



## 2017-2018 Army JROTC Academic Bowl

Participate in the Academic Bowl and your team may win the opportunity to compete in the Academic Championship (JLAB) in Washington, DC!

### NEW THIS YEAR!

**Thirty-two (32) academic teams will qualify to attend the National Championship (JLAB)!**

There are many benefits of having your cadets participate in the Academic Bowl:

- Improve SAT/ACT scores
- Increase interest in college admissions
- Demonstrate academic strength of JROTC program
- Boost esprit de corps
- Earn the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital

### Dates of Competition

OCT 1-25, 2017	Practice Test for Level I (open to all cadets!)
OCT 26 – NOV 20, 2017	Team Registration
NOV 1-20, 2017	Level I
FEB 1-15, 2018	Level II
JUN 22-26, 2018	Level III – The Championship in Washington, DC

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- All units may register a team for Level I of the Leadership and Academic Bowl – two different tests administered during the same window of dates. For more information on the Leadership Bowl, click on the link for the Leadership Bowl at [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com).
- All units are encouraged to form two teams – a Leadership Team and an Academic Team.
- Cadets may only participate on **one** team - either the Leadership team or the Academic team – no crossover between teams.
- Teams with scores in the top 50% in Level I will advance to Level II.
- If your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a limited basis.

**Beginning SY 2018/19 - Cadets who have attended any previous JLAB (Leadership or Academic Championship) may NOT participate on a Leadership or Academic Team.**



## Competition Website

**COF Contests** – To register and participate in the Practice Test, Level I, and Level II, go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com).

## How to Assemble an Academic Team

- Academic Team = 4 primary members and 2 alternates (alternates participate in the online competition only)
- Cadets on the Academic Team may NOT participate on the Leadership Team
- Cadets may be juniors (11<sup>th</sup> grade), sophomores (10<sup>th</sup> grade) or freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- NO seniors may participate

Each JROTC unit will be allowed one Academic Team consisting of **four cadets** – they may be freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. **Seniors may not participate on the team.** Academic Team members may NOT participate on the Leadership Team. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online testing however alternates are not required. If your unit is eligible to participate in the final competition in Washington, DC, **only four team members may attend JLAB. Alternates will not be allowed to attend; however, we will be live streaming many of the main events during JLAB including the Championship.**

Instructors may assess and select potential team members using the following criteria –

- Peer selection boards (e.g. interviews, essays)
- Teacher or school recommendations
- GPA
- Performance on the Practice Test (details below)
- Overall enthusiasm for the competition

### **PRACTICE TEST (October 1-25)**

**The Practice Test is taken individually, not as a team.** It consists of 25 questions (from a bank of 50 questions so cadets may take the test multiple times) similar to those questions in Levels I and II. The test is open to all cadets and is a great way to evaluate your entire unit's understanding of JROTC curriculum and general subjects. We encourage all cadets in the unit to take the Practice Test at an internet-accessible computer in the classroom or other convenient location. The cadets should logon to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com), select Army Academic Bowl, answer the questions and print out their scores to turn in to the instructor. COF does not retain Practice Test scores. **It is up to each instructor to review the scores and determine members of the team.**



## How to Prepare the Academic Team

One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. However, many JROTC instructors are understandably interested in measuring how well their cadets are learning the JROTC curriculum. Therefore, we will have a mix of JROTC curriculum as well as English, Math, and Science questions in each level of the competition. The JROTC curriculum questions will focus primarily on leadership preparation, wellness and fitness, group/team dynamics, and communication skills. A few questions about current events are also included – focusing on national and international news, particularly international relations, politics, business, and science. All of the current events questions will be taken from major media available on television, the internet, and in daily newspapers (see suggested resources below).

Level I includes 25% JROTC questions, 65% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

Level II includes 15% JROTC questions, 75% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

We encourage all cadets, whether they are on the academic team or not, to prepare for the ACT, SAT, and ASVAB tests by reviewing English, Science, and Math coursework. There are several resources available, free-of-charge, to all students.

Websites to review include:

- [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) – online SAT/ACT guides (contest information tab)
- [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) – a free test prep website
- [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) – a free test prep website
- [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) – a free website with math, history, and science lessons
- [www.foxnews.com/index.html](http://www.foxnews.com/index.html) - FOX News
- [www.cnn.com/cnn10](http://www.cnn.com/cnn10) - CNN Student News
- [www.npr.org/](http://www.npr.org/) - National Public Radio
- [www.reuters.com/](http://www.reuters.com/) - Reuters
- [www.usatoday.com/](http://www.usatoday.com/) - USA Today Newspaper



## How to Register the Team

Team registration is open **Thursday, October 26 – Monday, November 20** at [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com). All teams, regardless of previous participation, must register by creating a new User ID and Password.

- The instructor should click on **ARMY ACADEMIC** and select *For Instructors* and then select *Register Your Team*. It will take approximately 15 minutes to answer a few required questions – each unit may register ONE academic team.
- The team must be registered prior to competing in Level I.
- We suggest that each instructor register his or her team before the team is ready to participate in Level I.
- We strongly encourage all teams to register and participate before the last day of competition.

