

United States Academic Triathlon™

Grades 5 through 8

Registration Packet 2017-2018

What is Academic Triathlon?

Academic Triathlon is a product of the belief that thinking skills should be an important part of education. It is a five-person team challenge for students grades 5 through 8 that rewards strong performance in the areas of general intellect, specific academic abilities, leadership and psycho-social dynamics, visual and performing arts, and creative/productive thinking. Each meet lasts between about four hours, giving skills to last a lifetime.

Why is it called Academic *Triathlon*?

FIVE KINDS OF LEARNING IN *THREE* EVENTS.....Each Meet matches teams of fifth and sixth graders against one another, and seventh and eighth graders against one another. Questions and problems are grade appropriate. Best total team score for the **three** events wins.

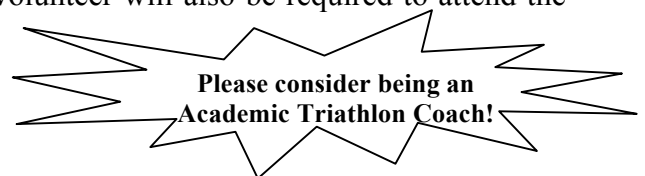
- **FACE-OFF!:** Teams face off to answer questions spanning several academic subject areas, plus current events and consumer issues. The team confers to give its best answer in 15 seconds or less. “Slap tapes” makes this a fast, exciting event.
- **MIND SPRINTS:** Divergent thinking skills, visual problem solving, logic, construction and team cooperation challenges yield fast, creative easy to solve three to five short problems in this round. Sprints may be individual or team challenges, with verbal and nonverbal components, but teammates are urged to encourage one another.
- **P.A.R.T.Y. IN A BOX:** This stands for Preparation, Assemble and Reenactment Theater is Yours—in a Box! Teams receive a problem and equipment with which to solve it. They have a limited time to come up with their best show. Teams perform for one another, receiving points for factors such as “best theme” and “creative use of materials provided.” Students practice good sportsmanship and theater etiquette as they watch how other people solve the same problem in different ways.

How many competitions occur?

Teams compete in three round-robin meets and a regional meet. These four meets are held after school, on Fridays. The first three round-robin meets are *practice* meets. Only teams who earn a first place win at the *regional meet* are qualified to compete at the state meet.

How are the teams made?

A team consists of four or five students. Teams are formed in the order that registrations are received, so please register as soon as possible. Parent coaches act as judge/facilitators, running the meet and helping students to develop and refine higher-level thinking skills. Coaching time outside meets can be minimal. If there is only one coach for a team, a parent volunteer will also be required to attend the meets.





Important Information About *U.S. Academic Triathlon*

Important Dates – Please keep for future reference

- September 28, 2017 (Thursday) USAT registration form is due to your child's school
- October 24, 2017 (Tuesday) 5:30-7:00 PM; **Coaches' Training** at the District Service Center
- **Competitions are all on Friday from 4 to 8:30 PM (except for the State Tournament)**
 - December 08, 2017 Round Robin
 - January 12, 2018 Round Robin
 - February 09, 2018 Round Robin
 - Snow Date February 23, 2018
 - March 09, 2018 Regional Meet
 - Saturday April 14, 2018 State Tournament for only those teams who earn 1st place at the Regional Meet

Seven or eight coaches will be hosting each meet (one host for each meet site). These assignments are done through the national office. Coaches are notified in November if/when they will be a meet host for any of the four meets. Coaches who are hosting will have a training the Monday or Tuesday prior to the Meet at the District Service Center from 4:30-5:15 PM.



