

2017-18 Knowledge Bowl

Advisors Meeting – September 19, 2017 (via webinar)

Communication with SSC

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Communication

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 your respective Knowledge Bowl area.) 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. If there is questionable weather, the website will also give the status of the competition.

“Snow Days” have been built into the competition schedules (see list of dates).

Contact Information Updates

Advisors should update the information SSC has for them, including cell/emergency contact number, your home/cell phone number and any other email addresses we should include. We would use this phone number only in case we need to contact you, after hours (i.e. cancellations, postponements, etc.) or perhaps while you are enroute to a competition. If you would like anyone else from your school (or volunteers) added to our communication list, include their information.

2017-18 Handbook

The new handbooks are posted on our website and will be distributed at the first Round Robins. 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. Information about ordering equipment, rules and competition format are included in the Handbook (pages 13-14).

2017-18 Dates

- The Round Robin schedules are filling. To be added to the schedule or make changes, email Katie/Kirsten. These are posted on the website.
- Junior High Sub-Regionals have been set. There are three dates – one for each of the three tiers.
- Senior High Sub-Regionals will take place over four days (two for each tier) to accommodate all teams. If you have a date preference, notify Katie.

Practice Questions

Questions from previous years can be found at: www.ssc.coop/Page/103 (keep this link confidential). **THIS LINK IS FOR ADVISORS ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS!** Questions are available for you to use as you'd like.

Questions for 2017-18 Competitions

The state coordinator hires a committee of professionals in each subject area to review the questions before they are sent to each Region. Each Region receives the same question sets.

Fees

Junior High-\$290 per team. Schools will be invoiced October 30, 2017.

Senior High-\$375 per team. Schools will be invoiced January 8, 2018.

Non-members pay twice this rate.

Teams withdrawing after the invoice dates will be assessed a \$100 late withdrawal fee.

Competition Format

Determining Tiers for Junior High and Senior High is done using the most current enrollment figures from MDE.

Junior High: the total number of teams is divided in 3. We decided last year to go to 3 tiers for junior high. The

number of junior high teams has increased enough that a few teams have changed tiers. Senior High: the total

number of teams are divided in half – half in Tier A and half in Tier AA. Due to an increase in senior high teams, one school has changed tiers.

Round Robins are mixed – all tiers compete against each other. Competition at Sub-Regionals and Regionals is done within each tier.

Round Robins

For Round Robins, both written and oral scores will be included in the final tally. Round Robin competitions 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 on the sub-regional or regional.

Please note: Advisors will read or judge at all competitions. Since we require one adult for every three teams, schools with more than 3 teams must supply another adult (parent, teacher, principal) to serve as reader/ 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.

If a school does not abide by this rule, and if there are not enough adults at the Round Robin competition, one or more of their teams may not be able to compete as listed on the schedule. They may need to re-arrange, or sub in students using fewer teams.

Junior High: One set of written questions will be given to each student at competitions.

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).

A list of “Rules and Reminders” will be read by adults to students prior to the first oral round at each competition.

Sub-Regional and Regional Formats

Sub-Regionals for Junior and Senior will be held the Southeast Service Cooperative. Individuals need to bring their own lunch.

Teams are “frozen” at Sub-Regional. The composition of students on teams must remain the same from Sub-Regional to Regional to State.

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)

Junior High Regionals for three tiers will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2018 at SSC. The top 9 teams from each Sub-Regional advance to Regional.

Senior High Regionals for both tiers will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018 at SSC. The top 12 teams from each tier (top six from each Sub-Regional) advance to Regional.

HOWEVER...It was brought to our attention that some students would be in DC during that week and it will not work for another school. March 19 works best for most schools according to the poll. The draft of 2017-18 dates was sent to all advisors last spring to try to avoid major conflicts. Do we need to change?

Discussion: Would teams prefer Subway instead of pizza? Other lunch options?

Senior High: The top two teams from each tier plus the highest third place team from either tier advance to State. We have looked at other options, but we'd have to add at least one day, so have decided not to change.

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, so schools are encouraged to bring more adults.

State Middle School Meet

There is a Statewide Middle School Knowledge Meet at St. Francis Middle School on Saturday, January 27, 2018. This is open to any 6th-8th grade teams in Minnesota. Northfield participated in this last year.

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.

Student Behavior (Code of Conducts)

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.

A detailed list of rules/reminders will be read to students prior to the first oral round at all competitions.

“Conference” meets

Message from state coordinator: “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).

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. The group decided to eliminate plaques (that used to go to the top three teams for Round Robins) and continue to give certificates to individuals on the top 10 teams.

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. The group decided to eliminate plaques (that used to go to the top three teams for Round Robins) and continue to give certificates to individuals on the top 10 teams.

State Meet

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 State is currently researching the possibility of going to a third tier. Each region will get one vote on this. We will cast this vote in November on behalf of our region, so we'd like your thoughts on the subject. If the proposal passes and there is approval by the Service Cooperative Executive Directors, we will have 3 tiers for the 2018 meet. The number of teams each region could send would remain the same. There are currently a total of 48 teams split into 2 tiers. If State went to 3 tiers it would be either 15-18-15 or 15-15-18. Schools wouldn't know what tier they are competing in until all teams have been determined. Please give this some thought and we will send a survey to all senior high advisors.

They are also looking at adding SOS points throughout the meet (as opposed to them accumulating through the meet and added at the end). There was discussion of changing the value of SOS points. At this point these ideas are being discussed and no changes have been made at the state level.

2018 State: April 12-13, 2018

2019 State: April 11-12, 2019

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), and 4 officials. 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 (and even those not participating in Knowledge Bowl) of this contest in case anyone is interested in submitting a design. Please mention this at your school.

Statewide Middle School Meet

A State Middle School Meet will be held at St. Francis Middle School on Saturday, January 27, 2018. A flyer is part of the attachments. It is a 90s theme this year. The competition will consist of 3 rounds. Round 1 starts at 9:00 am and meet will conclude at approximately 1:30 pm. Last year's meet was a huge success!

Reminders

Consistency among advisors/adults has been an issue. Please review the rules that can be found in the handbook (as well as any "helper" you bring) prior to the start of the season.

Competitions will begin promptly.

The following can be found on the SSC website

- 2017-18 Handbook
- 2017-18 Dates
- Student Academic Program Fees
- Round Robin Schedule – Junior High
- Round Robin Schedule – Senior High
- Junior High Tier List
- Senior High Tier List
- Code of Conduct Form – Junior High
- Code of Conduct Form – Senior High
- Competition Reminders – Junior High
- Competition Reminders – Senior High
- Equipment Order Form (also in Handbook)
- 2017 State Scores and News Release
- List of Top Placing Teams (by year, 1996-97 through 2016-17)
- Knowledge Bowl Participation (2016-17 with statistics back to 1999-2000)
- Statewide Middle School Meet Flyer (1/27/2018 at St. Francis Middle School)
- State T-shirt Contest 2018