All teams will be competing against similar teams within each Brigade. Each team will be automatically placed into a Division based on demographics including socio-economic and geographic factors.

**Please be prepared to answer the following questions when registering:**

High School Name, Address, Phone Number

Instructor Name, Email Address, Phone Number (office and cell)

Cadet Names, Grade, Gender, GPA, Email Address

High School Demographics – Number of students, Number in Free Lunch Program, type of school (suburban, rural, private, public, etc.)

**\* Be prepared to create a unique User ID and Password. If your team advances to Level II, you will use the same login information for the entire year.**

## How to Participate in Levels I and II (online)

1. The instructor or team captain should logon to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com)
2. Select the **ARMY ACADEMIC**
3. If the team has not registered, click on Team Registration (see instructions above)
4. Select **Level I** (November 1-20)
5. Enter your team User ID and Password; your high school name should appear
6. Follow directions on that page and begin the competition
7. Level I consists of approximately 75 questions and takes approximately 1 hour to complete. **Level I is a TEAM** event – all cadets on the team (including alternates) should sit at one computer and answer questions as a team.
8. **Once a team has logged in, there is no ability to stop and start over. The competition must be completed in one sitting.**



If your team advances to **Level II** (February 1-15), you will follow the same procedure, **using the same User ID and Password.**

**Keep your User ID and Password for this year's use.** If you misplace your password, you may go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) and select Army Academic, then select For Instructors, then select Retrieve Your Team User ID and Password.

## **Level III - The Championship (JLAB)**

The top thirty-two (32) teams advancing to the Academic Championship in Washington, DC will be notified by email as soon as results of Level II are verified. If there is a tie in Level II for one of the 32 spots, the tiebreaker will be the Level I – Section 2 score (SAT/ACT portion).

Teams will be allowed to bring four cadets and one instructor to the Championship. Additional male and female chaperones will be on staff at JLAB; however, a female chaperone from the high school may also attend if required by the school administration. Alternates will NOT be allowed to attend JLAB 2018.

Travel costs, gas prices, additional airline fees and most importantly, cuts in educational funding, require that we are all as frugal as possible in our travel arrangements. All travel costs directly related to the event will be covered, but we will endeavor to minimize travel costs where possible and we hope the instructors will assist us in that area.

Team travel expenses will be individually calculated based on your location and mode of transportation. Travel expenses that are covered include:

1. airfare or mileage (if driving)
2. ground transportation to/from Washington, DC airport to competition site
3. incidentals – baggage, tips, etc.

The amount of the travel allowance will be determined by the location of the team and the average cost of travel from that area. Travel allowance will not exceed \$3,500 per team; (this amount is a maximum, not a per team allowance) however, few teams, other than teams traveling from abroad, will require that amount. If travel costs are determined to exceed the authorized limit, the team may choose to either:

1. fundraise to collect the balance of the travel costs OR
2. receive a trophy and certificates of achievement donated by the Foundation in lieu of traveling to JLAB.



## Official Rules of the Online Competition

1. The designated point of contact should be a JROTC instructor with access to email. Most correspondence with teams is through email; therefore, it is essential that instructors check their email and respond as soon as possible. Foundation staff is also available by phone for questions or concerns. (1-888-576-8287 or [edonahue@collegeoptions.net](mailto:edonahue@collegeoptions.net))
2. Each JROTC unit will be allowed ONE academic team consisting of four cadets. The team may include juniors, sophomores and/or freshmen. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online portion of the competition, but will not be allowed to attend The Championship in Washington, DC with the team. No seniors may participate. Cadets who have attended a national championship (JLAB) in any previous year may not be a team member. Academic team members may not participate on the Leadership team.
3. Level I and Level II are internet-based competitions. The team must have high speed (DSL, cable, etc.) internet access.
4. Level I and Level II each require approximately one hour to complete. **Once a team has logged in, there is no ability to stop and start over. The competition must be completed in one sitting.**
5. No one is allowed in the room during the competition except for the four members of the team, the two alternates (optional), and one instructor, who will act as proctor for the test. Instructors may not assist the team with questions during the test.
6. No outside sources or other electronic devices (cell phone, additional computer, dictionary, thesaurus, text book, newspaper, etc.) are allowed. Calculators, pens/pencils and scratch paper are permitted. Do not take screenshots of the questions during the test. Screenshots or any other duplication of the questions during the test are NOT permitted.
7. No communication about the competition with other JROTC teams or schools is allowed. Teams are not permitted to discuss the questions or design of the competition with anyone outside of the team members and instructors.
8. All scores will be sent to the Foundation's server automatically. If a team believes there has been an error in scoring, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of completion of the test. A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email ([edonahue@collegeoptions.net](mailto:edonahue@collegeoptions.net)).
9. If your team qualifies to advance to Level II, and your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a very limited basis.
10. If there is an electrical outage or other technical difficulty during the competition, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of the difficulty. A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email.



11. The JROTC Academic Challenge relies on the adherence by all teams to the JROTC Code of Honor/Core Values. The Foundation expects that all team members and instructors will abide by all rules.
  
12. Finally, we believe the **Number 1 rule in this competition is... Have Fun!** We hope you enjoy this challenge.