

This is your official invitation to attend the finest, most highly respected and most talent-laden all-service JROTC event in the world, the...

2012 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction

Sports Network International is pleased to provide this invitation to all precision drill units to attend the 30th annual **National High School Drill Team Championships** in Daytona Beach, Florida. This event is open to all Junior ROTC units and select other military-style programs competing in Armed & Unarmed divisions. This is your school's **official invitation** to enter the nation's finest drill & ceremony competition, referred to worldwide as simply "**The Nationals.**" Schools will never experience a more spectacular event than this.

The **National High School Drill Team Championships** remains the most coveted drill destination in the nation. Schools travel from across the U.S. to attend this all-service drill spectacular. Schools considering entry into the Nationals should make plans early as competition spaces are limited to roughly 50 schools at the Masters Level; 55 schools at the Challenge Level; and 35 schools within the Open Level Color Guard event.

Sports Network International, Inc. (SNI) serves as the Event Manager for The Nationals. The National High School Drill Team Championships are proudly sponsored by the **U.S. Army Cadet Command**.

Competition Guidelines

All units may use their own service regulations to compete at the NHS DTC. Armed Divisions, where their manual is not specific, US Army FM 3-21.5 is used while the Unarmed Division uses US Air Force FM 36-2203 (1996). The variety of services that gain top finishes at Daytona is a testament to the fairness of this drill event. The event SOP is listed on the event website no later than mid-January. Schools having specific questions regarding the event should contact SNI before applying for entry.

Event Judging

All judges at the NHS DTC maintain a strong background in military drill. Judges are fully qualified military personnel representing all four branches of the service. Judges are given extensive judging manuals in advance of the event, as well as a full on-site briefing on the eve of the competition. The Nationals' judges are extremely motivated and give a 110% effort. This remains a major reason why so many teams look to end their drill season at "**The World's Most Famous Beach.**"

Competition Events

The NHS DTC maintains two competition levels. The **Challenge Level** event is designed for drill teams who wish to be part of the Nationals experience while competing against similarly talented schools at a less intense skill level than the Masters Level. The Challenge Level maintains Armed (demilitarized weapons only) & Unarmed divisions. All schools are also encouraged to consider entering "stand-alone" Color Guard units into the exciting Open Level Color Guard competition also held on Saturday during the Challenge Level event.

The **Masters Level** event brings the finest drill programs in the nation together to compete within three separate divisions. Teams using standard full-weight rifles compete in the **Demilitarized Arms Division**. Teams without weapons enter the **Unarmed Division**. The **Alternative/Mixed Division** is for teams with lightweight weapons (regardless of gender), for all-female teams (regardless of weapon type) and in 2012, for many mixed teams (see SOP for details).

CHALLENGE LEVEL EVENTS

- ★ Unit Inspection (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Regulation (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Color Guard (4-person only - w/arms)
- ★ Team Exhibition (9 cadets & over)
(*Squad or Platoon Formation is acceptable*)

MASTERS LEVEL EVENTS

- ★ Unit Inspection (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Regulation (12 + Cmdr.)
- ★ Color Guard (4-person only - w/arms)
- ★ Squad/Element Exhibition (8+ Cmdr.)
- ★ Platoon/Flight Exhibition (13 & over)
- ★ Solo & Dual Exhibition Cadets

Schools may enter multiple complete teams in different divisions at the Nationals **as long as no cadet competes for more than one team**. Therefore, schools entering both an armed and unarmed team may do so, but the two teams **must have separate cadets for each team**. This rule allows maximum cadet participation without adding multiple school entries utilizing the same cadets.

All Masters Level Armed units are allowed one entry (per team) in both Solo & Dual Exhibition. Unarmed Masters units can enter one pair in Unarmed Dual Ex. ***Select Challenge Level cadets may also be accepted into these events!** Teams can petition for a 2nd entry slot if desired. Also, ALL CADETS are urged to compete in their level's Armed & Unarmed Knockout Drills. **NOTE:** No "knockout fee" is charged to participate in this event.

NHSDTC Event Specifics

The National High School Drill Team Championships are held at the impressive **Ocean Center Arena** in Daytona Beach, Florida in late Spring every year. This state-of-the-art facility features permanent seating for over 6,000 with outstanding amenities for a drill competition the size and prestige of the Nationals. The Ocean Center also features a complete concession area and ample bus parking. All instructors and cadets who attend the Nationals will attest that the Ocean Center remains the most exceptional drill & ceremony facility currently in use in the United States.

Schools are housed in Daytona Beach at one of 20+ oceanfront hotels located within 10 minutes of the Ocean Center Arena. They provide quality & affordable billeting for every Nationals team. SNI will also offer schools the ability to choose an Upgrade Hotel Package Plan at one of several select premium hotels. The Headquarters for the event is the **Hilton Oceanwalk Resort**. Located directly across the street from the Ocean Center, the Hilton is an oasis which will provide exceptional billeting for the few schools selected to stay in this luxury hotel environment. Schools requesting a specific hotel should contact SNI directly.

All Challenge schools must be in town by Friday to attend the **NHSDTC Commander's Call** the evening prior to their competition. At this meeting, all teams are presented their competition schedules and receive a short briefing by NHS DTC Competition Director, Justin Gates. The Challenge & Open Level events will be held on **Saturday, May 5th**, with the two-day Masters Level competition held on **Sunday & Monday, May 6th & 7th**. Both competition levels feature Knockout Drills at the conclusion of the judging and an Awards Ceremony in the evening following the competition.

