2027 Academic Festival Guidelines

Festival Date

April 2, 2027

Registration and Submission Deadline

March 19, 2027 by 11:59 p.m. EST

All registrations and required pre-submission materials must be completed by the festival registration and submission deadline.

Students enrolled in both **fall and spring high school courses** are encouraged to participate.

Sponsor Registration

High school sponsors are responsible for registering all participating students and teams.

Students should not register themselves or submit their own competition materials unless an event specifically instructs them to do so.

Sponsors will use the Academic Festival registration form available on this website.

All required pre-submission materials must be uploaded by the sponsor through the **Academic Festival SharePoint and the registration form for submission will need to be completed for each entry**.

Before submitting an entry, sponsors should:

- Confirm that the student or team meets the event requirements.
- Verify that the correct event code has been selected.
- Verify that the correct file or submission has been uploaded.
- Review student work for appropriateness for a school-sponsored event and a general high school and college audience.
- Review the individual event rules carefully for additional requirements.

Student Participation

An individual student may participate in a maximum of **four Academic Festival events**.

Students may participate in either:

- **One live day-of-festival competition and up to three pre-submission competitions**, or
- **Up to four pre-submission competitions**.

Unless an individual event specifically states otherwise, a student may participate in only **one live day-of-festival competition**.

Team Participation

A registered team may participate in a maximum of **four Academic Festival events**.

Teams may participate in either:

- **One live day-of-festival competition and up to three pre-submission competitions**, or
- **Up to four pre-submission competitions**.

Unless an event specifically states otherwise, a team may participate in only **one live day-of-festival competition**.

Registering a Team

Teams are registered as a single Festival entry. Individual team-member names are not collected through the festival registration form.

For teams of **two to four students**, create the team's name by combining the participating students' last names. For example: Team Smith, Dalton, Carter, and Phillips.

For groups of **more than four students**, use a clear identifying team name, such as **Roane County High School Choir**. For example: Roane Count HS Choir.

School Classifications

Schools compete for overall Academic Festival recognition based on the number of **unique individual and team entries** registered.

Division AA: 1–25 unique entries

Division AAA: 26 or more unique entries

Each registered individual counts as one unique school entry.

Each registered team counts as one unique school entry, regardless of the number of students on the team.

An individual or team counts only once toward the school's classification even when participating in multiple events.

School classification is based on Festival participation rather than total school enrollment and may change from year to year.

Live Day-of-Festival Competitions

Participants in a live competition must remain available until event staff release them.

Some competitions may include:

- Qualifying rounds
- Tournament rounds
- Tiebreakers
- Final rounds
- Schedule changes

Once released by event staff, students may explore the festival and participate in non-competition activities.

Being released from one competition does **not** allow a student or team to enter a second live competition.

Music winners who have agreed to play live on the day of the festival will not be able to participate in another live competition due to scheduling.

Pre-Submission Competitions

Pre-submission competitions do not count as live competitions unless the event specifically includes an in-person finalist component.

Sponsors should review the individual event directions for:

- File requirements
- Submission format
- Length or time limits
- Team-size requirements
- AI-use rules
- Judging criteria

- Additional competition-specific requirements

Registration After the Deadline

The **March 19 deadline is the guaranteed registration deadline**.

After the deadline, event coordinators will review registration numbers.

If space remains in selected day-of-festival competitions, some events may reopen for additional registration.

A list of approved events accepting additional participants will be sent to sponsors during the week of the Festival.

Additional registration is **not guaranteed**, so schools should not delay regular registration in anticipation of an event reopening.

Artificial Intelligence

AI requirements vary by event.

Students and sponsors are responsible for reviewing the AI rules for the specific competition before submitting an entry.

When AI use is permitted, it should support rather than replace the student's own:

- Thinking
- Research
- Writing
- Performance
- Problem solving
- Creative decisions

Some competitions may prohibit AI-generated work entirely, while others may specifically require or allow AI tools.

Always follow the individual event rules.

Appropriate Content

All student work and performances should be appropriate for a school-sponsored event and a general high school and college audience.

Sponsors should use professional judgment when reviewing material that may include:

- Profanity
- Sexual content
- Graphic violence
- Discriminatory or hateful content
- Dangerous behavior
- Other potentially inappropriate material

Roane State reserves the right to address entries or performances that do not meet Festival expectations.

Festival-Day Arrival

Roane State staff will be available to greet participating schools on the morning of the festival.

Sponsors will receive arrival, parking, scheduling, and other Festival-day information before April 2.

Each building will be color coded, sponsors and students will be able to follow the color lines on the sidewalk to the their designated buildings and these will also be marked in the their event booklet they receive when they arrive.

Sponsors and students will also receive a **Festival Booklet** containing:

- Competition schedules
- Event locations (with color coding)
- Campus information
- Festival activities
- Awards Ceremony information
- Other important Festival-day details

Enjoy the Festival

Students are encouraged to explore campus before or after their competitions and once they have been released by event staff.

Festival activities will include competitions as well as non-competition activities, demonstrations, the Academic Festival scavenger hunt, food trucks, and other opportunities across campus.

Awards and Certificates

Awards

First-, second-, and third-place winners will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony at the end of the Festival.

First-Place Medallions

For individual winners and groups of up to four students, each participating student will receive an Academic Festival medallion.

For groups of five or more students, the group will receive one Academic Festival medallion representing the team.

Winning schools will receive their school trophies during the Awards Ceremony.

Refer to the Festival Booklet for the time and location of the ceremony.

Certificates

First-, second-, and third-place winners will receive Academic Festival certificates.

For individual winners and groups of up to four students, each participating student will receive an individual certificate.

For groups of five or more students, the group will receive one certificate representing the team.

Certificates will not be preprinted before the Awards Ceremony.

After the Festival, sponsors will receive a winners list and will be asked to verify the spelling of individual student names and team names.

Once names have been confirmed, certificates will be prepared and either mailed or hand-delivered to participating high schools.

Questions?

For questions about a specific competition, please contact the event coordinator listed in that division's directions.

For registration, scheduling, or general Academic Festival questions, please contact the Academic Festival organizers.

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