

PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon

TEAM SELECTION

RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

Each high school needs to devise its own strategies for team selection and study format. Various schools participating in the Academic Decathlon in prior years have utilized the following procedures. (*In addition, refer to the BACKGROUND Section, To the Academic Decathlon Coach, "Publicity and Recruitment."*)

Sample High Schools High School "A" The academic coaches reviewed teacher recommendations, SAT scores and grade-point averages. After narrowing the field of potential participants, informal discussions and interviews with students were held.

A night orientation meeting for parents and students was held. All students and parents were in attendance. The agenda included showing of the videotape, an overview of the national and state Academic Decathlon program, and discussion of commitment necessary for participation.

During the following week, three of the students decided they would not be able to devote the appropriate amount of time to preparing for the Decathlon. (*Reasons given: employment and soccer*) Students identified earlier as potential participants replaced these students.

High School "B"

Public address system announcement was made regarding the Academic Decathlon. Two orientation meetings were held with interested students. Each student was requested to complete a self-report sheet that required such information as:

- 1) estimated grade-point average;
- 2) strengths and weaknesses in subject areas;
- 3) task commitment; and
- 4) teachers' names for reference purposes

The academic coaches and the principal utilized the student self-report information, SAT scores, grade-point averages, types of courses taken, and teacher/counselor recommendations to make the team selection.

High School "C"

Public address system announcements were made regarding the Academic Decathlon. Orientation meetings were held. There was substantial self-elimination due to students' commitments in other areas. Grade-point averages were reviewed. Student interest was the major criterion. Twenty-one students began the study process.

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TEAM SELECTION *(continued)*

High School “D”

Coaches sent notices to all high school teachers and counselors requesting names of students they would recommend suitable to meet the criteria of commitment. A list was compiled; and if several teachers recommended a student’s name, he/she was considered a good candidate.

Notices were sent to the students indicating they had been recommended for the Academic Decathlon. One hundred students met during lunch and were asked the major question, “Are you interested?” Interviews were set up and a core of dedicated, interested and capable students drilled for the event.

High School “E”

- When? Springtime, after nationals in April, and when the new USAD Study Guide is available.
- Have competition for “A” and “B” categories (*and “C” if you have enough students*).
- Solicit recommendations from gifted program teachers for underachievers in the “C” category, followed by a personal invitation
- Emphasize to students that this is not a trivia contest, nor is it a contest of general knowledge (*like Hi Q or Academic Bowl*). This is a contest of hard work and diligence. High grades and high SAT scores are useful, but not necessary.