



# Drill NATION

*"Where JROTC Excellence is Celebrated Every Year"*

**2026-2027 Edition**

Inside, see event recap information and photos from the various service Championship events.

Also, learn how your cadets can be a part of these upcoming events, featuring the incomparable...

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# DrillNATION

**Official Publication of the Internationally Recognized  
JROTC Drill & Ceremony Spectacular, the  
National High School Drill Team Championships**

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**On The Cover:** Brenham High School Reapers, MCJROTC from Brenham, Texas perform their Unarmed Exhibition routine at the Ocean Center Arena during the National High School Drill Team Championships.

**MAGAZINE DEDICATION:** With troop deployments that stretch across the globe, the 2026-27 DrillNATION Magazine is dedicated to both the active duty and reserve components of our American Armed Forces, along with the National Guard. These brave and selfless individuals continue to provide the blanket of freedom that Americans enjoy every day. Thousands of former cadets who have attended the Nationals in the past are currently serving around the globe in all branches of the Armed Forces, helping to protect the interests of the United States of America. SNI is honored by their commitment to duty and wish them all a safe and speedy return home when they complete their mission.

**Photo Credits:** The cover image was provided by Mr. Edwing Maya with EAMshots. Additional photos provided by Beavercreek High School (pg 11), Brenham High School (pg 13), and Troy High School (pg 15).

Sports Network International thanks the many exhibitors who help make the Nationals a special home for JROTC drill: Air Commando Outreach Squadron, Andres Ryan Training, Cadet Portfolio (Cadence), Camp Liberty, Crosman Rifles, Daisy Outdoor Products, Drill Dojo by Glendale, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Army ROTC, Fine Designs, Forward Flow, Georgia Military College, Glendale Parade Store, Marion Military Institute, New Guard America, New Mexico Military Institute, Norwich University, Online Donations, Pershing Rifles/Society of Blackjacks, Texas A&M University, The Citadel, The Drill Hub, University of North Georgia, University of the Potomac, US Air Force Academy, US Air Force Recruiting Service, US Air Force ROTC, US Army 75th Regiment, US Army Marksmanship Program, US Army Recruiting, US Coast Guard Recruiting, US Army Cadet Command, USACC 2nd BDE, USACC 3rd BDE, USACC 4th BDE, USACC 5th BDE, USACC 6th BDE, USACC 7th BDE, USAF Honor Guard, US Military Academy (West Point), Vex Robotics, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

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While thousands of cadets competed inside the Ocean Center during the National High School Drill Team Championships, another group of competitors spent part of their day battling the elements on the sands of Daytona Beach. The annual Fitness Challenge Championships showcased the pure athletic side of JROTC, bringing together many of the nation's strongest and most well-conditioned cadets for a full day of competition testing speed, endurance, strength, power, and teamwork.

Teams competed in three divisions—Male, Female, and Mixed—across five challenging events. Team scores were earned in the Physical Team Test and 3K Beach Run, while individual performances in the Standing Double Broad Jump, Weighted Ball Throw, and Pull-Ups/Flexed Arm Hang combined to determine both team success and the coveted Ultimate Fitness Cadet honors presented during the evening awards ceremony.

### Male Division

The Male Division featured an outstanding battle among several of the nation's premier fitness teams, with Veterans High School's Red Squad from Kathleen, Georgia (Air Force) assembling the most remarkable performances of the day to earn the Overall Championship. Veterans consistently finished near the top in every event, winning 1st place in both the Physical Team Test and Pull-Ups, placing second in both the 3K Beach Run and Standing Double Broad Jump, and adding a third-place finish in the Weighted Ball Throw to secure the overall title.

The Ridge Community High School Bolts (Army), from Davenport, Florida, claimed second place overall with an impressive victory in the 3K Beach Run, while also earning second in the Weighted Ball Throw and third place finishes in Pull-Ups and Standing Double Broad Jump. Perry High School's Panthers (Air Force) from Perry, Georgia, rounded out the top three with an incredible showing in the Weighted Ball Throw (1st place) and 2nd place finishes in the Physical Team Test and Pull-Ups.

