



ACADEMIC DECATHLON

COACHES MEETING



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025



Student Activities Team

Christina Martinez | Shenita Jones | Adriana Chavez
Norma Lopez | Michelle Read | Julian Spearman
Thomas Hunter | Lennon Formaggini | Erika Escobedo
Omar Ovalle | Antonio Verduzco



OUR PURPOSE

The Student Activities Department creates experiences for students to participate in extracurricular activities while providing students and teachers with necessary resources and support to be successful at no cost to schools.



Floors
2-9



PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Students may participate in academic competitions, athletics, JROTC, campus-based activities, and visual and performing arts.
- Provides real-life lessons in leadership, teamwork, organization and time management.
- Provides students with a way to stay active and make new friends.
- Allows students to discover and explore their talents and interests.
- Gives students a connection to their school community.
- Enhances educational experience.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES BY GRADE LEVEL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC UIL (2-5)

CHESS (K-5)

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

LONE STAR CHALLENGE

TMSCA (3-5)

DEBATE (5)

ESPORTS (4-5)

CHEER (4-5)

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC UIL

CHESS

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

ACADEMIC PENTATHLON

TMSCA

DEBATE

ESPORTS

CHEER

YEARBOOK

HIGH SCHOOLS

ACADEMIC UIL

CHESS

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

ACADEMIC DECATHLON

TMSCA

DEBATE

ESPORTS

CHEER

YEARBOOK

NEWSPAPER

LINK CREW

Enjoy the Experience with the many opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities.



SUPPORT TO CAMPUSES

- Access to study materials, workshops, and camps.
- Participation in department's organized district-wide academic competitions and tournaments.
- Transportation to competitions.
- Meals at competitions.
- Student participation incentives.
- Payment of competition registration fees.
- Training and stipends for coaches.
- Travel arrangements, transportation, and lodging applicable with advancement to regional, state, and national competitions.



TIPS FOR RECRUITING STUDENTS

Use a Variety of Recruitment Methods:

- Hold an activities fair at open house and/or during lunch.
- Hang colorful flyers/posters throughout the campus.
- Use social media and create a website.
- Get assistance from campus influencers and visit classrooms.
- Basic school announcements.
- Nominations and personal invites.
- Offer snacks.

Tell Your Story & Grow: Tweet, Post, Tag, and Announce It!

- Promote clubs, activities, and accomplishments via word of mouth and announcements.
- Embrace tech and connect on social media platforms.
- Display trophies, awards, and banners to showcase your victories.
- Publicize meeting schedule and practice sessions.



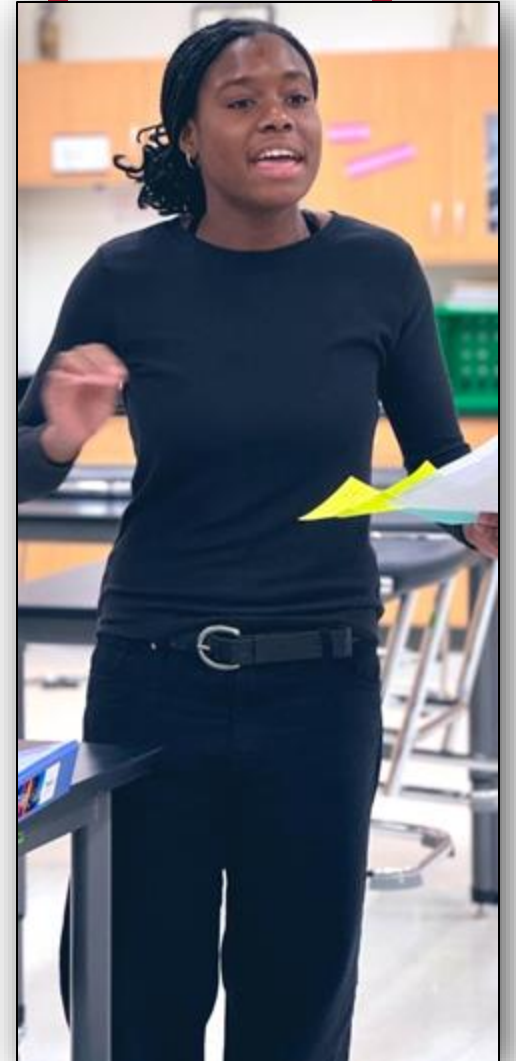
Find, Follow & Tag Student Activities

[@disdactivities](https://www.instagram.com/disdactivities)



TIPS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH & RETENTION

- Make it fun, social, and engaging.
- The goal is to prepare students for competition.
- Plan for how you will structure your practice sessions.
- Communicate with parents.
- Have team members recruit other students.
- Get your team to represent at open house.
- Find creative ways to honor all students throughout the year.
- If your team is large, find someone to assist you.
- Celebrate student achievement—announcements, social media, parties, etc.
- Have things for students to do at competitions during downtime to make memories – cards, games, etc.



