



Your Army JROTC unit is invited to be a part of a new drill era at the...

U.S. ARMY JROTC NATIONAL DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NEW KENTUCKY EXPO CENTER NEW
937 Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209

SPONSORED BY THE U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND
Hosted By: Sports Network International

Official Home of the "Army Nationals"



Introduction

This invitation is extended to all Army JROTC units to attend the **Army National Drill Championships**. This annual Army JROTC competition is hosted by long-time drill enthusiast **Sports Network International, Inc.** who serves as the Event Manager. The "Army Nationals" are the annual home of the finest Army JROTC drill units in the country. Each year, many of the finest U.S. Army JROTC programs will compete in both Armed and Unarmed competition in this single day event. We certainly welcome your inclusion into this fantastic competition.



Each Army Brigade will nominate Armed & Unarmed drill teams to represent their finest, most motivated drill & ceremony units. The number of nominations each receives are based on the size of the Brigade and the historical drill strength of same. These nominated schools will then register to attend the event on the official event website (<http://army.thenationals.net>). We at SNI encourage every school with the motivation and talent to contact their Brigade TODAY to be considered for the high honor of attending and competing at the Army Nationals!

It should be noted this event is a 100% GO regardless of Army funding. SNI has made the commitment to host the event and it will go on regardless of any budget issues.

Competition Events

As most schools are well aware, the Army Nationals remains the largest and finest Army-only competition held anywhere. The upcoming event is designed to host roughly 1,000 cadets & instructors and will certainly showcase all talent levels and many fine drill programs in the world of Army JROTC drill.

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

- Team Inspection: 12 cadets+ CMDR (25%)
- Color Guard Drill: 2 rifles / 2 flags only (25%)
- Platoon Regulation: 12 cadets+ CMDR (25%)
- Exhibition Drill: 9 cadets min. w/no max. (25%)

NOTE: Armed Solo & Dual and Unarmed Dual Competition is planned for the first time this year. These scores will not count towards a teams overall finish. Details on this extra event will be maintained on the event website.

The Unit Inspection event involves cadets and a Cadet Commander standing inspection in front of four event judges looking for verbal and visual excellence. Both Regulation and Color Guard drills are comprised of graded, memorized movements performed in sequence for judge evaluation. Exhibition Drill allows units to perform both unarmed and armed movements left to the imagination of the drill team in a military framework. Complete drill floor layouts/maps and other needed event items, as well as the official SOP and scoresheets are available on-line at the official website of the Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.

This Army Nationals competition is designed for schools seeking to earn an overall title, therefore schools who wish to just enter just a single event or two listed above may not be accepted due to space limitations. However, every effort is made to include every unit with the nomination from their Brigade and the motivation to attend!

To compete in either the Armed or the Unarmed Divisions, a team is required to have a minimum of 13 cadets. Schools may enter up to two teams (one Armed, one Unarmed). While a single cadet may compete within all four competition events listed above in a single DIVISION, cadets may not "cross-over" and compete in BOTH the Armed & Unarmed Divisions. Many schools attend with just a single team competing for an overall title in that division. After reading this Event Invitation and the Army Nationals SOP, schools still maintaining questions about any aspect of the event should contact Event Manager Sports Network International.



The Competition Location

During the complete renovation of the historic event home the Kentucky Int'l Convention Center, the Army Nationals will move across town to the Fairgrounds and the amazing **Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC)**. The facility is stellar with the big three events all held in the huge main competition area with inspection still held in smaller, more secluded meeting rooms.



This facility has large common areas outside the competition rooms to stretch out a bit. Seating will be available for teams and spectators throughout the venue. High ceilings, solid lighting, concessions and male/female dressing facilities make the KEC a fantastic home for this high profile event. All details about the actual competition site and the tentative schedule of events are provided well in advance through the Army Nationals event website. Paid parking will be in effect at the facility and SNI will maintain more details on this aspect of the event nears as it nears as well. Teams are reminded that at no time should cadets be allowed to leave the building for any reason without maintaining direct supervision from the JROTC instructors.

The facility is right off the highway and is just 55 minutes from nearby Ft, Knox where many schools may opt to stay "on-base" to gain a great military feel and free billeting for their weekend. Siteseeing opportunities at numerous area attractions are available and found online for those schools so inclined. SNI will assist schools in any/all aspects of your trip both in and out of the competition arena - feel free to ask!

Judging & Scoring

Qualified judges are tasked by the USACC and fully briefed by SNI to ensure quality grading occurs. These judges are very familiar with Army JROTC and are fully briefed on event regulations as well as going over the finer points of the Army TC 3-21.5 to ensure judges provide uniformity and accuracy in their scoring (NOTE: the TC is downloadable from the Army Portal OR the SNI website). All judges receive extensive event judging manuals, on-line course work and in-person briefing the night prior to the event. The event maintains three scoring judges in each event with four maintained within Inspection. Complete scoring packages including detailed score breakdowns for your team(s), as well as all other teams in your competition division, as well as ALL of your event scoresheets will be returned immediately after the Awards Ceremony Saturday evening.