Other outstanding performances included the Westlake High School Lions (Army), who captured 1st place in the Standing Double Broad Jump, while the Corbin High School Redhounds (Army) achieved 3rd place in the 3K Beach Run, and East Union High School's Mighty Twelve (Army) earned 3rd place in the Physical Team Test.

### Female Division

Veterans High School continued its dominance in the Female Division, claiming another Overall Championship through a remarkable display of grit,

perseverance, and strategy. The Lady Warhawks captured 1st place in the Physical Team Test, Flexed Arm Hang, Standing Double Broad Jump, and Weighted Ball Throw, and finished third in the 3K Beach Run, earning a staggering four event victories in the competition. NO ONE could match their heat!



Live Oaks CDC's Lady Wolfpack (Army), from Milford, Ohio, earned the runner-up trophy by placing second in all five fitness events, demonstrating consistency and tenacity from start to finish. This division was the tightest competition by far, with winners decided by tenths of a second, showing just how hard these cadets pushed themselves in every single event. Ridge Community High School's Lady Bolts (Army) completed the top three overall after winning the 3K Beach Run by just over a single second and finishing third in each of the remaining four events.

### Mixed Division

With 29 teams, our largest group of the competition, the Mixed Division always brings excitement and nail-biting finishes. Kenwood High School's Black Knights (Army) from Clarksville, Tennessee, captured the Overall Championship through stellar performances in both team and individual events. Kenwood High School won the 3K Beach Run, Physical Team Test, and Weighted Ball Throw, earned 3rd place in the Pull-Ups/Flexed Arm Hang and 2nd place in the Standing Double Broad Jump to earn the top spot on the podium at the awards ceremony.



Air Academy High School's Centurions (Air Force), from Air Force Academy, Colorado, finished second overall after winning both the Pull-Ups/Flexed Arm Hang and Standing Double Broad Jump, while placing second in the Physical Team Test and Weighted Ball Throw, and third in the 3K Beach Run. Brennan High School's Spartan Bears (Air Force), brought several trophies

home to Texas, earning 3rd place overall through impressive 3rd place finishes in the Physical Team Test, Standing Double Broad Jump, and Weighted Ball Throw.

Two fantastic Marine Corps JROTC programs also brought the fire this year! Richwoods High School's Spartans claimed 2nd place in the Pull-Ups/Flexed Arm Hang event, narrowly beating out Kenwood High School by one point, and Lake Cormorant High School took home 4th place in the 3k Beach Run and 5th place in the Physical Team Test. Special shout out to the Raiders from Spring Hill High School (Army JROTC), who finished second in the 3K Beach Run.

### Ultimate Fitness Cadet

While team success remained the primary objective, the Ultimate Fitness Cadet is presented to the male and female competitors who compile the best overall performance after combining their individual placements in Pull-Ups or Flexed Arm Hang, Standing Double Broad Jump, and Weighted Ball Throw. Among the Male competitors it was an incredibly tight race but Cadet John Sapp from Lake Cormorant High School came out on top. Within the Female competitors, Cadet Alina Tuzmukhamedova from Air Academy High School claimed 1st place with consistent performances in all three events.

Every year, Sports Network International receives tremendous feedback from our teams on thoughts to improve the overall event. We always appreciate any feedback and work hard to improve year after year. Next year the 2027 Fitness Challenge Championships will be moving to FRIDAY which will allow any cadets that are in fitness and drill to compete in both. Mark your calendars, spaces will fill up fast!



**2027**  
**FITNESS NATIONALS**  
**COMPETITION DATE**  
**FRIDAY, 30 APRIL 2027**  
**Daytona Beach, Florida**

# DAYTONA BEACH®



Welcome to sunny Daytona Beach, Florida!

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to host the National High School Drill Team Championships and the Nationals JROTC Fitness Challenge Championships here in Daytona Beach, Florida! On behalf of the Daytona Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, we want to extend you a warm welcome to “The World’s Most Famous Beach.”

For nearly five decades, this destination has had the distinction of hosting JROTC military events and the thousands of visitors that have traveled to our coastal destination. From restaurants and hotels to attractions and service providers, our community is proud to continue that tradition and look forward to helping you make more memories during your upcoming visit next spring.

