are bringing alternates who might be available to serve as student volunteers, please let us know as soon as possible. Service hours can be earned.

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 districts 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 final version of the State Competition schedule. Art and Essay will take place online on Feb. 8-9 (practice session on Feb 6-7), the remaining tests will take place online during the school day on Thursday, Feb. 23 at your own school. The remaining events will be conducted in-person at Kennesaw State University and the Embassy Suites Kennesaw on Feb 24-25. **The updated 2023 State Competition schedule will be 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 should deliver printed copies of speeches at check-in on Friday, Feb 24. All medaling speeches will be checked for originality.

Students should prepare a one-page resume to be used during the Interview event at State Competition. Samples can be found in the Coaches Manual on the website. Please print 3 copies of the resume. You will not be able to print them on site. If a student does not have a resume prepared, the interview will be conducted as scheduled but the student may be at a slight disadvantage. We recommend you not rely on printing these at the hotel – **PRINT THEM BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO STATE.**

Please be sure to print the pages regarding dress code, student code of conduct, academic honesty and plagiarism, and familiarize yourself and your team with these guidelines. The students must sign a statement indicating that they've read and will adhere to them. They will also be in the Handbook that you will receive at check-in on Friday.

Art and Essay

As mentioned, the Art and Essay events take place online a couple of weeks prior to State competition. The mandatory practice log-in for the online essay event is scheduled for February 6-7. This practice log-in is mandatory so that we can make sure you can connect to the testing portal. The Actual Testing 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. You will need to have a proctor for all of the online tests, including Essay. 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 in-person portion of State Competition will now be at Kennesaw State University. Additional information about car parking, bus drop-off and parking, and entrance to the registration and competition area will be posted online and emailed to you very soon. KSU is finalizing this information now. It's possible that the busses will need to park quite far from the competition building(s). If your bus driver has any questions after seeing the maps and instructions, please ask them to call the State Director.

The Art test will be given online prior to State competition, along with the Essay Event. You will need a proctor.

The Interview event will again take place in an arena format. Instead of students going into separate rooms to conduct their interviews, they will be in one big room with all other students who are scheduled at the same time.

Testing will take place online at your school during the school day on Thursday, Feb 23. You will need a proctor.

The Super Quiz will kick off our in-person competition again this year. It will continue to be a collaborative event but will not count toward overall team scores. It will be a stand-alone competition with trophies presented for 1st through 3rd places. Only team awards will be given for Super Quiz; no individual medals will be given. The first round will consist of 13 questions for Varsity students. The second round will be for Scholastic students, and we will finish with 13 questions for the Honor students. Alternates will be allowed to participate in Super Quiz.

As we have in the past, we will continue to provide dinner on Friday evening after Super Quiz and Lunch on Saturday afternoon after Speech and Interview for all decathletes, alternates, coaches, and chaperones. Since we are being hosted at Kennesaw State University, we will have those meals in the Commons cafeteria. They have many different types of food including accommodating those with special dietary restrictions! We've added a new form to the list to let us know an estimate of the number of people who will be taking advantage of these meals.

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 national finals in Frisco, TX April 27-29, 2023. (State division population sizes can vary from year to year and will be posted online as soon as state competition registration is complete.)

Georgia will also tap the 2nd highest scoring team in a different USAD division to participate at in-person Nationals as our Division IV team. Additionally, we will have representatives competing in the Small, Medium, and Large School National Online competitions.

Awards Banquet

This is the celebration event where students receive medals for outstanding performance in each of the 10 events and teams receive trophies for their Super Quiz standings, and overall in their divisions. Please note: Complimentary banquet tickets are provided for a maximum of 9 team members and 2 coaches (11 tickets). Teams will be charged for complimentary tickets that are requested but not used. You will be able to purchase banquet tickets for any alternates who travel with your team to the state competition. You may purchase additional guest tickets this year, but we will have a limit on how many people can attend the banquet because of the size of the ballroom at the Embassy Suites. If more tickets are ordered than the maximum number of people that will fit in the space, we will talk individually with those who ordered additional guest tickets.

No refunds are given for unused tickets. ALL tickets must be ordered by February 8. No tickets can be ordered after this date.

The main entree at the banquet will be chicken, rice and vegetable and will be prepared nut, gluten, and dairy free. There will be a vegetarian/vegan entrée option as well. If you have OTHER dietary restrictions that aren't encompassed by this menu, please let us know ASAP.

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 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 26:

- 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

Due by February 1 (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.
- Estimate of meals for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch
- Request for Special Needs/Consideration – please complete and return this form if you have a student who receives accommodations or requires special consideration. We will need a copy of the students IEP in order to allow any official accommodations to be made.
- T-Shirt order form – online form (coming soon)
- Banquet Ticket order form (coming soon)