Event Regulations & Information

The Army Nationals will have specific rules and regulations that in most cases work in concert with Army TC 3-21.5. Because the manual was never designed to be used to judge cadets marching in boxes, in some cases clarifications, additions and subtractions are made within the Army Nationals SOP. This event SOP, in concert with the drill manual, should maintain everything a team could need to train and prepare to excel in competition at the Army Nationals.

ALL SCHOOLS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE ARMY NATIONALS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CAREFULLY REVIEW THE ARMY NATIONALS SOP PRIOR TO PRACTICING OR TRAINING TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

Please do not assume something is done a certain way simply because you do it that way back home. This Army Nationals SOP is posted on-line in advance of the event and can be downloaded along with floor diagrams, regulation & color guard sequences, and other important advanced event information from the official Army Nationals homepage (or directly downloaded at: <http://www.thenationals.net/army-sop.pdf>).

Army Nationals Event Specifics

All teams will receive their competition start times one week in advance via the event website, as well as their safety briefing and any SOP Updates. A tentative event schedule is put on-line well in advance to allow teams the ability to better plan their entire weekend to include the drill competition. Immediately after the final team events conclude, Armed, then Unarmed Knockout Drills are held for the cadets while the event scoresheets undergo their last review. All registered cadets are encouraged to enter both the Armed & Unarmed Knockout events, regardless of what competition division they participated in during the day. The event runs on time during the day because the teams are on time!



On arrival, all teams will immediately check-in with SNI at Event Registration. Here you will receive your competition

shirts, medallions, and other arrival info. There will be no Commander's Call or similar - all event materials will be distributed in advance. A shotgun start is used with all events starting nearly simultaneous throughout the facility

On Saturday evening, the Army Nationals Awards Ceremony distributes stunning Championship & Runner-Up Overall trophies in both Armed & Unarmed Divisions, as well as 1st-5th place team trophies in each team event. The top three finishers in each Knockout and solo & dual exhibition event will also receive special hand-painted, cloisssone medallions.

The complete Army Nationals Team Folder is finalized and downloadable for registered teams in late September. This team folder is laid out in a step-by-step manner and completed on-line with nothing to print out and mail. This makes it simple to submit the materials necessary to attend the event.

Costs to Attend - NOTE: this has CHANGED with the pullout of the Army Sponsorship!

With the Army sponsorship in place, each school pays a modest \$100 School Registration Fee (paid at the time of registration by credit card or check) with the entire school reg fee completely refunded upon your school competing at the event! Additionally, every competing cadet pays just \$10.00 (paid roughly one month prior to the competition date). This plan provides all competing cadets with treasured event mementos well deserved. All cadets competing in any part of the Army Nationals must attend using the Team Package Plan. The Team Package Plan is optional for instructors, parents and non-competing cadets. Few other competitions maintain the high quality, first-class atmosphere, lasting memories and beautiful event items that are a part of the Army Nationals.



The Team Package Plan Provides:

- Army Nationals goldtone chest medallion
- Army Nationals competition t-shirt, ordered to size
- 8" x 10" glossy color unit team photo with personalized event border
- Ability to participate in all facets of the Army Nationals event



(the actual cost of these items EXCEEDS \$10 however the Army Sponsorship supplants these costs)

Again, with the Army sponsorship, it should be noted that every attending school will receive a refund of their School Registration Fee after they attend and compete in the Army Nationals event. Again, all attending schools must plan to register, pay all fees and submit all required paperwork on-line to attend and compete within the Army Championships.

Overnight Housing

Knowing that some schools attending will need hotel accommodations, numerous quality hotels all within driving distance to the event have been contracted and are ready to provide billets for competitors and spectators alike. Schools are not REQUIRED to stay in any of these SNI identified hotels - they are provided as a convenience to the schools and their spectators and are listed because they willingly wish to be considered supporters of the Army Nationals competition. To look at these properties, simply go to the official website of the Army Nationals event and click on the "HOTEL INFORMATION" link to see the complete, most up-to-date list. NOTE: ALL SCHOOLS can billet at Ft. Knox, HQ of the U.S. Army Cadet Command at no charge. This may be a very affordable option for schools on a budget. Contact your Brigade Rep for details.

Schools are encouraged NOT to make non-refundable hotel reservations or base reservations until their entry into the Army Nationals event has been confirmed by both Brigade and SNI after your on-line registration has occurred!

In Closing

Thank you for considering attendance at the upcoming Army Nationals. This event will provide a pleasant experience for competitors, instructors and spectators alike in an amazing, first-class atmosphere. The event will again be the largest single-service Army JROTC event annually held! We would like to encourage all of the top Army JROTC units from around the world to make the Army Nationals a part of your competition calendar. It can do wonders for the overall health, vitality and population of your program! The upcoming Army Nationals looks to be an unparalleled, single-service platform to display the hard work your cadets have put forward during their years of Army JROTC.

Sincerely,

Justin Gates

Justin Gates - Army Nationals Competition Director

Team Sports Network - 10 Broadcreek Circle - Ormond Beach, Florida 32114

800/327-9311 w)386/274-1919 website: <http://army.thenationals.net> email: drill@thenationals.net

Please email or call if
SNI can assist your
unit in any way!