

# *United States Academic Triathlon™*

Grades 5 through 8

## Registration Packet 2019-2020

### **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.

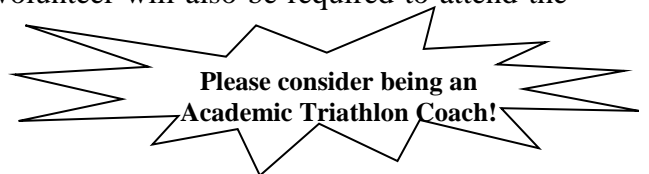
- **FACE-OFF!:** Teams face off to answer questions spanning several academic subject areas, plus current events and consumer issues. The team confers to give its best answer in 15 seconds or less. “Slap tapes” makes this a fast, exciting event.
- **MIND SPRINTS:** Divergent thinking skills, visual problem 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 27, 2019 (Friday) USAT registration form is due to your child's school
- October 22, 2019 (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 6, 2019 Round Robin
  - January 10, 2020 Round Robin
  - February 7, 2020 Round Robin
  - Snow Date February 21, 2020
  - February 28, 2020 Regional Meet
  - Saturday April 4, 2019 State Tournament only for those teams who earn 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Regional Meet

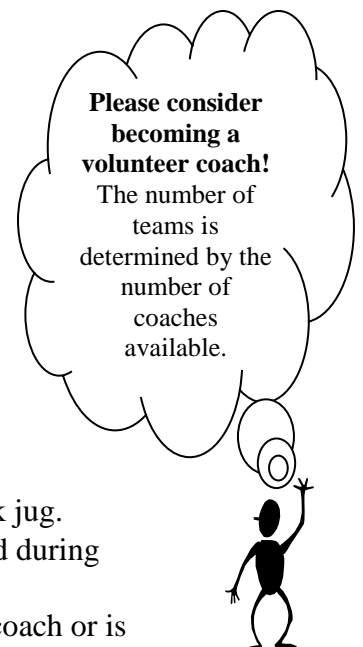
*Seven or eight coaches will be hosting each meet (one host for each meet site). These assignments are done through the national office. Coaches are notified in November if/when they will be a meet host for any of the four meets. Coaches who are hosting will have a training the Monday or Tuesday prior 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](http://www.sowashco.org) click on **Academics** then **Gifted Education**.
- **Registrations need to be returned by Friday, September 27, 2019. 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 the Gifted Education office at 651.425.6246 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. We will send you a link to do the free background check once you have completed the *Volunteer Application*.

### 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 27!**

# United States Academic Triathlon™

Grades 5 through 8

Registration Form 2019-2020

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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 2019-2020 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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**





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## South Washington County Schools

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Gifted Education  
651-425-6300

[www.sowashco.org/academics/gifted-education](http://www.sowashco.org/academics/gifted-education)

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

District 833 at times produces videotapes and still photographs that help to publicize the *United States Academic Triathlon*<sup>TM</sup> 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*<sup>TM</sup> 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**  
*2019-2020*

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

**Coach Training Session**

**Tuesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Correspondence will be by email. Please print clearly.*

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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 see the following information about volunteer forms and background checks.

**If you have NOT volunteered within the past 12 months,  
please complete the following steps.**

Step 1: Complete the *Volunteer Application Form* (next page) and return it to your child's school front office, they will get you into their volunteer system so that your background check can be uploaded.

Step 2: Let Gifted Education office staff know when you have turned in the *Volunteer Application Form* to your child's school's front office staff.

Step 3: You will receive a link to complete your Background Check. Gifted Education pays the fee for your background check and so you need a special link so that you are not asked to pay the fee.

Step 4: Meet with your US Academic Triathlon team and have a great year.



*AT Coaches only need this if you haven't volunteered in the past 12 months!*

# South Washington County Schools Volunteer Application Form

*Please return to front office staff \*Office Coord.- please let Laura Vogel know when you have entered this info into the system*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Staff Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (C): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female

Please check which of the following schools in which you are interested in serving as a volunteer:

### Elementary Schools

- Armstrong
- Bailey
- Cottage Grove
- Crestview
- Grey Cloud
- Hillside
- Liberty Ridge
- Middleton
- Newport
- Nuevas Fronteras
- Pine Hill
- Pullman
- Red Rock
- Royal Oaks
- Valley Crossing
- Woodbury
- Any Elementary

### Middle Schools

- Cottage Grove
- Lake
- Oltman
- Woodbury
- Any Middle School

### High Schools

- SW Alt Learning Center
- East Ridge
- Park
- Woodbury
- Any High School

District Events

Please review the volunteer handbook available through your school or the district's web site:

[www.sowashco.org](http://www.sowashco.org) then scroll to Quick Links for Parent and/or Community and click on Volunteers

I have read & understand the volunteer handbook.

I would like to complete the volunteer background screen (check) process.

(A link to the background check process will be emailed to you after this form is processed, **payment will be taken online at that time**)

*Gifted Ed. pays the cost. HR will send link once this is in the system.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to your school's main office or to:**

Jessica Johnson, Volunteer/Youth Coordinator, 8400 E. Point Douglas Rd. S., Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Please note that some of our volunteering opportunities may require the volunteer to successfully complete a background screen (check). If you will be volunteering for a field trip, as an athletic/academic coach or in any role where you would be alone with students, it is required that you successfully complete a background screen with our district. **The district respectfully asks volunteers to pay the cost (\$10.25) for the background screen.** This background check only expires if there is a gap in volunteering for one year or longer. *Gifted Education pays the cost. You need a special link*

South Washington County Schools is proud to partner with Trusted Employees for the processing of volunteer background screens. Within the next few days, you will receive an email invitation to complete the background screening process. This will be sent to the email address that is provided above.

Please inform the school's principal or office coordinator, if payment is a hardship or if you do not have an email address and we will be happy to work with you regarding other options for processing your background screen.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with our district!

**We are committed to igniting a passion for lifelong learning.**

[www.sowashco.org](http://www.sowashco.org)

Date Link Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Office use only:

Date Background Screen Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

10/2017



### Criminal Background Screening Standards

The South Washington County School District strives to maintain a safe and healthy educational environment that promotes the physical, social and psychological well-being of all students. All new employees and designated volunteers must receive a criminal background check prior to starting employment or a volunteer assignment with South Washington County Schools. An individual will be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer if that individual has been found guilty or entered a plea of non-contender (no contest), regardless of the adjudication for any of the following disqualifying offenses:

1. **Sex Offenses**
  - A. All Sex Offenses- Regardless of the amount of time since the offense
    - i. Examples: Child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.
2. **Felonies**
  - A. All Violent Felony Offenses- Regardless of the amount of time since the offense
    - i. Examples: Murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.
  - B. All Felony Offenses, other than violent or sex within the past ten (10) years.
    - i. Examples: Drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.
3. **Misdemeanors**
  - A. All Violent Misdemeanor offenses within the past five (5) years, or multiple offenses within the past seven (7) years.
    - i. Examples: Simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly conduct, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc.
  - B. Any other Misdemeanor offense within the past five (5) years that would be considered a potential danger to children, or is directly related to the functions of that employee or volunteer.
    - i. Examples: Contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft (if person is handling monies), etc.

The district reserves the discretion to consider factors and information, including whether the nature of the offense implicates a behavior that is contradictory to an individual's job description, when making employment decisions.

**Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 4 (Inaccurate or Incomplete Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 299C.60-299C.64 (Minnesota Child Protection Background Check Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 364.09(b) (Exception for School Districts)

Updated October 2017