



United States Academic Decathlon® Welcome Letter 2020 USAD Nationals Online Competition

To: Academic Decathlon State, Division IV, Invited, International and Online Teams and Invited Individuals
From: United States Academic Decathlon

Congratulations on achieving the honor of representing your state or country while participating in the 2020 USAD Nationals. Due to the COVID-19, all components of Nationals will be conducted in an online competition format, except the speech, interview and Super Quiz™ competitions will be eliminated for this year. All registration documents and competition information can be found on the USAD website (www.usad.org) – 2020 USAD Nationals webpage.

Nationals registration information

All forms **MUST** be emailed (nationals@usad.org) and/or postmarked by **April 17**. Please make sure all forms are typed (preferred) or printed legibly. **Names of students and teams will appear on all documentation as they appear on the online team/individual roster form.**

Please mail forms to:
USAD Nationals
PO Box 4351
Mankato, MN 56002

Coaches, teams, state directors and individuals: please comply with the deadline date as specified for submission of your team/individual registration(s) and roster(s).

Hotel accommodations

If you have already made reservations at the participant host hotel, the **Hilton Anchorage**, 500 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. Your reservation will automatically be canceled. You do not need to contact the hotel. USAD board, state directors and Nationals staff who were staying at **The Hotel Captain Cook**, 939 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501, your reservation has also been canceled. You do not need to contact the hotel.

Back by popular demand – Twin Teams!

Get to know more about your Academic Decathlon peers before the Online Nationals! Twin Teams will be announced after all the Nationals participants have been determined. A team will be paired with another team and emailed contact information so they can connect before Nationals. Individuals will be placed in a competition team and paired accordingly. Twin Teams can foster new friendships and knowledge about the states and countries they represented even though they will not meet face-to-face at Nationals this year. Online friendships can be developed, students and share their hometown knowledge, traditions and culture, and discuss what is taking place in communities.

Detailed Nationals information

Thursday, May 7, (all online teams and individuals)

Essay and art events

The USAD essay and art events will be held online before the balance of the 2020 USAD Online Nationals testing. These events will be held May 7 at 12:30 p.m. CDT with essay first and followed immediately by art. It is necessary for your team/individual to participate in a practice session between May 4, 12:30 p.m. and May 6, 5 p.m. CDT This practice will help USAD confirm all students are able to access the testing site on competition day.

Even if your team/individual has participated in a USAD national competition in the past, we still require all students and proctors to test their usernames and passwords on these days. You will need to reserve a computer lab at your school, library or other venue. A proctor (not the team coach) will need to oversee the online competition. **All students MUST participate May 7. Student(s) who do not participate in the essay and art testing will not be eligible to participate in balance of the 2020 USAD Nationals online competition.** Please refer to the Nationals Online Technical Information, located on the 2020 USAD Nationals Helpful Information webpage, for details before practice or testing.

Most valuable team member (MVTM) (teams only)

In a prior USAD survey, students indicated they would like to recognize their most valuable team member. This year, after students have completed the online essay and art tests, they will immediately be asked to complete a rubric score sheet. These will determine the selection of the MVTM of their team. Each member of the official team is eligible to vote. Votes will remain anonymous. Rubrics will be scored by the computer. A sample of the rubric will be posted to the 2020 USAD Nationals Helpful Information webpage. A word of caution: MVTM candidates should NOT be awarded points based on popularity.

Tuesday, May 12, (State Champion and Division IV teams)

Balance of the online objectives testing schedule – Please refer to the schedule posted on the USAD Nationals website, Helpful Information Icon.

Wednesday, May 13, (Invited Division teams and individuals and all small, medium and large Online Teams)

Balance of the online objectives testing schedule – Please refer to the schedule posted on the USAD Nationals website, Helpful Information Icon.

Score results

Scores will NOT be posted during the competition. State directors and coaches with students competing in the 2020 USAD Online Nationals will be emailed a **preliminary** Comprehensive Team Results report following the Online Nationals testing. The remaining results will be shared electronically at a later date. All awards, trophies and scholarships will be awarded as originally planned and will be mailed to the schools before the end of May. If schools are dismissed before May 29, awards will be mailed to the coaches' address for distribution to their team or to the individual's home address.

Miscellaneous Information

April postings

Team ID numbers will be assigned and posted on the 2020 USAD Nationals Helpful Information webpage after April 17. Individuals will be grouped into teams and assigned a team number for competition purposes.

Documents regarding: General Rules, Appeals Procedures, Calculator Policy, Code of Conduct, Competition Schedule, etc., can also be downloaded from the 2020 USAD Nationals Helpful Information webpage. Once you download forms and other materials, please read them carefully. NOTE: Some documents must be opened with Adobe Acrobat or Reader.

Special needs

If there are participants who have special testing needs, please notify USAD of this by including this information on the Special Needs Form located on the team registration page and on the 2020 USAD Nationals Helpful Information webpage.

Nationals t-shirts and apparel

2020 USAD Online Nationals and Academic Decathlon t-shirts and apparel will be available for sale through Fine Designs. Please view the Extras Form for details.