SURVEYS TO IMPROVE EXPERIENCE

- As a best practice, the department randomly sends out event surveys to get an assessment and suggestions from student and teacher participants.

Student Survey Results

- How satisfied are you with the incentives provided?
 - 76% Good to Excellent | 20% Fair to Good
- How many practices were held before the competition?
 - 50% between 1-6 | 50% between 7-10
- Did you enjoy participating in this competition?
 - 94% Yes | 6% No
- Overall, did you have fun?
 - 98% Yes | 2% No

Teacher Survey Results

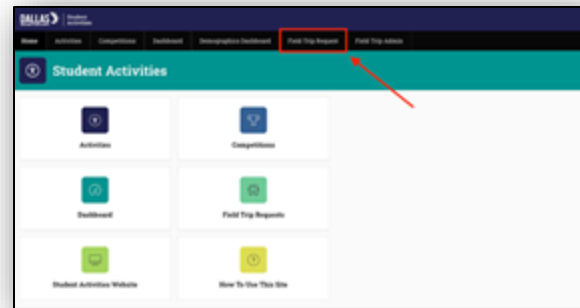
- How satisfied are you with the overall participation experience?
 - 94% Good to Excellent | 6% Fair to Good
- How satisfied are you with the level of support from the department?
 - 93% Good to Excellent | 7% Fair to Good
- How satisfied are you with the communication you received from the department?
 - 91% Good to Excellent | 9% Fair to Good



FIELD TRIP REQUEST PROCESS



- A field trip request must be submitted for all Student Activities trips, regardless if you need a bus or not.



- Select Request a New Trip on the top right-hand side and complete form.
- Submit 21 days prior to trip.
- Required documents (***roster, one signed permission slip, and chaperone form***) must be uploaded to the trip request after initially submitted and can be downloaded from the trip request.
- Confirmation email will be sent once bus trip has been approved or rejected. Note: Unless the principal approves field trip request, we are unable to see or approve trip. Do not cancel your own bus.
- Contact Omar Ovalle at oovalle@dallasisd.org or 469-439-1093.



COACH EXPECTATIONS

- All participating schools must adhere to district policies and regulations regarding student behavior.
- Coaches are expected to remain at the competition site until the activity is over.
- Coaches must accompany team on buses provided by the District.
- Coaches must bring all student emergency contact information to events.
- Dallas ISD badges are required to be worn at all events sponsored by Student Activities.
- If your students use their own transportation, please stay on site until the last student is picked up.



STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Adhering to district policies and regulations, students must demonstrate appropriate behavior throughout the duration of the workshops and tournaments
- Student must adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity in participating in all activities.
- Students must follow Dallas ISD health safety guidelines and protocols.
- Unacceptable student behavior may result in student and/or school's removal from program.
- All students are required to use clear or mesh backpacks.



