

# International Academic Competitions

*presents the*

## 2025 Varsity and Junior Varsity National Championships



National  
History Bowl



National  
History Bee



National  
Geography Bee



National  
Science Bee



National  
Academic Bee



United States  
History Bee



NATIONAL  
POLITICAL  
SCIENCE BEE



UNITED STATES  
GEOGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIPS



United States  
Geography Bee



National  
Geography Bowl



**Arlington, VA and Washington, DC – April 24-27, 2025**

**Pre-Tournament Email #1**

**Dear Coaches, Parents, Teachers, and Players,**

Thank you for registering for the 2025 National History Bee & Bowl / US History Bee / US Geography Championships / National Geography Bee / National Science Bee / National Academic Bee / National Political Science Bee National Championships! We're a week and a half away from the big weekend in Arlington, VA on April 24-27 and we are excited to be welcoming 150 History Bowl teams (96 Varsity, 54 Junior Varsity), as well as all of our participants in the individual events. This email is known as Pre-Tournament Email # 1. It contains many important updates regarding Nationals weekend. Please be sure to read it through in full! Further Pre-Tournament Emails will be sent in the next week and a half in advance of Nationals. Please also consult the main [Varsity /Junior Varsity Nationals website](#) for further information on Nationals (particularly information on schedules, and how each competition works).

Also, before going any farther, don't forget to watch IAC Executive Director David Madden compete on the quiz show *The Floor* on FOX tomorrow night at 9pm EDT and PDT / 8pm CDT!

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1. Cancellation/Refund Policies
    - a. Official Refund Policy - As per the [registration website](#), the deadline for 50% partial refunds is April 17. After that day, no refunds will be offered.

- b. History Bowl - Canceling teams after the registration deadline (which was yesterday, April 14) can wreak havoc with the fairness of the draw, as the draw is intricately seeded and needs to be done in multiples of 6 teams. Once we have set brackets, finding a team of comparable difficulty to replace a team that is dropping is even harder. Not only is this a hassle, but it often results in a financial loss for us as getting teams to play on short notice typically results in teams playing for a steep discount (or even free) after we have paid for staff travel and lodging.
- i. **By Thursday, April 17th at 11:59pm EDT - 50% of the registration fee per team penalty.** If you are still coming to Nationals with a smaller number of teams or for individual events, you must pay this before being allowed to compete. If you are not coming to Nationals and have paid, you will have your registration fees refunded minus this 50% penalty fee (not including credit card fees). If you are not coming to Nationals and haven't paid, your school will be invoiced.
  - ii. **After the above deadline - No refunds will be given.** If you are still coming to Nationals with a smaller number of teams, you must pay in full for all teams, including the ones originally registered who are dropping, before being allowed to compete. If you are not coming to Nationals and have paid for the no-show teams, they will not be refunded. If you are not coming to Nationals and did not pay, your school will still be invoiced.
  - iii. If you are not comfortable with the above policies please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) to cancel by Thursday night. *Your continued presence in the draw past that point implies acceptance of this policy!*
- c. Individual Events - while we do not need replacement students the way we do in the Bowl, it still affects the fairness of the draws. Thus please note the following updated cancelation deadline:
- i. By Thursday, April 17th at 11:59pm - 50% of the registration per person penalty. Credit card processing fees can not not be refunded.
  - ii. After the above deadline - NO refunds will be given. No refunds will be provided for dropped students and payments are still due for anyone who was originally signed up.
  - iii. If you are not comfortable with the above policies please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) to cancel by Monday night. *Your*

*continued presence in the draw past that point implies acceptance of this policy!*

- d. [National Geography Bowl](#) (online, May 17) and [US Geography Bee](#) (online for students in grades 9-12, in person for students in grades 8 and under, May 22)
  - i. These events, both of which are new for the Varsity / JV Divisions this year, remain open for [registration online here](#). Note the registration deadlines for both of these events is May 6. No late fees apply for any registrations prior to that date.
- e. Submitting Payments - Note that with the exception of schools with dropped teams (who must submit payment in full for all remaining events before being allowed to compete) we will not otherwise turn anyone away at nationals for lack of payment in advance of the competitions! If when you registered you chose to pay by check (instead of paying immediately by credit card) and you would like to change your payment to credit card, please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) to get a payment link.
  - i. Onsite Payments - IF you have a copy of your invoice OR your registration AND are paying by check, you may drop off your payment at the Help Desk during Nationals. Please note that the Help Desk is normally very busy and receipts will not be provided, your cashed check will be your receipt. If you have your invoice you can also pay by credit card (plus a 4% processing fee).
  - ii. Payment after the event - by May 8. Any payment received after May 8 will accrue a \$25 per day late fee. This includes payments from purchase orders. Please account for the time it takes your school to process invoices and purchase orders.
  - iii. Payment Types. Credit cards were accepted when you registered. Otherwise checks should be made out to "International Academic Competitions" and be mailed to:

