

# Memo

**TO:** GAD Coach – District-level Championship and Wild Card Teams  
**FROM:** Michelle Crawford, State Director  
**DATE:** January 16, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** State Competition

Congratulations! You are now eligible to participate in the 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 from the GAD website ([www.pageinc.org/gad](http://www.pageinc.org/gad)). Once on the GAD home page, select “State Competition” from the drop down menu. After you have downloaded the forms, please review each carefully. Your Intent to Participate, and Preliminary Roster must be submitted immediately (online forms) so that preparations for the online state essay competition can be completed. The remaining forms and the **deadline for registering your team for state competition is FEBRUARY 1, 2018**. It is imperative that we receive your registration materials by this date in order for us to 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 registration packet. (The Student Registration form must be returned for every student travelling with your team, even if they aren’t competing.)

**IMPORTANT:** USAD instituted a registration fee for National Competition recently. All Nationally competing teams have to pay a registration fee of \$250 (online) or \$600 (face-to-face) to participate in National competition. In order to assist Georgia's National competitors our Advisory Board has approved a \$50 per team State Competition fee. We began charging this State Competition Participation fee in 2016. This information has been added to the Team Registration Form on the second page. It is likely that Georgia’s face-to-face teams may still need to pay a portion of the National Fee.

## T-Shirts

T-Shirts can be pre-ordered at a cost of \$10 per shirt. You must place your order online by February 1. You can bring a check or credit card information with you to competition or submit payment with other competition expenses. Shirts will be distributed at State Competition once payment has been received. Cash will not be accepted.

## Hotel Reservations

**Gwinnett Place Sonesta**, 1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096, Direct Phone: (770) 923-1775

The Sonesta has included a complimentary breakfast buffet on Saturday morning that we can start at 6:15 a.m. This is a full hot buffet and it’s included with your stay. We want to encourage everyone coming in from out of town to stay at the Sonesta.

Hotel reservations with the Sonesta are no longer made online. Please follow all instructions on the updated forms. The deadline for making your hotel reservations and submitting a rooming list is February 1, 2018. GAD is not responsible for making your hotel reservations. **Be sure to send us a copy of your hotel rooming list when you submit the rest of your state competition paperwork.** This is the only way we can work with the Sonesta to ensure your rooms are together. Don’t Wait to make your reservations! The hotel has fewer rooms available this year and after February 1, the negotiated room rate of \$91 is not guaranteed.

Note: If you will be bringing a bus, please park it in the back lot of the hotel. Not in the front or side lots.

## State Wild Card Teams

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

## **Are You Bringing Alternates?**

If you are bringing alternates who might be available to act 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 ASAP. 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.** 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**

Last year's competition schedule can be found on the GAD website. [www.pageinc.org/gad](http://www.pageinc.org/gad). Once on the website, click on "State Competition" and scroll down. You will also note sample schedules for both Speech and Interview. These are tentative schedules and will likely change once we assign team identification numbers. **Coaches are expected to work with team members and approve speech topic selection, preparation, and delivery.** This is a part of the competition and students should prepare in advance for it. Advanced preparation and practice on delivery will enhance this part of the competition and ensure quality speeches. If you have questions about preparation for this event, please contact me at my email address and I will be happy to assist.

The 2018 State Competition schedule will be posted ASAP.

## **Reminder for Speech and Interview Competitions**

In order to facilitate better speech competition, we are requiring that each decathlete turn in a written copy of his/her speech. Coaches please collect these and turn them in at the registration table when you arrive at state competition. On site printing will not be available. All medaling speeches will be checked for originality.

**Please note that decathletes prepare for Interview by putting together a one-page resume. This does not have to be mailed in with your other registration information but must be brought to the Interview by the decathlete.** Each decathlete **must make three copies of his/her resume to present to the judges** at the time of the interview. Should a decathlete forget to prepare or bring his/her resume, the interview will go as scheduled but the decathlete may be at a slight disadvantage. Decathletes will NOT be able to print out resumes on site.

Please be sure to go to the revised pages in the GAD coaches' manual regarding student code of conduct, academic honesty and plagiarism and familiarize yourself and your team with these guidelines.

## **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 19-21, 2018. (State division population sizes can vary from year to year and will be posted online as soon as state competition registration is complete.)

NEW for USAD Nationals 2018 – The USAD Board of Directors has approved the establishment of a Division IV to be added to the USAD face-to-face national competition. Georgia will send the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest scoring team which is in a different NATIONAL division from the Georgia State Champion as our Division IV representative. Division IV schools will be eligible for INDIVIDUAL AWARDS ONLY. All face-to-face USAD teams will be required to stay at the official hotels at the National competition.

USAD also invites three teams to participate in online virtual national competition. These teams are selected based on student population sizes set by USAD, a small school with population no larger than 650 (Div III), a medium school with population no larger than 1300 (Div II), and a large school with population larger than 1300 (Div I). The highest scoring teams in these population sizes (after the Champion and Division IV teams are identified) will be recognized at the GAD Awards Banquet and will represent Georgia in the USAD Online National competition which occurs concurrently with the USAD National Competition.

## Testing Rooms

Students will not be allowed to leave the testing rooms during a block of tests without prior written notice from the coach on the Special Needs/Requests form. Decathletes are expected to take care of personal needs during the breaks provided.

## Competition Format

Once again the art competition at the state level will include projections of art work for decathletes to answer questions in a manner similar to the music test. Be prepared for this type of test.

The Super Quiz will remain a relay event this year. There is no separate Super Quiz topic nor is there a written Super Quiz. For the first time at State Competition, Super Quiz scores will not count toward the overall the team score. Only team awards will be given for Super Quiz; no individual medals will be given.

## Essay Event

The practice log in for the online essay event is scheduled for January 29 - 30. This practice log in is mandatory so that we can make sure you can connect to the Essay testing portal. The Essay Competition Writing is scheduled for January 31 or February 1 at 3:30 PM. We select you attempt to use the first writing date in case you encounter any problems. Usernames and passwords are created from the Preliminary Roster you submit and will be sent to you via email very soon. You will need to secure a proctor for the essay writing. Start planning now. More information regarding the online Essay writing is also available on the State Competition section of the website [www.pageinc.org/gad](http://www.pageinc.org/gad).

## Awards Banquet

Coaches, we need your assistance. At the awards banquet, there must be at least one responsible adult seated at each table with students. Also, coaches please remind your teams that the awards banquet is a formal event and we expect appropriate dress and the best behavior from each student.

A reservation form is available for your team to make reservations for the Awards Banquet following the state competition. This is the celebration event when students receive medals for outstanding performance in each of the 10 events and teams receive trophies for first, second, and third place standings in Super Quiz and overall in their divisions.

**Please note: Complimentary banquet tickets are provided for a maximum of 9 team members and 2 coaches (11 tickets). However, teams will be charged for complimentary tickets that are requested and not used.**

Additionally, all Guest banquet tickets must be ordered and paid for in advance. We cannot sell ANY guest tickets at competition or at the door to the banquet. **Tickets will be required for admittance to the ballroom. No refunds will be given for unused tickets and no standing room will be provided.** We have had issues with non-ticketed guests leaning on light-switches during the banquet. We apologize for any inconvenience, but please respect all attendees and notify parents and administrators of this requirement.

**Tickets must be ordered by February 13.**

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 404-414-3041, 770-216-8555 or 1-800-334-6861, or via email at [mcrawford@pageinc.org](mailto:mcrawford@pageinc.org).

We look forward to seeing you and your championship decathletes on February 23-24, 2018 at the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Competition.