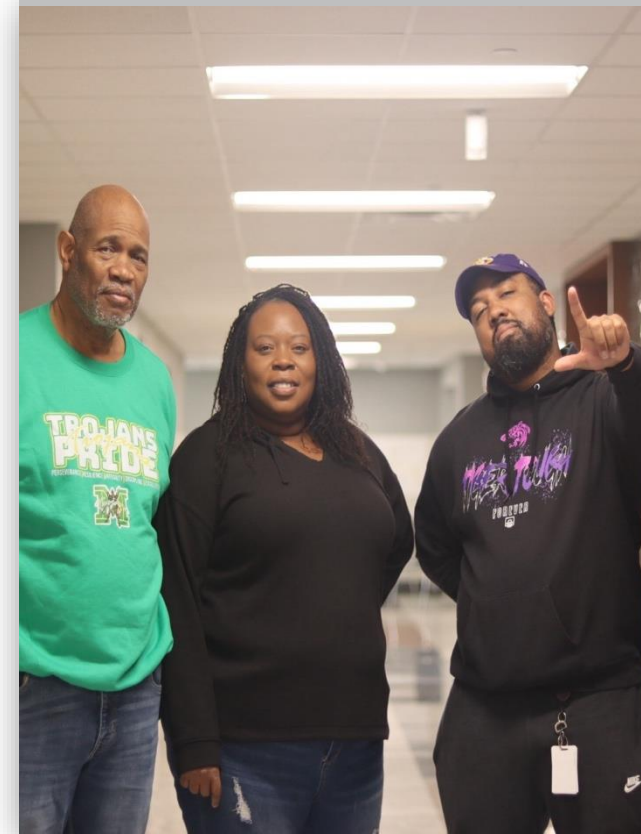


ACDEC

Contact: Thomas Hunter
THOHunter@dallasisd.org
972-749-5639

COACH DESIGNATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- Principals designate all academic coaches in Oracle.
- Coaches will then accept the position in Oracle & sign the agreement electronically. This step **must** be complete to receive both communications & stipend payments.
- Coaches receive supplemental pay in accordance with the agreement.
- Recruit and start an AcDec team with a minimum of 10 students.
- Coach and participate in the Fall & Spring Competition with a minimum of **six** team members to receive the full stipend
- Verify that all students are academically eligible to participate in field trips – meaning they must be passing all classes.
- Adhere to Dallas ISD guidelines and protocols.



ACDEC COACH DESIGNATIONS & AGREEMENT

- Coordinators receive supplemental pay in accordance with agreement. (\$1,000-\$5,800)
 - \$1,000 Recruit and start and Academic Decathlon team – Participate in the District Competition with a minimum of six team members.
 - \$1,000 Coach and participate in the Regional Competition with a minimum of six team members.
 - \$1500 Coach and participate in the State Competition.
 - \$1500 Coach and participate in the National Competition.
 - \$800 Coach and participate in the Virtual National Competition.
 - \$300 Coach and participate in the Rockwall Invitational Meet.



**SUPPLEMENTAL PAY
ACADEMIC DECATHLON COACH AGREEMENT
FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WITH A TEACHING CERTIFICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED
ELIGIBLE FOR THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON STIPEND IF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:**

1. Recruit, build, and coach a team with 9 members
2. Provide students the opportunity to attend club meetings and practice for competitions throughout the school year
3. Submit all required paperwork by the requested due date
4. Participate in the District, Region, and State Academic Decathlon Competitions, as applicable
5. Attend meetings as scheduled
6. Attend scheduled trainings. If training falls outside the normal contract hours, the time will be compensated at the district approved professional training rate.
7. Adhere to all district policies, including at least one adult chaperone for every 10 students for school related trips
8. Complete all field trip paperwork required by campus and district
9. Make sure all volunteers complete the online volunteer application at <https://dallasisd.voly.org/>
10. Verify all students are academically eligible to compete in the competition – meaning they must be passing all classes
11. Sponsors must have student emergency contact information in their possession at the site of the event/competition.
12. For any trips occurring overnight, please make sure to include proof/documentation of having had a parent meeting

**ANNUAL STIPEND (\$1,000 - \$5,800)*
(Two stipends available – one stipend per coach or may be split among multiple coaches)**

- A stipend of \$1,000 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Recruit and start an Academic Decathlon team
 - Participate in the District Competition with a minimum of six team members*
- A stipend of \$1,000 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the Regional Competition with a minimum of six team members*
- A stipend of \$1,500 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the State Competition
- A stipend of \$1,500 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the National Competition
- A stipend of \$800 per coach payable after completion has been recorded. Employee is only eligible to receive payment once designation has been accepted and signed via Oracle.
 - Coach and participate in the Virtual National Competition

**OPTIONAL STIPEND (Requires Prior Approval)
(Two stipends available per school or each may be split among multiple coaches)**

A stipend of \$300 per coach for participating in a local invitational competition, payable as worked

** Stipend payment is based upon participation in Student Activities Department-sponsored events with the required minimum number of students in attendance at each event. Student attendance less than the required minimum number of students will be payable at 50% of stipend amount per event as determined by the Student Activities Department.*

DECATHLON SCHOOLS BY DIVISIONS



Large (6A)
BTWHSPVA
Skyline

Medium (5A)	
Adams	Samuell
Adamson	Seagoville
Business	SEM
Education	SOC
Health	Spruce
Hilcrest	Sunset
Jefferson	TAG
Law	White
Molina	Wilson

Small (3A & 4A)	
Carter	Lincoln
City Lab	Madison
Conrad	New Tech
Garza	North Dallas
Gilliam	North Lake
Haynes	Obama
Hutchins	Pinkston
IDEA	Rangel
Kimball	Roosevelt
Lassiter	YWSA

TEAM INFORMATION & REQUIRMENTS

- 3 Honor Students (3.8 – 4.00 GPA)
- 3 Scholastic Students (3.20 -3.799 GPA)
- 3 Varsity Students (0.00 -3.199 GPA)
- Class period and/or after school activity
- Theme: The Roaring Twenties
- Novel: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Maximum of 5 students in each category for the District Meet
- Maximum of 3 students in each category for the Regional Meet



CALCULATOR GUIDELINES

- **Allowed:**
 - Basic, four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator.
 - e.g. TI-Nspire or TI-84 Plus
- **Not Allowed:**
 - Models with QWERTY Keyboards e.g. TI-92 or HP-95
 - Models with CAS (Computer Algebra Systems) e.g. TI-89 and TI-Nspire CAS

CALCULATORS

Revised 8/1/2025

The Texas Academic Decathlon will follow the current calculator policy of the United States Academic Decathlon. The following is copied from the USAD website. More information follows the USAD information.

THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON® CALCULATOR POLICY FOR CURRICULUM YEAR 2025-2026

The United States Academic Decathlon® Calculator Policy 2025-2026

The United States Academic Decathlon® has always endeavored to reflect current high school curriculum and instruction in our competitions. Recent surveys of calculator use in high schools nationwide indicate that calculators are now used in the vast majority of high school mathematics courses across the country, and our decision to allow calculators is consistent with this practice in math instruction.

After reviewing the policies of the major testing institutions and consulting state directors, the United States Academic Decathlon® has adapted MOST of the American College Testing (ACT) and College Board (SAT program) guidelines for calculator use as stated below.

I. Competitors May Use Calculators for the Mathematics Test

If competitors wish to use calculators on the United States Academic Decathlon® mathematics test and/or Super Quiz™, they are responsible for bringing them to the test and/or Super Quiz™ Relay. Calculators will not be provided for students who do not bring their own. Calculator use is permitted only for mathematics and Super Quiz™ Relay; competitors will not be allowed to use calculators on any other test.

II. Permissible Calculators

If a competitor wishes to use a calculator, it can be a basic, four-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, provided it has none of the features listed in Section III below.

Calculator models with non-QWERTY keyboard are allowed. Calculators with alphanumeric keys (such as the TI-Nspire and TI-84 plus) are acceptable.

During the mathematics test, competitors are NOT permitted to refer to information that was stored in their graphing calculator memory prior to the test. Students wishing to utilize their graphing calculator's memory function during the mathematics test will be required to have the memory erased prior to entering the testing room and at the completion of the mathematics test.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

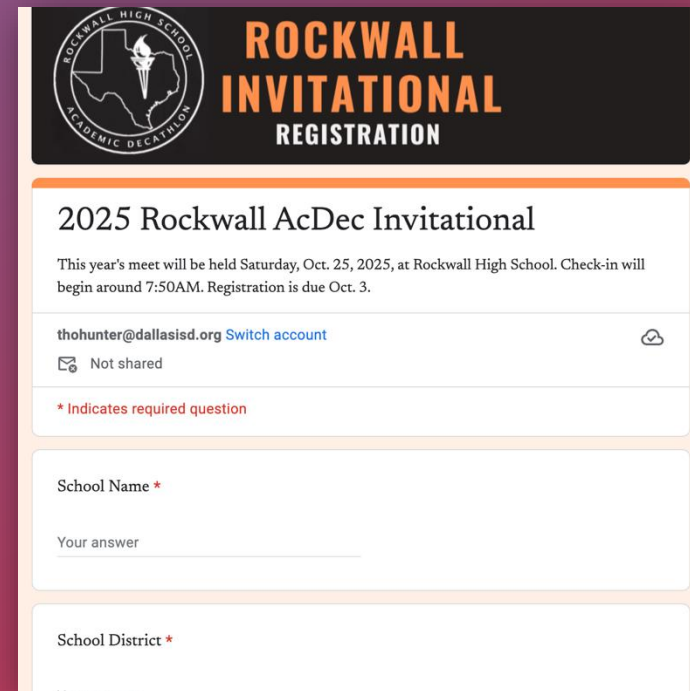


Academic Decathlon Calendar 2025-2026

Event	Date	Day	Location	Time
Academic Decathlon Coaches Meeting	September 4, 2025	Thursday	Obama MLA, 3030 Stag Rd.	5:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Rockwall Registration & Transportation Deadline	October 1, 2025	Wednesday	dallasisd.org/activities	
Rockwall Invitational	October 25, 2025	Saturday	Rockwall High School	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
District Meet	November 15, 2025	Saturday	Virtual (Online)	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Regional Registration & Transportation Deadline	December 10, 2025	Wednesday	dallasisd.org/activities	
Regional Packet Due	December 12, 2025	Friday	9400 N. Central Expressway, Suite 610	9:00 AM – 12 PM
Regional Essays	January 13-14, 2026	Tuesday- Wednesday	Google Document	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Regional Meet (Day 1)	January 23, 2026	Friday	Thomas Jefferson HS, 4001 Walnut Hill Ln.	11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Regional Meet (Day 2)	January 24, 2026	Saturday	Thomas Jefferson HS, 4001 Walnut Hill Ln.	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
State Essays	February 11, 2026	Wednesday	Google Document	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
State Meet	February 27-March 1, 2026	Thursday - Sunday	Frisco/San Antonio	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
USAD National Finals	April 23-25, 2026	Thursday - Saturday	Anaheim, CA	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