International Academic Competitions  
P. O. Box 5659  
Burlington, VT 05402
  - iv. Payment Verification - there is no need for emails asking us to verify payment to be sure that students can compete. We will try to verify payments upon request, but this can take awhile (especially if a check was mailed) and we will not be able to do this at all once our team has left for Arlington.

- v. Outstanding Payments from Regional/State Tournaments - if you have outstanding payments due from Regional / State events earlier this year you will not be able to compete at Nationals unless all payments from Regional and State events have been paid in full! These can be paid for by cash (exact change please) check or credit card (4% processing fee) at the Help Desk at Nationals if needed.

## 2. Verifying Enrollment/Age Division Switches/Geography Age Division Policy

- a. Verify your National History Bowl Team Registration
  - i. Please check and make sure you have the right number of teams registered for the National History Bowl in both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Divisions by going to the [Teams Coming to the 2025 National Championships](#) page.
  - ii. If your numbers and/or divisions do not match what you registered for, please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) as soon as possible to clarify.
  - iii. Please note that the divisions for the National Geography Bee and the US Geography Championships (though not the American Geography Exam, Map and Flag Exam, and the Historical Geography Exam) are by age, not by grade.
    - 1. Junior Varsity - born on or after July 1st, 2009
    - 2. Varsity - born before July 1st, 2009

## 3. Rosters and Roster Changes

- a. If you have any roster changes for your teams, please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) to make adjustments.
- b. Remember, at Nationals, there is no requirement that team members need to have competed beforehand at regionals, and there is no limit on team size at Nationals. As always, it is forbidden to switch teams once you have started playing for a particular team from your school at Nationals.

## 4. Filler and Standby Teams

- a. We are currently looking for **several Varsity filler teams** to round out the draw. If you have an extra team in either division (qualification does not matter for this) that would like to play (the usual team prices of \$770 for a team of 3+ students, \$550 for a team of 2, or \$330 for a solo team still apply), then please email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) as soon as possible. It is permitted to enter the Bowl even if you didn't play it at all at Regionals this year.

- b. **For both Varsity and JV, we are also looking for standby teams** to enter the draw if a team drops at any point up until Saturday morning. Standby teams need to be able to be within 10 miles of Arlington, VA on Saturday, April 26th at 7:30am. Standby teams are given variable pricing depending on needs to fill the draw – these are worked out on a case by case basis. The closer we get to the start of play on Saturday morning, April 26, the likelier it is that teams would play for free, though earlier than that, they are likely to be given a discounted offer of registration. Of course, the longer you wait, the likelier it is that another team will be given the spot so if you are interested in competing, you are encouraged to take any standby team offer that is available.
- c. It is encouraged to apply for standby team status in the History Bowl if you are coming for the individual events (including if you're otherwise just coming for geography and/or science events)! Teams of 1-2 students in the Bowl are common at Nationals. Note that there is no requirement that standby teams need to have qualified – all are welcome to be standby teams in the age division that applies. As always, all students on a standby team must come from the same school/homeschool group.

#### 5. Madden Ranks (History Bowl Seeds)

- a. On the [Teams Registered for 2025 National Championships](#) page, there is a column labeled Madden Ranks. Initial Madden Ranks will be posted by Sunday evening.
- b. The initial ranks will change slightly once we have compiled the draw (due to last minute roster adjustments, further analysis of regionals and other results, and the need to avoid having teams from the same school face each other in the Bowl prelims). Adjusted Madden Ranks, which will be posted by Thursday evening, April 24, will correspond to your seed in the tournament if you are seeded in the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the draw in your division.
- c. Adjusted Madden Ranks may still change slightly after the draw is announced if there are last minute drops or other needed adjustments.
- d. Note that every team is seeded, but only the top  $\frac{1}{3}$  of teams have their rank publicly available before the tournament. All teams' pre-tournament seeds will be visible in the post-tournament analysis.

