

**Email Sent: 9/3/25**

**Subject: 2025-26 Int'l Academic Competitions - Season Opening!**

**Greetings Teachers, Parents, Students, Coaches, and Friends of IAC!**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the [2025-2026 International Academic Competitions](#) tournament season! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer, and are now looking ahead to a new academic year with lots of competitions.

We are excited to pass along lots of updates in this email pertaining to our Middle and Elementary School Divisions. A separate email will soon go out with news for our Varsity & Junior Varsity Divisions (i.e. high school-level, though note that almost all JV events are open to younger players as well).

Please read through this email carefully, as it contains lots of useful information which will be of interest. For all questions, please contact us at [ems-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:ems-info@iacompetitions.com) or call 802-923-0400.

- 1. Regional Tournaments for qualified students for the National Science, History, and Geography Bees will be held from mid-October through early May.** A list of in-person and online dates and sites [is available and updated continually here](#). Last academic year, we had 89 Regional Tournaments, but this year, we expect to hold over 150, so there will be many more chances to compete! The cost for each bee at a Regional tournament is \$50 per subject for 2025-26. You can [register for them here on our website](#).
  - **We are now offering four different regional question sets (Red, White, Blue, and the new Gold Set!)** This means that students who qualify on the ORQE can compete up to four times at Regionals (online or in-person) in order to qualify for the 2026 National Championships. Even if you qualify for Nationals at an early Regional tournament, you can still compete later at Regionals on the other question sets for additional chances to play.
  - Make sure to check the schedule regularly as scheduling for in-person tournaments is ongoing. If you are interested in hosting a Regional tournament at your school, please contact us at [ems-info@iacompetitions.com](mailto:ems-info@iacompetitions.com) to get more information on the benefits and requirements for hosts.

**2. New Competitions / New National Qualifying Exams!**

- **For the 2025-26 academic year, we are pleased to offer the following new competitions!**
  - [National Biology Bee](#)
  - [National Citizenship Bee](#) (government, politics, current events, etc.)
  - [National Humanities Bee](#) (literature, fine arts, religion, myth, etc.)
  - [National Mathematics Bee](#)
- Each of these competitions works on a two-stage model. Students first take the [National Qualifying Exams](#) which can be done either online beginning later this month or at in-person Regional Tournaments. Each National Qualifying Exam costs \$20. Students who score high enough on each exam will then qualify for the National Championships of these next May, which involve buzzer-based competition.
- Please note that for the 2026 National Championships, the [US History Bee](#) and the [US Geography Bee](#) will also require qualifying through their own National Qualifying Exams, so there are thus a total of 6 National Qualifying Exams offered at the Middle & Elementary School levels.

### **3. Bowl (i.e. team-based) Events**

- **Middle & Elementary School / Homeschool teams can compete in over 50+ [National History Bowl](#) regional tournaments.**  
Tournaments are held both in person and online. You can find [a list of scheduled Bowl tournaments and register for them here](#); tournaments are being added continually, so check frequently for updates.
- National History Bowl Regional Tournaments also feature an attached National History Bee regional competition on 3 additional question sets (labeled A, B, and C) so there are actually 7 (A, B, C, Red, White, Blue, Gold) chances to play the National History Bee at the regional level.
- The all-subject [National Academic Bowl](#) will also feature online and in-person regional tournaments. Three divisions are available:
  - Middle School - 8th grade and younger
  - Intermediate - 6th grade and younger
  - Elementary School - 4th grade and younger
  - The tournament list and registration links [can be found here](#).
- For regional tournaments, History and Academic Bowl teams can have from 1 to 6 players (with up to 4 players competing at a time).

4. The [\*\*2026 Middle and Elementary School National Championships\*\*](#) will be held **Memorial Day weekend (May 21-25, 2026) in Orlando, FL!** The venue is the same as last year: the Hyatt Regency Orlando, and staying at it or our other official hotels is required of all participants from outside the Orlando area. The draft schedule of Nationals events [\*\*is available here\*\*](#).

5. The [\*\*2026 International Geography Championships\*\*](#) will take place **July 5-12, 2026 at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa, Khao Lak, Thailand.**

Students can qualify for the Geography Championships by finishing in the top 1/3 of their division at a National Geography Bee Regional Tournament or by finishing in the top 2/3 of their division at Nationals in the National Geography Bee or US Geography Championships. Qualification is valid for two years, so hundreds of students are already qualified from the 2024-25 academic year. For questions on the International Geography Championships, please email [\*\*igc@iacompetitions.com\*\*](mailto:igc@iacompetitions.com). The IGC website will be updated with additional information later this month.

## 6. Next Updates

We'll be back in touch next week with details on the following:

- [\*\*IAC Journeys - Our Family Travel Program\*\*](#)
  - Registration opening this month for our first US tour:
    - *The Civil Rights Trail: In Search of Dr. King's Legacy*
    - Atlanta to Memphis, January 16-19, 2026 (MLK Weekend)
- **Expanded Model United Nations Program**
  - New Regional Model UN Conferences!
  - New Model UN National Championships!
- **Past Question Database and AI-Powered Player Training Tools**

Good luck in all your 2025-26 competitions, and we look forward to seeing you at our tournaments soon!

Sincerely,  
Joseph Cox

International Academic Competitions  
Director of Middle & Elementary Operations