Awards and Trophies

The Nationals features unparalleled trophies & awards. National Championship and National Runner-Up trophies are awarded in all competition divisions - Demilitarized Arms, Unarmed and Alternative/Mixed (at the Masters Level); Armed & Unarmed (at the Challenge Level). The impressiveness of these trophies remains legendary within the Junior ROTC drill community!

DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Team events in all competition divisions are trophied in **1st-5th place**. All schools competing for a Championship (schools entering every team event in a division) will receive a personalized NHS DTC plaque to commemorate their quest at Daytona.

The Masters Level division maintains both Solo & Dual Exhibitions for all armed teams and Dual Exhibition for unarmed teams. Regulation Cadet Commanders at both the Masters & Challenge Levels also compete for Commander's Trophies. These individual trophies are awarded in **1st-5th place**. Top finishers in all Armed & Unarmed Knockout Drills will receive a hand-painted medallion.

Costs to Attend

All schools choosing to attend the National High School Drill Team Championships **must attend through the Team Package Plan**. This plan is designed to ensure all cadets and instructors are given the enjoyment of staying together in superb oceanfront hotels with other schools from across the country, provided with treasured event mementos, as well as **ensuring all schools receive the finest drill event they have ever attended at an affordable cost**.

Team Package Plan Includes:

- ❖ Four days & three nights billeting in one of several oceanfront hotels in Daytona Beach
- ❖ NHS DTC bronze medallion on a chest ribbon
- ❖ NHS DTC collared sports-shirt for adults or t-shirt for cadets, both ordered to size
- ❖ Swiss-embroidered four-inch patch designed exclusively for the NHS DTC
- ❖ 8" X 10" color team photograph

The price of the Team Package Plan, based on staying four-to-a-room, is only **\$125.00 per person** for the **full 4-day/3-night package**. Challenge level schools have the option to stay in a 2-night package for only **\$109.00 per person**. Three, two & one to-a-room prices are slightly higher, utilized primarily for instructors & other adult team followers. Schools interested in Deluxe billets should contact SNI ASAP or check the website for those upgraded rates. **All participants (cadets, chaperones & instructors) are required to attend the NHS DTC through this Team Package Plan to ensure all event costs are fully covered**. Parents and other team followers MAY attend through the package plan, but this is optional.

Registration Fee

The School Registration Fee for Nationals entry is \$300 for the Masters Level, \$200 for the Challenge Level and \$50 per team for the Open Level Color Guard or stand-alone solo/dual exhibition entrants. Schools wishing to enter multiple teams in multiple competition levels should contact SNI for details. **This event Registration Fee is completely refundable** if requested before **Friday, December 2nd, 2011**, but non-refundable once a school has been accepted for entry into the Nationals. This ensures that only those schools who are *fully committed* to attend the event occupy a valuable competition slot with the many other fantastic drill programs attending.

To Register for the NHS DTC

To register your school for the Nationals, complete the online **NHS DTC Registration Form** located at: <http://myteam.thenationals.net> - if you choose to mail your registration fee, your school is not considered registered until the fee has been received. Schools unsure of which competition level they should enter should contact SNI before submitting their School Registration.

SELECTION PROCESS: *All registrations will be accumulated and reviewed by the SNI Competition Committee beginning on Friday, December 2nd, 2011*. SNI will evaluate all entries on their merits and decide which schools will be accepted. This judgment will be based on many factors but the largest of these include:

- ❖ Overall team strength in past Nationals performances as well as other regional drill meets you have attended.
- ❖ Teams looking to capture an Overall Championship (complete teams entering all team events within a division) are given preference over partial teams.
- ❖ Geographic spread, service diversity, gung-ho nature & previous entry attempts are all very strong points considered by SNI.

While most returning schools to the Nationals register within weeks of receiving *DrillINATION* magazine and this invitation, a few schools wait. Historically, demand to enter the Nationals causes the event to be nearly full by this date. Schools registering after the December 2nd review deadline will have a smaller chance of getting into the Nationals. Any "standby slots" available after this date are available on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

Additional Registration Info

Schools accepted for entry will be emailed confirmations and listed on the SNI website by Tuesday, December 6th. Any school not accepted will have their Entry Fee refunded within 10 business days.

All checks should be made payable and sent to **Sports Network International** at the address listed below. Schools may contact SNI by email **BUT** all paperwork should be sent through the mail or submitted via our state-of-the-art website.

In Closing

We invite all teams, **especially those who have considered attending in the past**, to look at attending the 2012 Nationals. Your drill team's attendance will become the highlight of your school year, giving focus and purpose to your drill season. It provides a strong means of attracting interest in your program from within your community and will give your school and drill unit the national notoriety and incredible learning experience that they richly deserve. The Nationals is renowned for the strong teams who annually attend. With the availability of the Challenge & Open Level competitions, schools of all talent levels now look to become a part of the exciting & memorable Nationals experience.

Mostly, a trip to the Nationals will give your cadets, parents and staff a great experience to reflect upon for the rest of their lives. The Nationals is the ultimate reward for a long year of hard work and dedication.

Veterans of the Nationals will attest that **no other drill meet compares with the National High School Drill Team Championships**. The overall talent, all-service flavor and vast geographic spread of teams attending the Nationals give this drill event an unparalleled atmosphere of drill excellence! We at SNI wish your program and your cadets the best of luck this school year and **we hope to see your school in Daytona Beach, Florida this May at "The Nationals!"**

For additional information:

Event Manager
Sports Network International, Inc.
775 Fentress Boulevard
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
800/327-9311 ☎ 386/274-1919
website: <http://drill.thenationals.net>
email: drill@thenationals.net