ROCKWALL INVITATIONAL

- Saturday October 25, 2025 8:00am- 5:00pm.
- Registration and Transportation are due **October 1, 2025.**
 - Send a copy of your registration to ThoHunter@dallasisd.org.
 - No limit to registration – Register who you know will attend.
- Only lunch provided.
- \$300 Stipend per coach will be paid after the event.



The screenshot shows the registration page for the 2025 Rockwall AcDec Invitational. At the top, there is a header with the Rockwall High School logo and the text "ROCKWALL INVITATIONAL REGISTRATION". Below the header, the title "2025 Rockwall AcDec Invitational" is displayed. A paragraph of text states: "This year's meet will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Rockwall High School. Check-in will begin around 7:50AM. Registration is due Oct. 3." The user's email address, "thohunter@dallasisd.org", is shown with a "Switch account" link and a "Not shared" indicator. A red asterisk indicates a required question. The form includes a "School Name" field with a red asterisk, a "Your answer" input field, and a "School District" field with a red asterisk.

DISTRICT ONLINE EVENT

- Each school will be given **15** numbers for the online district competition taking place on November 15, 2025.
- You will assign numbers to your students according to the following:
 - **Numbers 1-5:** are for **Honors Students**
 - **Numbers 6-10:** are for **Scholastic Students**
 - **Numbers 11-15:** are for **Varsity Student**
- Please make sure to assign the correct number based on student classification.
- Email list of students with category & number on the day of competition.
- No meals will be provided – Work with your campus and parents to secure food.



TAD TRAINING DAY

- Friday September 19, 2025 – 9:00am
- In person at 4615 N. MacArthur Blvd Irving, Tx – OR ONLINE
- Register at <https://forms.gle/H7Wipv6TVyYcu1Gs9>

Texas Academic Decathlon

Training Day

Magda A. Hernandez Institute
4615 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Irving, TX 75038

AGENDA

ONLINE LINKS WILL BE SENT ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

ay, September 19, 2025 – 9:00 am

Greetings/Welcome Rick Hopkins

Breakout Sessions

ever had a team)	Kelsey Dahlberg	Room 1
ed Coaches	Joseph Bayona	Room 2
ordinators/State Hosts	Jarred Stewart	Room 3
	Corey Cogswell	Room 4

. Lunch/Q&A

STUDY MATERIALS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

- Physical Materials to Pickup:
 - 15 Hard Copies *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - MK1020: Notebook Dividers – Set of 10
- USAD Study Materials Ordered:
 - MB1010ed: ED Curriculum Package
 - AS1020ed: ED Essay Resource Guide
 - AK 1010ed: Subject Area Flash Cards
 - AT2005ed: Practice Combo Quizzes
 - JB1050ed: Student Exercise Books Set
 - JT 2020Ked: Music Listening Quizzes
 - JT2050Ked: Impromptu Topic Booklet
 - OM5530 Quiz Market Package 1 & 2

Quick Links

- Student Activities Academic Decathlon
<https://www.dallasisd.org/studentactivities>
- Texas Academic Decathlon
<http://www.txacadec.org>
- United State Academic Decathlon
<https://www.usad.org>
- Academic Decathlon Coach Survey
<https://forms.gle/m1jKz6Z4cGDknCQN7>



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY/CLUB REQUIREMENTS

- Students and teachers should have a choice in participating.
- Students must attend at least nine meeting sessions in the same club to get participation credit.
- **Students must have written parent's permission to participant.**
- Activity/club should sponsor at least one event that occurs outside of the set meeting time.
- Activity/club should help students feel connected to the school or part of a team.
- Activity/club must be posted on your school website.
- Activity/club must have student officers (6th – 12th Grade Only).
- Activity/club should be fun and memorable.
- Activity/club should have a set meeting time, calendar of events, membership roster, and attendance sheets documenting participation.
- Activity/club should engage participants in student-centered learning.



Contact: Thomas Hunter

972-749-5679 or THOHunter@dallasisd.org

THANK YOU

Questions?