- **Registration Forms** are available through the homeroom teacher for students in grade 5 and in the middle school front office for students in grades 6 thru 8. They are also available on the Gifted Education website. Go to www.sowashco.org click on **Academics** then **Gifted Education**.
- **Registrations need to be returned by Thursday, September 28, 2017. A fee of \$60.00** (checks need to be made out to **South Washington County Schools**) must accompany the registration and be turned into your child's homeroom teacher for elementary students or the front office for middle school students.
- There are a few needs based scholarships available. Please contact Laura Vogel at 651.425.6246 or lvogel2@sowashco.org if you would like more information.
- All parents interested in being a coach for their child's team **must** complete a background check **OR** have volunteered in the last year. Please see the *Coach Registration Form* for further information. The attached *Volunteer Application* goes to the school office coordinator prior to completing a background check. Gifted Education pays the cost of the background check.

What else might you need to know?

- Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from all of the meets.
- Students may be asked to help by bringing materials for the meets. Some examples are paper, string, paper bags, shiny object, or an empty gallon milk jug.
- Students are expected to maintain good sportsmanship at all of the meets and during practices.
- Parents may be asked to help with a meet if their child's team only has one coach or is hosting a meet.





**Registration deadline
is September 28!**

United States Academic Triathlon™

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Registration Form 2017-2018

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Register Early!

It is important to register as soon as possible because teams are built on a first come basis. Please check the dates of the four meets for any conflicts you may have with your family commitments. Parents are responsible for their child's transportation to and from the meets. ***You will be contacted by your child's coach in mid-November with practice dates, location and times.***

Student Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/s Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Parent daytime phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Correspondence will be via email if possible

***I give my permission for my child to participate in the *Academic Triathlon* competitions for the 2017-2018 school year.**

Parent Signature: _____

*Required for participation

_____ Yes! I would *love* to coach my child's AT team! (Please complete coach/facilitator registration form and background check if needed, see next line)

_____ I have volunteered with the district within the last year and have a background check on file.

_____ I would like to co-coach with _____

_____ I am an experienced coach.

_____ No. As much as I'd love to, I will NOT be available to coach this year.

There is a \$60.00 student registration fee. **No refunds will be made after October 18th, 2017.**

Please make checks payable to **South Washington County Schools.**

Return this form and check to: Elementary Students – Homeroom teacher

Middle School Students – Front office

Important – You must complete the reverse side of this form





South Washington County Schools

Gifted Education

Tina Van Erp, Coordinator of Gifted Education, 651-425-6240
Laura Vogel, Gifted Support Specialist, 651-425-6246
tvanerp@sowashco.org lvogel2@sowashco.org

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

District 833 at times produces videotapes and still photographs that help to publicize the *United States Academic Triathlon*[™] program in our district and to explain the program to other interested schools and individuals. Photographs may also be used to give children recognition in the local newspapers and other publications. None of the images will be sold.

In order to produce the videotapes and pictures it is necessary that we have your permission to include your child among the images. Please fill out the form below.

I give permission to the South Washington County Schools and to the *United States Academic Triathlon*[™] to photograph and/or videotape my child for the purpose of creating explanatory information and/or to give recognition to students who participate in the program.

Child's name _____

Parent name: _____

(please print)

Parent Signature: _____

Today's date: _____

United States Academic Triathlon™

Coach Registration Form

2017-2018

Remember: The number of teams is determined by the number of volunteer coaches.

Coach Training Session

Tuesday October 24th, 2017 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM:

District Service Center/Boardroom

7362 East Point Douglas Rd.

Cottage Grove, MN 55016

_____ I will attend the **Academic Triathlon Coach Training**.

_____ I am an experienced coach and will not be attending the training.

_____ I am a new coach and unable to attend the training. Please send me the coaching materials.

Your name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Home phone: _____

Email address: _____

Correspondence will be by email. Please print clearly.

Child's name: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

_____ I would like to co-coach *with* someone, but have not made plans to do so at this time. Please assign an additional coach for my team if available.

_____ I have talked with _____ and we would like to co-coach a team.

_____ It is not necessary to place me with a co-coach.

*** Background checks: All coaches must have a background check on file.**

_____ I have volunteered in the past year and so have a background check on file.

_____ I have/not volunteered in the past year. Please contact me with the information regarding completing an on-line background check.