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2009 CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON MARCH 13 – 16 | SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO - The 30th Annual California Academic Decathlon (CAD) will be held in Sacramento March 13 – 16, 2009. Sixty high school teams, which include some of the top scholars in the state, will compete for the 2009 state title.

“Over the years, California’s teams have proven to be academic powerhouses, successfully holding off teams from other states and earning an impressive number of national titles,” said Ken Scarberry, CAD’s Executive Director. “California has won the national title the last six consecutive years contributing to its 15 national titles. In 27 years of national competition, California has placed first or second every year but one.”

The California Academic Decathlon brings together students from all over the state to compete in a contest of academic strength and achievement. The competition features high school students representing three different academic grade-point categories. Each team consists of three Honor students (3.75 and above GPA), three Scholastic students (3.00-3.74 GPA), and three Varsity students (2.99 GPA and below).

Over 500 students from 39 counties and regions across the state, including public and private high schools, will participate in this year’s CAD competition. “Latin America” is the study topic for this year.

Academic decathletes must undergo a series of 30-minute multiple-choice tests in the subjects of Economics, Art, Music, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. In addition, each team member is required to give a planned four-minute Speech and a two-minute impromptu Speech, sit through a seven-minute interview, and must write an Essay in 50 minutes. Culminating the competition is the Super Quiz Oral Relay, the only event open to the public. It will be held Sunday, March 15, at Sacramento’s Memorial Auditorium.

On Monday, March 16, the winner of the California Academic Decathlon will be announced at an awards ceremony at Sacramento’s Memorial Auditorium. In addition, gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to students for individual events and total scores.

The highest scoring team will go on to represent the state of California at the 2009 United States Academic Decathlon (USAD), scheduled April 22 - 25, in Memphis, Tennessee.



The California Academic Decathlon is a statewide non-profit organization that promotes an educational experience by providing a format in which teams of high school students compete in academic events. The Academic Decathlon embodies a partnership of business, foundations and individuals in cooperation with the education community and county offices of education.

“CAD, a non-profit organization, receives funding from numerous California foundations, companies and individuals,” said George Wong, CAD’s Treasurer and one of its co-founders. Wong notes that equally crucial to the competition’s success is the turnout of volunteers who judge the speeches, interviews and Super Quiz. Overall, it is estimated that the number of volunteers needed almost equals the number of students participating. Those wishing to volunteer can go to the CAD’s website at: www.academicdecathlon.org.

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