

Knowledge Bowl Advisors Meeting - September 18, 2012

Southeast Service Cooperative – 4:00-5:30 pm

(and via ITV in Houston and Kenyon-Wanamingo)

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves, their school and level they coach.

Contact information-SSC

Kirsten Kuehl

Regional Coordinator

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Katie Sue Cunningham

Training and Program Technician

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Susan Ward, State Coordinator

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

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Contact information-Advisors

Be sure we have all your information and that it is correct. Include your home/cell phone number and any other email addresses we should include. We will use this in case we need to contact you after hours (i.e. cancellations, postponements, etc.). If you would like anyone else from your school (or volunteers) added to our communication list, include their information.

Communications

- Most correspondence will be done via email and posted on the SSC website. All schedules and scores will be posted on the website (www.ssc.coop). (Click on the Student Programs tab at the top and select Knowledge Bowl.) Please bookmark this to your web browser for easy access.
- If a competition needs to be postponed (due to weather/late start or closing) SSC will contact the schools/advisors involved. In addition, it will be posted on the website homepage at www.ssc.coop. Advisors should provide home/cell phone numbers and alternate email addresses for after-hours communication. If there is questionable weather, the website will also give the status of the competition.
- "Snow Days" have been built into the Round Robin schedule (see list of dates).

2012-13 Dates & Round Robins Schedule

Junior and Senior dates have been set. They can be found on our website. Updates have been made, so be sure you have the current version.

Sub-Regional and Regional dates were set and announced last spring:

Junior High: Sub-Regionals - January 8 (Tier A) and January 9 (Tier AA)

Regionals – January 22 (Tier A) and January 23 (Tier AA)

Senior High: Sub-Regionals - March 19 (Tier A) and March 20 (Tier AA)

Regionals – March 21 (Tier A) and March 22 (Tier AA)

Both Sub-Regionals have been scheduled during RCTC's winter spring break weeks so they are the only available time to hold Sub-Regionals.

ROUND ROBINS

The updated schedule is posted on the SSC website. Please check this prior to requesting dates.

- We can accommodate no more than 18 teams at a time (some days less) at the Southeast Service Cooperative.

- Regarding the number of alternates allowed at Round Robins, we allow “extra” alternates at Round Robins, but only 6 students take written (junior high)/5 students take written (senior high). Extra alternates must take the written test (either individually or with other extras).
- Round Robins will be held at the Southeast Service Cooperative Conference Center. Teams can choose to attend either a morning session (9:00 - 11:30 am) or an afternoon session (12:30 - 3:00 pm) each month. We provide coffee and water. A pop machine is available for individuals to purchase their own.
- The written round is 60 questions and taken by all students (including extra alternates—either individually or with other “extras”). Requiring all students to take the written round eliminates wandering students with nothing to do. **NEW: All teams must remain at their tables until everyone is done with their written test.**
- Advisors should request the days/times they would like their teams to compete.
- Let Kirsten or Katie Sue know as soon as possible if there will be changes in the number of teams or if changes need to be made to the round robin schedule.
- Snow Days – Dates have been reserved in case we need to reschedule meets.

Competition Format

- For Round Robins, both written and oral scores will be included in the final tally. Round Robin competitions will consist of a written test (60 questions with 50 min. limit) taken first, followed by 3 oral rounds (30 questions). Junior High teams can have 6 team members take the written test and 5 team members in each oral round. Alternates can sub in after 15 questions during the oral round and/or between oral rounds. (Senior High teams have one less student/team—5 team members take the written and 4 team members compete in oral rounds.)
- During Round Robins, scores will be recorded and posted by advisors. After competitions are completed for the month, a copy of all scores will be posted on the SSC website. At the end of the season, awards are given to top teams, although the scores have no bearing at the sub-regional or regional.
- Please note: Advisors will read or judge at all competitions. Since we want two adults for every three teams, schools with more than 3 teams must supply another adult (parent, teacher, principal) to serve as reader or judge. Schools with fewer teams will be asked and encouraged, but for schools with more than 3 teams—it is mandatory. (At Round Robins we need at least 1 adult per room, but 2 is best.)
- Junior High: One set of written questions will be given to each student.
- Senior High: One set of written questions will be given to each team at all events (consistent with the format used at State).
- Any extra students (not taking the written test with a team) MUST take the written test (either with other “extras” or by themselves).

Determining Tiers

Due to some changes in number of teams, we discussed how the tiers would best be divided.

The Junior High teams are divided in half (based on 2011-12 MDE enrollment figures for grades 6-8). Currently Rushford-Peterson will change from Tier A to Tier AA.

Senior High teams are divided 40%-AA, 60%-A (based on 2011-12 MDE enrollment figures for grades 9-11). Currently LaCrescent will change from Tier AA to Tier A. Our region sends 5 teams to State. 2 teams from Tier AA advance and 3 teams from Tier A advance to State.

If any other major changes are made, the tier assignment could change.

Fees

Fees increased \$5 and are:

Junior High Fees

- MEMBERS: \$265/team

Senior High Fees

- MEMBERS: \$345/team

Districts will be invoiced after the season starts and the number of teams has been determined.

