



Your Air Force JROTC unit is invited to be a part of a new era at the...

U.S. Air Force JROTC Open Championships



U.S. AIR FORCE March Annually - Nutter Center Arena - Dayton, Ohio

Introduction

This official invitation is extended to all Air Force JROTC units to gain entry into the **U.S. Air Force JROTC Open Championships**. This annual competition is supported by the **AFJROTC HQ - Maxwell, AFB** with national drill host **Sports Network International, Inc.** serving as the Event Manager. All Air Force JROTC programs in good standing throughout the world are encouraged to apply for entry into this prestigious competition. Spaces are gained on an earliest registered basis so gain your today!



The "Air Force Open" is widely recognized by all knowledgeable drillers as the finest Air Force only drill competition held anywhere in the world. the AF Open is held in a single location, Dayton, Ohio in the shadows of Wright-Patterson AFB. This event affords many Air Force schools who maintain competition drill teams the ability to compete in a first-class environment against top programs and support this single service competition.

The most up-to-date and extensive details on the event can be found on the Air Force Nationals website. We encourage all teams and their followers to become familiar with the website to ensure they are fully prepared to have a problem-free attendance that will generate positive team memories for years to come.

EVENT SPECIFICS - ON THE WEBSITE - <http://af.thenationals.net>

Who Chooses to Attend the AF Nationals?

Schools attend the event for many reasons. Several schools are seeking to be the champion while many have several events they know they do well within and want to compete in a large AF-ONLY competition. Some schools have newer or rebuilding programs and will attend and compete to get their cadets experience to build for the future. All programs are welcome and we know you will ALL have a great time! EVERY school that attends will be serving to promote Air Force drill building excellence along the way.

Competition Location Details

The AF Nationals will be held at the Nutter Center Arena, located off major highways I-75 and I-675 in Dayton, Ohio. Configured for a military drill competition, this stellar indoor facility will maintain comfortable, fixed seating for roughly 5,000 people and will maintain fantastic judging provided by the Wright-Patterson base community. Home of the LARGEST aviation museum in the world, this drill competition and the surrounding educational opportunities will be something your cadets will remember forever *on and off the drill floor*.

Competition Events and Attendance

The Air Force Nationals will host roughly 1,000 AFJROTC from all walks of life. Great teams with proud traditions AND many units that are newer with more modest means as well. Calls and emails of support have already been maintained and we expect a full competition field! The units attending will have lifetime memories their cadets and their families will cherish long after their JROTC days are behind them.

Team Events, scoring & cadets required at the Air Force Nationals are as follows:

- Unit Inspection: 12 cadets + CDR (25%)
 - Color Guard Drill: 2 rifles / 2 flags only (25%)
 - Flight Regulation: 12 cadets + CDR (25%)
 - Exhibition Drill: 8 cadets + CDR min. w/no max. (25%)
- Armed Solo & Dual Ex, Unarmed Dual Ex and Knockout Drills are held but not counted towards overall team finish.**

The **Unit Inspection** event involves cadets and a Cadet Cmdr standing a tough inspection in front of event judges. Both **Regulation & Color Guard** competition are comprised of graded, memorized movements performed in sequence in strict accordance with the military manual. **Exhibition Drill** uses a 6-9 minute time limit and the movements are left to the imagination of the drill team within a military framework. Individual event entries are granted space permitting. While a single cadet may compete within all four competitions on either the Armed or Unarmed Division team, cadets may not "cross-over" and compete on BOTH the armed & unarmed teams. Allowing this would reduce the total number of schools able to participate in this championship event while allowing some cadets to compete twice. **With this, a team of 13 cadets may compete in all four events within either division.**



Costs to Attend - How to Attend

Every competing cadet attends the event through the Air Force Open Team Package Plan. The price of the Team Package Plan is still just \$20.00 per cadet and has remained that price since the inception of the event decades ago! This plan provides every cadet with treasured event mementos while also paying the costs of running the drill competition in the first class manner schools have come to expect. All cadets competing in any part of the Air Force Nationals event must attend using the Team Package Plan. The Team Package Plan is **optional** for instructors, parents and non-competing cadets who may wish to obtain the fantastic mementos that are provided to every competitor. Few other drill events maintain the high quality, first-class atmosphere, lasting memories and beautiful event items that are a part of the Air Force Nationals. This fee is not due until roughly 5-6 weeks prior to the event.



