

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

2012 U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Drill Championships



National Championship Event
Saturday, 31 March 2012
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky



"Official Home of the U.S. Army JROTC Drill & Ceremony Championships"

Sponsored By: U.S. Army Cadet Command

Introduction

This invitation is extended to your Army JROTC unit to enter the **2012 U.S. Army Cadet Command Drill Championships**. This Army JROTC competition is the vision and product of **U.S. Army Cadet Command. Sports Network International** has been honored with the tasking to serve as the Event Manager for this historic event. The "Army Nationals" as the event is best known is the annual home of the finest Army JROTC drill units in the country. For nearly a decade, the United States Army has produced Army JROTC drill & ceremony competitions that have allowed top units to shine and compete to be the best of the best! The Army Championships will be the pinnacle for the best Army drill teams from across the United States.



For the first time, the Army will have each Brigade nominate a small number of both Armed & Unarmed teams to represent their finest drill & ceremony units. These programs will descend on Louisville, Kentucky in the hopes of capturing the first-ever Army JROTC Drill Championship. The exact manner of unit selection is totally up to each Brigade. Each Brigade has been provided a set number of entries between 3-5 schools depending on several factors including: 1) the number of programs in their Brigade; 2) the geographic size of the Brigade; and 3) the historic strength of drill within their Brigade. We certainly hope that your school, if motivated to attend, can capture one of these select competition spots. We encourage every school with the motivation and the talent to attend the Army JROTC Drill Championships to contact their Brigade to let them know they wish to be considered for this high honor of attending and competing in 2012!

Competition Events

As most schools are well aware, the Army Nationals remains the largest and finest Army-only competition held anywhere. The 2012 drill event is expected to involve over 1,500 cadets & instructors and will showcase many of the finest drill programs in the world of JROTC. The units that attend the event will be exposing themselves to many of the best drill units in the country.

The **Unit Inspection** event involves cadets and a Cadet Commander standing inspection in front of event judges. Both **Regulation & Color Guard Drills** are comprised of graded, memorized movements performed in sequence. **Exhibition Drill** uses a 6-9 minute time limit and the movements are left to the imagination of the drill team. All drill areas have a single 15' or 25' entry/exit point unless otherwise noted. Complete event details are available at the official website of the Army Nationals: <http://army.thenationals.net>.

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%)

Schools may enter up to two full teams (one Armed, one Unarmed) per level. While a single cadet may compete within all four events in a single Division, cadets may not "cross-over" and compete in BOTH the Armed & Unarmed Divisions. Schools may enter either one or two full drill teams (generally, one armed and one unarmed team) but many schools attend with just a single team competing for an overall title. A few schools may be accepted entering a partial team if space allows.



Competition Locations

The Army Nationals are held indoors at the beautiful Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. This fine facility has large common areas, expansive changing areas, on street as well as garage parking, and concession stands for drinks and snacks on site. All venues in use will offer easy access from nearby airports and highways, and hotels in several price ranges have been listed on the official event website. The venue is roughly 45 minutes from Ft. Knox, Kentucky, new home of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. The weather should be moderate in very late March and the municipal facility is spectacular!

Event Judging & Scoring

Qualified judges will be tasked from military training posts in the Southeastern U.S. to ensure knowledgeable, quality grading occurs. These soldiers will be tasked and acquired by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and fully briefed and trained by Event Manager Sports Network International. All judges will be assigned in advance and be extensively trained within the area they are judging. This competition is judged in strict accordance with FM 3-21.5. All judges will receive an extensive event judging manual, on-line course work and in-person briefing prior to attending the event. Sports Network International is renowned for the judge training, it's on-line paperwork Headquarters, as well as its double-check scoring system.

Three scoring judges will be utilized in each competition area 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 following the Awards Ceremony Saturday evening.

Please carefully review the score sheets and the Army Nationals SOP to ensure your team is prepared to earn a maximum score from the judges.

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, risk assessment and any SOP Updates. A tentative event schedule is put on-line well in advance to better allow teams the ability to 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.

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 will also receive special hand-painted, cloissson medallions.

The complete Army Nationals Team Folder is finalized and posted to the event website for download after schools are accepted into the event in mid-December. This team folder maintains all paperwork necessary to attend the event, as well as other vital information. Other, more immediately needed information (floor layouts, SOP, sequences, etc.) is generally posted in later August.