Other costs schools may incur (for planning purposes)

- Local Competition Days
3 half days for Round Robins, 1 full day for Sub-Regionals, 1 full day for Regionals
 - ** Substitute Teacher for Advisor
 - ** Transportation to/from Rochester
 - ** Lunch at Sub-Regionals and Regionals - *Domino's is what we've used previously.*
- State Competition Costs - *2 full days for State*
 - ** Substitute Teacher for Advisor
 - ** Transportation to/from Brainerd
 - ** Team Expenses - *Hotel Accommodations and Meals*
 - ** Expenses for One Extra Adult

Sub-Regional and Regional Formats

- Junior High Regional 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 4 oral rounds (45 questions each)
- Senior High Regional 1 written (60 questions with 50 min. limit) and 5 oral rounds (45 questions each)
- Sub-Regionals will be held at the Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) Heintz Center building. Dates were picked based on when classes are not in session (winter and spring break).
- Due to the number of teams and rooms being used, teams should bring one set of equipment (pocket box and strips) to Sub-Regionals. SSC may not have enough for all the rooms.
- Regionals are held at the Southeast Service Cooperative.
- Teams are "frozen" at Sub-Regional. Student composition of teams must remain the same from Sub-Regional to Regional to State.
- Lunch Options – Teams will bring their own lunch for Sub-Regionals, and order pizza for Regionals.

Strength of Scoring

- The Strength of Scoring method is used at the state meet. Strength of Scoring will be used during Junior High and Senior High Sub-Regional and Regional events. SOS points are given at the end of the meet, as follows: each time in top room = 1.5/round, each time in 2nd room= 1 pt. /round, and each time in 3rd room= .5 pts. /round.

Question Reviews

The following dates have been scheduled to review Sub-Regional and Regional questions. Although the questions are reviewed while the students are taking their written round, not all answer options can be covered. A small group of advisors (with representation from many subject areas) review the questions prior to the competition. Any advisor or interested person is encouraged to participate.

Junior High – December 6 (Thursday) from 4:00-6:30 pm

Senior High – January 31 (Thursday) from 4:00-6:30 pm

A reminder and RSVP request will be sent closer to the dates. A light supper will be served.

Invitationals

There isn't enough interest to hold Invitationals in our region, information will be sent to advisors of competitions throughout the state.

Discussion

Consistency among advisors/adults has been an issue. Please review the rules (and any "helper" you bring) prior to the start of the season.

Competitions will begin promptly.

Frequently there are not enough adults at competitions. It is mandatory that teams provide at least one adult per three teams. It is *especially* important to have two officials in each room at Sub-Regionals and Regionals.

A list of "Rules and Reminders" will be read prior to the first oral round at each competition. Several changes were made. Any suggestions or additions to this list are welcome.

Student Behavior (Code of Conduct)

Each team is required to submit a Code of Conduct, signed by each student competing in Knowledge Bowl. Teams do not need to be set, just have all students sign the form. Advisors should complete this and bring it to the first competition or fax/email to SSC.

The following rules for students during the competition will be enforced:

- Electronic devices will be collected by advisors prior to the start of the competition
- Students will not be allowed to wear hats.
- Tables must be clear (except for scratch paper and pencils).
- Students must remain quiet and at their table after the written round, until all teams are finished.

2012-2013 Handbooks

The same handbook is used for junior and senior high. The only difference between junior and senior high is the number of students/team and junior high doesn't have a State competition. Pages 17 and 19 in the hardcopies need to be replaced (attached to this email). The updated handbook is posted on our website.

OLD QUESTIONS

The Round Robin, Sub-Regional, and Regional Questions have been posted to our private website for you to save and use for practice with your teams. All hard copies were recycled and used for scratch paper. Here is the website to retrieve the questions: <http://www.ssc.coop/Page/103>

FYI - "Conference" meets

- "Conference" meets (outside of the Service Cooperative's Knowledge Bowl™ programs) can't technically be called Knowledge Bowl, since it is a trademarked program. If your conference and AD have separate competitions, it needs to be called something else.
- SSC cannot provide question sets. Conference meets will need to order these on their own. Companies that have been used by teams in our region are: Academic Hallmarks (www.greatauk.com) and Questions Unlimited (www.qunlimited.com).

Equipment

Schools order equipment directly from Lakes Country (see handbook – pages 13-15).

Awards

- **Junior High**--Certificates are given for participation in the season, Sub-Regionals and Regional competitions. A team trophy and individual medallions will be awarded to the top 3 teams at each Regional. Plaques go to the top three teams for Round Robins.
- **Senior High**--Certificates are given for participation in the season, Sub-Regional and Regional. Regional: Medallions go to the individual members of the top 3 teams in each tier and a team trophy. Plaques go to the top three teams for Round Robins.

State Meet

- The State competition is April 11-12, 2013 (Thursday & Friday) at Cragun's in Brainerd. The two-tier system is used at State. Determination of which schools will be placed in A and AA at State is made after each region's Regionals when all the teams going to State have been determined. **Southeast can send five (5) teams.**
- The number of teams that each region can send to the State Meet is based on the number of teams sent from each region, based on the previous year's participation.
- The teams advancing must pay their own expenses.
- The Southeast Service Cooperative must send the following persons to State: Regional Coordinator, 2 Computer Operators (students), 2 Judges, 1 Reader
- We pay expenses (lodging and mileage) for judges, readers and computer operators, and request that teams participating at the state event help recruit the computer operators. Anyone familiar with Knowledge Bowl can serve in these positions, especially advisors from teams not going to State. Please consider volunteering!

- A state t-shirt design contest is outlined in the handbook. Advisors should inform their students of this contest in case anyone is interested in submitting a design. Information will be sent to art teachers. Please mention this at your school.

The following are attached and can be found on the website:

Knowledge Bowl Handbook

2012-2013 Dates

Tier Assignments

Round Robin Schedules (Junior and Senior High)

Code of Conduct (for Junior and Senior High)

Handbook replacement pages (pages 17 and 19)

Competition Reminders (to read to students prior to first oral round)

Participation Data 2011-2012

State Advisory Council Minutes (May 2012)