

What Happens on Competition Day?

Team Manager (TM) Check-In:

Competitive Teams: Come to check-in area to notify us that your team has arrived and pick up your packet. Check-in will be from 7:00am – 9:00am

Rising Stars: Check-in will be 30 minutes before your Central Challenge at the Rising Stars Sites.

- Have your Helper sign-in between 8:00am – 8:30am for their shift.
- Have your Appraiser report to the Challenge area.

Where do we go? – The cafeteria will be the holding area but with so many teams not everyone will find a spot. So, take some folding chairs or blankets and find a place around a shaded tree or down a hallway where you will be out of the way. Don't stress... have fun!

- Parking – Look at the maps for parent parking, bus parking and vans/trailer parking.

Be prepared – bring your “last minute fixes” toolbox – extra batteries, tape, sewing kit, and whatever is on your team’s checklist of items not to forget!

Dime Store – There will be a souvenir shop with t-shirts, pins, and other DI memorabilia and novelties for you to buy – you may want to let parents know to send a little cash. Each year there is a commemorative Regional Pin that is unique and fun to collect.

Snacks/Food – will be sold by the PSJA Southwest ECHS and Dime Store.

Lunch Time – Lunch time is on your own. Pay attention to your competition time slots and kids’ energy levels.

Information Area – If you have any questions: Go by the Dime Store and just ask for a South Border Bridge member to help you out.

Getting ready for performance time!

Performance Etiquette – Practice performance etiquette with your team before competition. Make sure they are polite and poised with the appraisers. Give the team a pep talk about how far they have come and what they have accomplished so that they enter the competition room with confidence and composure. The appraisers are evaluating the team’s progress not just looking to score down or rank teams-it is very hard to be an appraiser and these volunteers deserve our respect and gratitude for watching the team’s performance with the difficult job of having to score the team.

Competition site – Look at the map and have your team see where the competition site will be ahead of time. Make sure parents know where and when the team will compete. Encourage parents to leave the team entrance area and pre-staging areas to you and the team only – keep the kids focused and any last minute “touch-ups” must not have any well-meaning adult hands! Inform your parents of the Interference rule.

Instant Challenge – IC competition area is for the team and one TM only! TM can go into IC with the team or wait for them in the Chill-Out room! TM’s that have more than one team can only go in with the last team to compete.

Scores – Only one team member and one TM may pick up the team’s Team Challenge scores from the Head Appraiser in your competition room. Scores are usually available about an hour or so after you perform. The Prep Area appraiser will tell you before you go sit down to watch your team perform, when and where to come back to get your scores. It is your responsibility to ask what time you should expect your results and where to pick them up.

Awards Celebration – After competition, reconvene with your team members and parents. Sit together. The competitive levels Award Celebration will be starting between 5:00pm– 6:00pm. Time is tentative, if every challenge runs smoothly then we should be on time... .but things happen! *Rising Stars Recognition Celebration is done after their performances.*

We encourage teams to show good sportsmanship by staying through all the challenge rankings and the special awards. Teams who score 6th – 1st place will quickly come to receive their ribbons or medals/team trophy. We have certificates for Spirit of DI, Renaissance and Da Vinci winners.

If time permits: The Award Celebration will begin with a Parade of Schools. Choose *two students per campus* to represent your school—they can carry a banner with your school information.

State Bound Teams - ALL state bound TM’s must stay for a very brief meeting after awards with our Regional Directors for important information and forms regarding the state tournament.

Setup of the Competition Rooms –

Prep Area/Launch Area/Performance Area – Generally, just inside or outside of the competition room for each site. This is the area to which the team moves its props, etc. when the Prep Area Appraiser is ready for them, usually about 15 – 20 minutes before the team is scheduled to perform. So be at your site at least 30 minutes before competition. Parents can help unload cars to get items into the building or holding areas and then to the prep area. At least one TM should be with team as they meet with the Pre Area appraiser to make sure that the team has all its forms, and to help them be prepared and calm about the Prep Area requirements and that they can thoroughly understand and answer any questions about the Declaration of Independence form, Expense Form, Tournament Data form, etc. However, let the kids handle the Prep Area Appraiser’s questions. When they are just about ready to go, the Prep Area Appraiser will tell the team to move everything to the Launch Area, which will be inside the site but to the side of the performance area. The TM(s) will be

dismissed to sit in the separate seating for Team Managers-usually just to the side of the performance area. Next, for all teams, the announcer introduces the team, then starts the time and the team sets up and performs!!

TM Etiquette - Once you have been asked to sit down you must put on your best “calm and collected” face. Do NOT check your watch repeatedly. Do NOT mouth the words or prompt lines in any way. Do NOT allow your face to register shock or dismay if something goes wrong. Do NOT communicate in any way with your team – tape your mouth and sit on your hands! – even close your eyes if you think you will have a problem with this. Just relax and let the kids go. This is what they have been working for and if something goes wrong they will just have to problem-solve through it. Sometimes that kind of thing even ends up as reason for a teamwork award nomination by the appraisers. *Don't you or any parents do anything that could mess things up for your team!*

Only after the team has finished its presentation and the appraisers have questioned and chatted with them can TM(s), parents and other helpers move the team's props, etc. out of the competition room.

You've done it! So have fun the rest of the day and have your students observe other challenges!

Have an awesome time!