Costs to Attend

The costs of producing the Army Nationals are heavily subsidized by Cadet Command, thereby keeping the costs very low for each attending school while ensuring a professional, first-class event is presented and carried forth. Every competing cadet attends the event through the Army Nationals Team Package Plan. The price of the Team Package Plan is only \$10.00 per cadet. This plan provides cadets with treasured event mementos while paying the costs of running the drill competition. **All cadets competing in any part of the Army Nationals event must attend using the Team Package Plan.** The Team Package Plan is *optional* for instructors, parents and non-competing cadets. Few other drill events maintain the high quality, first-class atmosphere, lasting memories and beautiful event items that are a part of the Army Nationals.



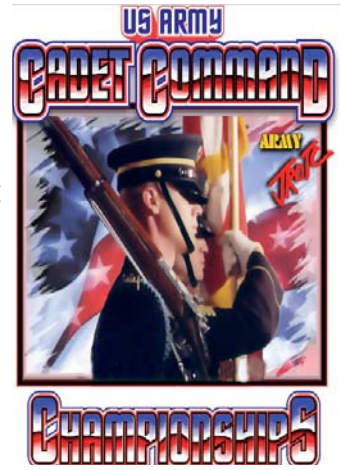
The Team Package Plan provides:

- 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 School Registration Fee for the Army Nationals is just \$100.00 per school. This fee allows one school to enter either ONE or TWO complete drill units (one per division), as well as allowing your competing cadets entry into both the Armed & Unarmed Knockouts. Currently, there are no plans to allow "partial teams" (i.e., just a color guard or just an exhibition team) into the Army Nationals event. This competition is designed to find the finest overall Armed and Unarmed team, not simply teams good at one or more events.

Once nominated to attend the Army Nationals by your Brigade, selected schools should register to attend the Army Nationals on-line (<http://www.thenationals.net/myteam/drill-reg.htm>) and then immediately mail your \$100.00 School Registration Fee to SNI or you can pay this fee on-line with a credit card if that is more convenient. Upon receipt by SNI, your school will be notified that we have received your entry request and that you are in the event. Schools will then download, complete and submit their event paperwork, and they will be ready to attend the competition.



Financial Assistance

New in 2012, a small group of schools attending the Army Nationals from smaller communities and/or great distances may ask for and be granted matching funds to attend the Army Nationals competition. These matching grants are handled by the Sports Network Int'l Youth Foundation, a not-for-profit company that often works in combination with SNI to assist schools in their attendance matters. The amount of these grants are generally limited to \$1,500 and there are usually 5-6 schools that are planned to receive this money. This non-profit group is heavily involved in the educational opportunities available to youth athletic groups and the many benefits they learn in the arena of competitive sports. After your group has been selected to attend, please email SNI for details on how your unit may be selected to receive a portion of these matching funds.

Event Regulations & Information

The Army Nationals competition will have specific rules and regulations that in most cases work in concert with Army FM 3-21.5. Because the FM 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 document maintains 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>).

Overnight Housing

Knowing that a large percentage of schools attending the event will need hotel accommodations, numerous quality hotels all within reasonable driving distance to the competition site has been contracted and are ready to provide very reasonable billets for competitors and spectators alike. Some of these properties are less expensive and some are more. Schools are not REQUIRED to stay in any of these 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: Several schools are looking to billet on base at Ft. Knox, HQ of the U.S. Army Cadet Command. This may be a very affordable option for schools on a budget. For planning, Ft. Knox is roughly ONE HOUR from the competition site. Schools are encouraged NOT to make non-refundable hotel reservations or base reservations until their entry into the Army Nationals event has been confirmed!

In Closing

Thank you for considering attendance at the upcoming **U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Drill Championships**. This event promises to provide a pleasant experience for competitors, instructors and spectators alike in an amazing, first-class atmosphere. We would like to encourage all of the top Army JROTC units from around the world to earn their entry slot and make the Army Nationals a part of your competition calendar. It can do wonders for the overall health, vitality and population of your program!

With the strong backing of the United States Army Cadet Command, 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. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to 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 - Competition Director
Army Nationals Competition

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Sports Network International

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