#### 6. Late Registration for Individual Events

- a. Bee Events and US Geography Championships
  - i. Students can still register for the National History Bee, the US History Bee, the US Geography Championships, the National

Geography Bee, the National Science Bee, and the National Academic Bee until Friday, April 18th at 11:59pm EDT.

- ii. As the originally posted deadline has already passed, there will be an additional \$10 late fee for all subsequent Bee and USGC registrations.
  - iii. Note that after Friday, April 18th at 11:59pm EDT, IAC may allow additional registrations but this is not guaranteed (and in particular, if you are a top-flight player in a given subject, it is less likely that you will be allowed to compete in an event on short notice, as your addition to the draw would be more likely to skew things unfairly.)
- b. National Championships Exams
- i. Students can still register for the written National Championship Exams. Exam registration will stay open until Wednesday, April 23rd at 11:59pm.
  - ii. As the originally posted deadline has already passed, there will be an additional \$5 late fee for all subsequent National Championship Exam registrations.
  - iii. Note that after Wednesday, April 23rd at 11:59pm EDT, IAC may allow additional registrations up to 1 hour before the exam begins (based on available copies of the exam) but this is not guaranteed. If you wish to register for exams after April 23, you can do so at the Help Desk by paying in cash or check or credit card (with a 4% surcharge.)

## 7. Pre-Nationals Survey

- a. Please fill out [the pre-tournament survey](#) by the evening of Monday, April 21st. This will help us keep track of your interest in various aspects of Nationals Weekend. Having the the following information on hand will help you to complete the survey:
  - i. Spectators - Will your team be bringing a large number of spectators? If so, we will try to plan (though cannot guarantee) that you will play your games in larger rooms which can accommodate larger numbers of people.
  - ii. Mobility Restrictions - If you have anyone on your team or spectating who needs consideration.
  - iii. Birthdays - If anyone on your team (including the coach!) has a birthday between April 24th and April 27th (during the tournament) so we can provide a small gift.
  - iv. National History Bee Play in Game (at 10:45pm on Friday for those who did not play all 3 regionals sets and would like to qualify for the

National History Bee) - Include the names of students that wish to participate. Please see below for details.

- v. Standby Teams - If you have any students interested in forming a Standby Team for the History Bowl.
- vi. Opening Ceremonies - if you have any students that are interested in being considered to represent your state by carrying the state flag for opening ceremonies. We will need the student's name, state, and email in order to consider them for this role.
- vii. Adding Emails - add people who should also be receiving these emails. Please forward them this email as well as adding their email on the survey so they will receive future communications before and during Nationals.

#### 8. Political Science Bee

- a. If you have registered for the Political Science Bee, don't forget to fill out the separate survey to choose your discussion group.

#### 9. National History Bee Play in Game

- a. The Bee Play In Game will be on Friday, April 25th at 10:45pm. The location is to be announced (as it depends on how many people sign up.) You can check in at the Help Desk.
- b. The Bee Play In Game is meant for anyone who did not compete on all 3 most commonly played sets (i.e. A, B, and C Sets) of Bee Regionals questions who would like a final chance to qualify for the National History Bee.
- c. Students attending just for geography or science events, younger siblings who happen to be at Nationals, students who never competed at any regionals, and students who did not qualify for the National History Bee National Championships are all welcome to compete.
- d. The play in game (one round of 30 questions) is free. The top 50% of students in each age division in the play in game will qualify to compete on Sunday, April 27 in the National History Bee.
- e. Participation in the Play in game is a commitment that if you finish in the top 50% you will *immediately* go to the Help Desk and pay the \$155 registration fee for the National History Bee that takes place on Sunday, April 27th. If you do not intend to do this, please do not participate as you would be taking a space from someone else.

#### 10. Dress Code



- a. You are welcome to wear casual, school-appropriate clothes at all times, though if you would like to dress up, feel free to do so (there are always a number of teams who do, so you won't look out of place if you go that route).
- b. Basically, wear whatever will give you the greatest confidence in your matches!!

#### 11. Team Provided Staff

- a. If you signed up to staff, Joseph Cox is the Staff Director for Nationals and will be in contact with you for your moderating assignments
- b. If you did not sign up to staff and are still interested, let Joseph Cox know at [joseph@iacompetitions.com](mailto:joseph@iacompetitions.com) as there is still availability to read for the History Bowl and receive a substantial discount.