The Team Package Plan provides:

**AF Nationals goldtone chest medallion / AF Nationals event t-shirt, ordered to size
8"x10" glossy color team photo with custom border / Ability to participate in all facets of the AF Nationals event**

The School Registration Fee for the Air Force Nationals is \$200.00 per school. This allows one school to enter up to two complete drill units (one per division - very large programs may enter JV or Freshman teams as well with approval), as well as allowing your competing cadets entry into both the Armed & Unarmed Knockouts at no additional charges. To enter into the Air Force Nationals, you must register on-line. Schools then have the option to pay their registration fee on-line by credit card or check or by mailing in a check. When both the on-line registration and \$200 fee have been received by SNI, your school will be considered to have a formal entry into the event.

Event Judging & Scoring

Three scoring judges will be utilized in each competition area with four maintained within Inspection. Judges will be active duty military or reserves with solid background, knowledge and training within the areas they will be asked to evaluate. All judges will receive an extensive event judging manual and briefing prior to attending the event. Additionally, Sports Network International is renowned for its double-check scoring system and complete scoring package presented to all teams at the end of the day. These complete scoring packages will include detailed score breakdowns for their team, as well as all other teams in their competition division, as well as all of the original event scoresheets provided immediately following the AF Nationals Awards Ceremony.

Air Force Nationals Event Specifics

This event is an Air Force JROTC drill & ceremony contest. The primary competition manual in use for the Air Force Nationals event will be the latest edition of AFMAN 36-2203. Uniform regulations will be judged in accordance with AFI 36-2903 and AFJROTC Uniform and Awards Guide. All armed drill rifle movements and the color guard competition will be executed in accordance with the U.S. Army TC 3-21.5 (superseding FM 3-21.5 several years ago). All other aspects should be executed as per the Air Force Drill Manual, except where deviations are outlined within this event SOP and related event scoring items. Special attention must be paid to the uniform section of the SOP as the AFJROTC HQ works closely with SNI to ensure compliance with all rules and regulation. Contact AFJROTC HQ for specific details.

All teams receive BOTH their competition start times and a final event daily schedule one week prior via the event website. The event uses a staggered start and with a short number of teams in every event and proper training, judging maintains very little benefit going early or late. The tentative Air Force Nationals event schedule is posted on-line now for planning purposes. Competition events will continue all day and early evening as outlined. The team events will conclude with the Armed, then Unarmed Knockout Drills. All registered cadets are encouraged to enter BOTH the Armed & Unarmed Knockout events. Immediately after the competition has ended, the Awards Ceremony distributes stunning event Championship & Runner-Up Overall trophies in both Armed & Unarmed Divisions, as well as 1st-5th place team trophies in each team event in both divisions. The top three finishers in each Knockout will also receive special hand-painted, cloissone medallions. Anyone who has attended the Air Force Nationals event will attest that the trophies are impressive and among the finest in the JROTC drill world!

Those schools gaining an overall championship or runner-up finish in either the Armed or Unarmed Divisions will receive automatic acceptance and priority scheduling should they choose to attend and compete against the best all-service teams as well as the best Air Force schools from other areas at the all-service **National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida in early May.** The top finishing Air Force JROTC drill team from the Masters Level Armed Demilitarized and the Unarmed Division of the NHS DTC will be crowned the official Air Force National Drill Champions. With many of the finest Air Force schools already marking their calendar for the all-service National High School Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida, it seems natural the best of the best would be crowned at this historic event.

