



**United States Academic Decathlon® Welcome Letter**  
**2021 USAD Virtual Nationals**  
**April 28–May 1, 2021**

To: Academic Decathlon State Champion & Division IV Teams  
From: United States Academic Decathlon

Congratulations on achieving the honor of representing your state or country at the 2021 USAD Nationals. Plans for Nationals are underway, and the USAD staff and volunteers are working hard to make this an enjoyable competition. Please be aware that all competition events will be virtual/online. All registration documents and competition information can be found on the USAD website ([www.usad.org](http://www.usad.org)) – 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.

**Abbreviated Nationals Schedule – All times are Central Daylight Time**

**Thursday, April 8**

- Online essay and art events followed by the MVTM selection – 12:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 27**

- Mandatory coach and international staff meeting – 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 28**

- Interview event – 3–7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 29**

- Speech event – 3–7 p.m.

**Friday, April 30**

- Objective testing with Super Quiz™ 12:45–5:40 p.m.

**Saturday, May 1**

- Awards announcements 12–3 p.m.
- Champions reception 3:30–4:30 p.m.

**Nationals registration information**

All forms **MUST** be emailed ([nationals@usad.org](mailto:nationals@usad.org)) and/or postmarked by **March 25**. 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 roster form.** No name corrections will be made after March 27.

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

Coaches, teams and state directors: please comply with the deadline dates specified for submission of your team registration(s) and roster(s). If your competition is too close to the March 25 deadline for forms to be received on time, please email your forms to [nationals@usad.org](mailto:nationals@usad.org) and indicate the originals have been placed in the mail.

**Registration and team identification** – Coaches will be emailed ID badges for all students participating in Nationals prior to the competition. These badges will include students’ names, competition ID number, and scheduled speech and interview times. Students must have their ID badges as well as an official photo ID (school ID, driver’s license, passport, etc.) with them when they participate in the speech and interview events, so the judges may verify their identity.

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## Detailed Nationals information

### Thursday, April 8

#### **Essay and art events**

The USAD essay and art events will be held on April 8 at 12:30 p.m. with essay first, followed immediately by art. Your team must participate in a practice session between April 1, 12:30 p.m. and April 6, 5 p.m., so USAD can confirm all teams/students will be able to access the testing site on competition day. All students and proctors must test their usernames and passwords on these days, even if your team has participated in a USAD national competition in the past. **All students MUST participate in the essay and art testing on April 8. Student(s) who do not participate will not be eligible to participate in the 2021 USAD Nationals competition.** Please refer to the Nationals Online Technical Information, located on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage, for more details.

#### **Most valuable team member (MVTM)**

After students have completed the online essay and art tests, they will be prompted to complete a rubric to register their vote for the Most Valuable Team Member on their team. Each member of the official team is eligible to vote. Votes will remain anonymous, and the rubrics will be scored by the computer. A sample of the rubric will be posted on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.

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### Tuesday, April 27

**Mandatory coach and international meeting – 6–7 p.m.** (Zoom link will be emailed to coaches)

There will be a mandatory meeting for all coaches and international staff at this time. Coaches and international staff should review the competition outline from the registration packet prior to the meeting. Any final information and updates will be provided at the meeting.

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### **Wednesday, April 28**

**Interview – 3–7 p.m.** (Zoom link will be sent to coaches)

Interviews will be conducted in an online Zoom room. The Zoom link will be emailed to coaches prior to the competition. Students should log into the Zoom 10 minutes prior to their scheduled interview time. Students should be ready to present their competition ID and photo ID if requested to do so. A description of the online interview procedure will be made available on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.

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### **Thursday, April 29**

**Speech – 3–7 p.m.** (Zoom link will be sent to coaches)

All participants will present their speeches before a panel of two or three speech judges in an online Zoom room. The Zoom link will be emailed to coaches prior to the competition. Students should log into the Zoom 10 minutes prior to their scheduled speech time. Students should be ready to present their competition ID and photo ID if requested to do so. A description of the online speech procedure will be made available on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.

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### **Friday, April 30**

**Objective testing – 12:45–4:55 p.m.**

**Varsity Super Quiz™ – 5:00-5:10 p.m.**

**Scholastic Super Quiz™ – 5:15-5:25 p.m.**

**Honor Super Quiz™ – 5:30-5:40 p.m.**

**Super Quiz™** - Each student will be provided with a Super Quiz test key based on their GPA category. All varsity students will have the same 18-question varsity Super Quiz test key, all scholastic students will have the same 18-question scholastic Super Quiz test key, and all honor students will have the same 18-question honor Super Quiz test key. The questions and subjects are randomized with the exception of the two mathematics questions, which will be the final two questions on each Super Quiz test. Students will have 10 minutes to complete the Super Quiz test.

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### **Saturday, May 1 12–3 p.m.**

- **Awards announcements 12–3 p.m.**

Subject area awards, team awards, memorial awards, and scholarships will be announced online. All awards will be mailed to recipients following the competition.

#### **Score results**

Scores will NOT be posted during the competition. Coaches and state directors will be emailed a copy of their results.

**Champions reception – 3:30–4:30 p.m.** (Zoom link will be sent to coaches)

The top three U.S. teams (coaches, students, and state directors) in each division will gather for a virtual celebration following the awards ceremony.

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## **Miscellaneous Information**

### **April postings**

Team ID numbers will be assigned and posted on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage in early April after all state competitions have been completed. The interview and speech schedule will also be posted at that time.

Documents regarding: General Rules, Appeals Procedures, Calculator Policy, Dress Code, Code of Conduct, Competition Schedule, etc., can also be downloaded from the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage. Once you download forms and other materials, please read them carefully. NOTE: Some documents must be opened with Adobe Acrobat or Reader.

### **Decathlete behavior**

All participants are expected to demonstrate behavior that is appropriate for USAD events and in keeping with the USAD Code of Conduct. The failure of any member of the team to adhere to the policies and procedures listed in the USAD Code of Conduct may result in the disqualification of the delinquent decathlete and/or the entire team.

### **Special needs**

If there are team members who have special needs requiring special arrangements, please notify USAD of this by including this information on the Special Needs Form located on the team registration page on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.

### **Photos**

USAD is requesting that all teams submit a team photo for use in a Nationals video that will be shared on USAD's website and social media. The photo may also be included in USAD's Curriculum Overview. Ideally, photos should be at least 300 DPI or taken with a 2-megapixel or larger device. Please email your team photo(s) to [nationals@usad.org](mailto:nationals@usad.org) by March 25.

### **Nationals t-shirts and apparel**

2021 USAD Nationals and Academic Decathlon t-shirts and apparel will be available for sale. Details can be found on the 2021 USAD Nationals webpage.