

2026–2027 United States Academic Pentathlon

The rapidly-growing Academic Pentathlon® program allows middle school students a chance to start experiencing the benefits of Academic Decathlon® before entering high school.

Each student experiences rigorous team and individual competition in five events: literature, mathematics, fine arts, science and social science. The program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, promote wholesome inter-school academic competition and further develop student communication skills.

Pentathlon teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members in grades 6–8. Each team must consist of at least two students from each GPA category: honor (3.85 and above), scholastic (3.50 - 3.8499) and varsity (3.499 and below).

Teams advance through local, regional and state levels of competition. In many schools, the state competition team is determined in the early spring, thus allowing more than nine students to be involved in each school's program until the final team is selected. The state champions compete in the national finals. All Pentathlon competitions (except for the national finals) take place online in a virtual testing environment so there is no travel required for teams!

The theme for the 2026-2027 is The Journey of Transformation.

Fees:

Registration and curriculum site license: \$300
Online testing subscription (per student): \$10
Practice Quiz Booklet (PDF available Oct. 15): \$45
Novel Chapter Quizzes (PDF available Oct. 15): \$45
Super Quiz Relay PowerPoint Tests (PDF available Oct. 15): \$45
Pentathlon Essay Guide (PDF available Oct. 15): \$45

Deadlines:

ALL Registration Documents Due (Forms found on USAP website):
Dec. 6, 2026
National Competition Registration Due: April 8, 2027

Competition Dates:

Scrimmage – Subject Area Exams Only: Jan. 7, 2027
Essay for Regional Competition: Jan. 21, 2027
Regional Competition: Feb. 11, 2027
Essay for State Competition: March 4, 2027
State Competition: March 25, 2027
Essay for National Competition: April 22, 2027
National Competition: TBA: May 20-22, 2027



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Academic Pentathlon Benefits for Students:

- Supports team spirit and encourages a sense of belonging
- Creates an academic vision for the school and community at large
- Promotes the use of higher-level thinking skills to create excitement and interest
- Produces a feeling of success and pride
- Promotes individual accountability while, at the same time, providing the dynamics of group/team interaction
- Stimulates personal student growth and encourages learning while having fun

Academic Rewards of Pentathlon

- Meets national content/curriculum standards
- Learning beyond the normal curriculum
- Preparation for high school and life skills
- Socialization with peers and community
- Local, state and national competitions
- Individual and team medals/trophies

For More Information Visit
<https://usad.org/pentathlon>

**Get Started
Today!**

Tara Brown, US Academic Pentathlon
612-423-4035 or tara@usad.org
<https://usad.org/pentathlon>