



## National Academic Association

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# 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIP

## Each team may choose one of these phases:

New Orleans, May 26 - 28 OR

Washington, D.C., June 1 - 3 OR

Chicago, June 9 – 11 OR

Orlando, June 15 - 17

## We now offer four competitive levels at each venue: High School Varsity ... High School JV ... Middle School/Junior High ... Elementary School (in every venue except New Orleans)

With an option of locales, teams can choose a place that's fun to visit. With a choice of dates, schools with a conflict (e.g. graduation) in one time frame may simply select another date.

At the expense of Questions Unlimited (\$500 max. air fare per person), the winners of the New Orleans and D.C. and Chicago phases of the high school varsity tournament (four players and a coach) will be transported to Orlando and provided with two hotel rooms, for up to two nights, to compete in the final rounds of the fourth (June 17) phase of the competition.

## Six Guaranteed Matches

Each team will compete in at least six official tournament matches. Advancement to the final-day Single Elimination round will be determined by performance in the six preliminary games. All 6-0, 5-1, and 4-2 teams will make the playoffs.

## Bringing Two Teams.

Some schools choose to bring two or more teams. If you're considering this, be aware that players may not shift between teams. Also, for scheduling purposes, it will be useful for us to know whether you like to have the two (or more) teams scheduled at the same time – which would maximize sightseeing opportunities – or at different times – so the coach(es) can see everybody's game.

## Consider Also Bringing Your Farm Team

Several years ago we predicted that the contending high school teams of the future will be those that have developed solid farm systems on the lower grade levels. The best example is Daviess County (KY), which won the JV title in 2015 and returned with the same players in 2016 and won the Varsity title.

## Junior Varsity Tournament

At each venue we plan to run discrete JV tournaments. JV teams will be limited by the "Rule of 41." That is, the total grade numbers of the four players at any given time shall not exceed 41. For example,  $9 + 10 + 11 + 12 = 42$ , and that's too much!  $9 + 9 + 10 + 11 = 39$ , and that's within the limit of 41.  $9 + 10 + 10 + 12 = 41$  and that's fine. Etc. etc. JV teams will be fielding the same questions as Varsity teams, but will only face each other. Graduating seniors are allowed to participate on a JV team *only* if the school is also bringing a Varsity team as well as a JV.

## Small School Champion

We crown a champion from among the "small schools" that come to Nationals (defined as any school with 500 or fewer students in grades 10-12 and a nonselective admissions policy). We do so after all three phases are finished, selecting the highest ranking team.

## Who Wants to Be a Game Show Host?

We again plan to conduct our popular reality show at each site, the winner of which will be invited to join us as a moderator for 2019 Nationals.

## How to Qualify

Your team contingent should include four starters and one or more coaches. Alternate(s) are recommended but not required. Each team must win an academic competition (local or regional) of at least 8 teams or finish in the top 15% of any tournament. The winning team from any preliminary round match in the Questions Unlimited QuizNet online tournament qualifies. Any school making the playoffs at last year's National Academic Championship automatically qualifies.

Wild card entry may be offered to teams that wish to apply to compete at the National Academic Championship. Teams from areas without easy-to-reach tournaments, and teams who seem always to finish just under the qualification guidelines in areas with a number of qualifying teams are advised to apply for wild-card entry. To apply for wild card entry into the field at the National Academic Championship, email us at [NAC1983@comcast.net](mailto:NAC1983@comcast.net) with a one or two paragraph summary of your tournament finishes during the school year.

## Academic Emphasis

The competition focuses on academic information - "significa" rather than "trivia" - and the questions are supplied by Questions Unlimited. Our emphasis is light on popular culture and heavy on the academic. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of question quality and academic relevance. Contests follow the superb four-quarter format created by Questions Unlimited.

## Commitment to Excellence

We call the National Academic Championship "the finest in academic competition" because we boast the best questions and a highly professional officiating staff.

## Officials

Our superb team of moderators includes:

### Charles Beall

Executive Director of the National Academic Association and President of Questions Unlimited

### Brick Barrientos

Creator of the long-running Maryland Classic tournament.

### Ernie Anderson

Creator and Host of the High-Q TV program (Huntington, West Virginia)

### Chris Hunter

host of the South Louisiana Quiz Bowl, a production of KWBK-TV in Morgan City.

### Arjun Plakkat

Winner of 2007 "Who Wants to Be a Game Show Host?" contest. With 3D Systems, he works on 3D printers as a "Stereolithography Process Development Engineer."

### Rob Grierson

Project Manager for Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity.

### Sierra Mannie

is a freelance journalist and Reveal Fellow with the Center for Investigative Reporting.

### Les Roby