All cadets will be required to maintain Regulation Service dress uniform during all non-exhibition events at the AF Nationals. Many units maintain authorization from HQ for mods to this uniform which will be allowed at the AF Nationals. Exhibition drill will allow teams to wear any accessories to an otherwise approved AFJROTC uniform, so long as the uniform is within good taste. During Team Exhibition, units may add accessories including but not limited to: spatz, scarves, ascots, gloves, fancy headgear, etc (again with Service HQ approval).

Air Force Nationals Paperwork and the MyTeam Website

The complete Air Force Nationals Team Folder is finalized and posted to the MySchool website. This is where you will register to attend, make your payments, and upload all of your required paperwork as well. This site is finalized in mid-September (competition items like the SOP, scoresheets and floor diagrams are made available early for training). This Air Force Nationals team folder maintains all of the paperwork necessary to attend the event, as well as other vital information.



The MySchool website is located prominently on the event website. When your school decided to enter the event, you simply go on the site, click the REGISTER TODAY button located at the top of the main website, and this will transport you to the registration home. Here you will give yourself an email and password combination that will give you a private page to register your school for the event. YOU MUST DO THIS EVERY YEAR EVEN IF YOU ATTENDED THE EVENT THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR! SNI will collect basic information about your program (how many entries you will maintain, team names, etc.) and you will be set! Later, you will type in your cadet names, t-shirt sizes and other needed information. Your financial page will then populate and you will be able to pay for your cadet costs, print out receipts and invoices and other needed functions from your private MySchool Website page.

Additional Registration & Inclusion Info

All school registrations are accepted on an earliest post-mark basis. Schools should register once they have made the firm decision to attend but should not delay to ensure a competition space remains available. While most schools who have been looking hard at entering this competition will register early, history shows some will choose to wait. We welcome ALL motivated Air Force JROTC programs at the Air Force Nationals. It is an experience your cadets will remember forever!

Schools accepted will receive an immediate e-mail confirmation upon their event registration. At that point and not before, schools should book travel, hotels, etc. Attending school lists will be posted on the website beginning in January. Any school not accepted into the Air Force Nationals will have their School Registration Fee refunded within 10 business days of receipt by SNI. **Schools may be removed from the competition field without refund or recourse for failing to complete the needed paperwork or proper submission of funds in the timeframes outlined for the event within the School Folder Paperwork.**

Competition questions, as well as all payment and paperwork items, are submitted to Sports Network International at the contact areas listed below. Schools are encouraged to contact SNI by email or telephone, as well as to check the Air Force Nationals website for any questions in advance of the event.

Overnight Housing

Knowing that some schools will need hotel accommodations, numerous quality hotels near the competition site have been contracted and are ready to provide very reasonable billets for competitors and spectators alike. Simply go to the official website of the Air Force Nationals and click on the links provided to see the complete, most up-to-date listing of hotel event information. All schools are eligible to stay at any hotel they wish, however it is hoped that the listed hotels will be utilized as they are strong supporters of JROTC and the Air Force Nationals.

In Closing

Thank you for considering attendance at the **U.S. Air Force JROTC Open Championships**. This event promises to provide a pleasant experience for competitors, instructors and spectators alike. We encourage all interested Air Force JROTC units from around the world to make the Air Force Nationals a part of your annual competition calendar. It can do wonders for the overall health, vitality and population of your program! Should you have questions, please call, write or email to the location outlined below. Here's wishing you good health and success throughout the school year.



Sincerely,

Justin Gates

Justin Gates - Air Force Open Nationals Competition Director

For questions or other information, please contact Event Manager:

Sports Network International

388 Muddy Creek Lane - Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

800/327-9311 ☎ 386/274-1919

website: <http://af.thenationals.net> 📧 email: drill@thenationals.net

NOTE: At this time, SNI maintains no written contract with the USAF. The JAG has requested such an agreement however due to the recent budgetary limitations, the USAF is not entering into any formal agreements at this time. We hope to have solved soon. All attending schools should know that currently there is no formal link or support between the USAF and the Air Force Nationals event. Any terms, logos or other identifying info herein is descriptive of the competitors ONLY and is not a show of any formal link at this time.