#### 12. Check In Policy and Pre-Ordered Commemorative T-Shirts

- a. **History Bowl teams must check in** but only need one person to do this - this can be a player, coach, or parent/adult representative of the team. Schools with multiple teams can send one person to check in for all teams..
- b. History Bowl check in will be at the Help Desk at any point on Friday. If you are a local team who is not planning on otherwise coming on Friday, you can email [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com) to check in.
- c. Pre-ordered Nationals T-shirts can be picked up at the souvenir desk in front of the Arlington Ballroom.
- d. **There is no check in for any individual event at the IAC Varsity / Junior Varsity Nationals.** All you need to do is to be in your Round 1 room or exam room at the appropriate start time. If you have any questions as to where this is, please contact the Help Desk. Room assignments will be sent out in subsequent emails and posted to the [Results page for Nationals](#).

#### 13. Arrival at the Hotel and Parking

- a. From the Reagan National Airport - there is a free shuttle to the hotel, or you can use the Metro as the station is immediately under the hotel and only one stop from the airport.
- b. Other Airports - there is no hotel provided transportation from Dulles or the Baltimore airport. For Dulles there is a Metro option, and for Baltimore there is a train that can connect you to the Metro, and there are airport shuttle companies in the area available.

- c. Parking at the Hotel - there is a daily fee for parking at the hotel, the next email will include the confirmed rate
- d. Nearby Parking - There is a parking garage at the [Crystal City Shoppes](#) nearby the hotel. Parking is \$23 a day during the week and Free after 4pm and on weekends.

#### 14. Food and Dining

- a. Food is not included in the price for Nationals.
- b. There is a restaurant in the lobby of the hotel, but it is not fast food. There is a good amount of snacks available at the front desk kiosk.
- c. [Unfortunately, the Crystal City Underground Mall has closed](#) since last year. There are still options for food within walking distance, but you will need to walk a bit further. If you have tight timeframes between your rounds, you may wish to order through UberEats, or have teammates or family members get food for you.

#### 15. International Events

- a. [2025 International History Olympiad](#)
  - i. July 20-26, 2025 in Paris, France
  - ii. Qualification
    - 1. If you have already qualified at a Regional Competition you do not have to qualify again at Nationals
    - 2. National History Bowl - Be on a team that finishes in the top 50%
    - 3. National History Bee - Finish in the top  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the draw of your age division
    - 4. US History Bee - Make the playoffs in your age division
- b. [2026 International Geography Championships](#)
  - i. July 5-12, 2026 in.... We hope to announce the location at Nationals!
  - ii. Qualification - Note that 12th graders are ineligible for this event as they will have graduated over a year in advance.
    - 1. If you have already qualified at a Regional Competition you do not have to qualify again at Nationals. You can qualify either in the 2024-25 or 2025-26 academic year.
    - 2. US Geography Championships - Finish in the top  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the draw of your division
    - 3. National Geography Bee - Finish in the top  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the draw of your division

4. US Geography Bee (not contested in Arlington) - Make the playoffs
  5. National Geography Bowl (not contested in Arlington) - Be on a team that finishes in the top 50%
- c. [2025 International Geography Olympiad](#) (aka iGeo)
- i. July 26 - August 1, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand
  - ii. Qualification
    1. The top 4 Varsity students form Team USA and represent the United States at iGeo. Travel and Expenses for Team USA are subsidized - your USGC registration fees help make this possible!
16. Coaches' Reception
- a. Friday night, April 25 from 8:30pm-9:30pm, there will be a Coaches' Reception with free drinks at the hotel bar! Come and have a drink on IAC as a thank you for all your hard work in coaching this season! This is only for school-affiliated coaches, or for the person designated as the team's coach (limit 2 coaches per team) on the Team Roster Form.
17. Virginia Tech Department of Geography Talk
- a. Attention Geographers! [Professor Tom Crawford](#), the Chair of the Virginia Tech Department of Geography and Mr. JG Williams, the Director of Recruitment for Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment will be attending Nationals on Friday-Sunday! They will be staffing a display table throughout those days, and will also be presenting a talk from 5pm-5:30pm on Friday about studying geography at the university level. The talk will take place in Arlington Ballroom II.
18. Need Help?
- a. The Help Desk will be on the mezzanine level if you need assistance in person
  - b. The best way to contact us both before and during the event will be at [hs-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:hs-info@iacompetitions.com).

That's all for now! Best of luck with your final studying and preparations, and we look forward to seeing you at Nationals next week!

Best regards,

The National Championships Staff of International Academic Competitions