



BOSCO ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM TRAVELS TO SEOUL AND QUALIFIES FOR WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

This past July, students from St. John Bosco High School traveled to the bustling city of Seoul in South Korea. These travels were the most recent in a list of journeys Bosco students have taken as a part of the World Scholar's Cup program.

The program, which began in 2007 as an international variant of the Academic Decathlon program, has been present at Bosco since the 2018 season. Since then, students have traveled to major cities around the world including Barcelona, Manila and Prague.

This year marked a major year of growth for the program, as more than 35 students participated in the regional round in Los Angeles, earlier in May. Bosco students took home 126 medals (61 of those being gold) and 6 trophies.

Qualifying students were given the opportunity to travel to Seoul for its Global Round, which held events for over a thousand participants from around the world. 18 Bosco students traveled alongside the head coach of the program, Mr. Joshua Hernandez.

Mr. Hernandez had previously been a World Scholar during his time as a Bosco student, and has wished to continue the program and its impact on campus since the re-development of the program last year.

Students also highlighted not only the academic events at Seoul, but also the importance of these cultural experiences abroad.

"Walking into the theatre and seeing all these people coming in, ready to compete," according to Andrew Valientes, a current Bosco junior, was one of the most important parts of the program. "It was really amazing to see a lot of people from different cultures at once."

Another scholar highlighted how the trip allowed students to learn about other cultures, specifically by looking at their different perspectives, and the way these shape their worldview.

The academic events within the competition—which include a multiple-choice exam, a debate event, a collaborative writing session, and a quiz bowl—are another important part of the events, with every Bosco scholar having their own opinion on the events.

The quiz bowl event allows people to "share a lot of experiences" with both a person's team and the delegation as a whole, as stated by current Bosco co-captain Gian Paredes, a senior.



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Others highlight the debate event as an impactful one, primarily due to the collaboration that happens not only within scholars on the same team, but also across teams during the event's allotted feedback section.

"You're able to show off everything that you have," said Bosco junior Alonzo Gonzales. "You're able to talk with everybody else; that's the most important part for me."

Perhaps the most important part of the World Scholar's Cup experience was the formation of bonds among students. Students who may not have known each other prior to the event formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

When asked about what he enjoyed most about the trip, sophomore Liam Byrne said it was the "connection with my Bosco brothers," which was impactful because of how unique the whole experience was. "Every single part of the trip was unique," he said.

Bosco scholars returned home with more than medals and trophies; they came back with a deeper understanding of the world and of one another. Their experience embodies what it means to be a Brave: seeking knowledge, building brotherhood, and representing Bosco with pride wherever they go.

Next up, the team will travel to New Haven, Connecticut, to compete in the World Scholar's Cup Tournament of Champions beginning November 6, 2025.