While we know you are focused on the competition, we hope that participants and their families and friends build in some time to venture out to enjoy everything this area has to offer, and to see first-hand why Daytona Beach is such a fantastic place to visit. From dipping your toes into the water along our 23 miles of pristine white sand beaches to visiting the renowned Daytona International Speedway or the historic Ponce Inlet Lighthouse (Florida’s tallest), there’s plenty to see and do.

We are honored to serve as a backdrop for these prestigious competitions. As you make your plans for your trip to Daytona Beach, we encourage you to visit [DaytonaBeach.com](http://DaytonaBeach.com) to learn more about the different activities that you can explore. We wish you all great success and hope that you have a fantastic experience!

Sunny Regards,



Lori Campbell Baker  
Executive Director

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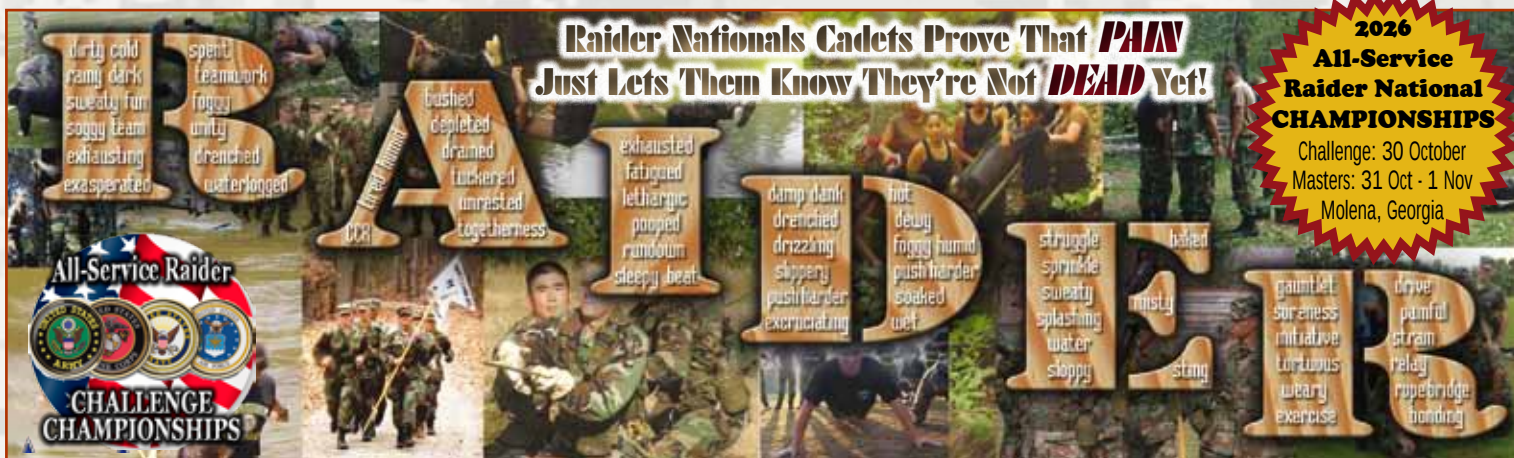
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**2026**  
**All-Service**  
**Raider National**  
**CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
 Challenge: 30 October  
 Masters: 31 Oct - 1 Nov  
 Molena, Georgia

Heading into its 19th year, the All-Service JROTC Raider National Championships, held annually at the Lawhorn Scouting Base in Molena, Georgia, remains one of the premier Raider competitions in America. Teams travel from across the world to take on this monumental challenge of mental and physical endurance. With vibrant cheers from supporters echoing through the woods and the smell of campfires in the air, there is truly nothing like Raider Nationals weekend!

Through rain or shine, cadets take on five brutal events designed to test strategy, communication, and perseverance — Team Mountain Run, Gauntlet, Tire Flip (Challenge Level)/Cross Country Rescue (Masters Level), Physical Team Test, and Rope Bridge. Cadets must think on their feet, adapt to challenges, and work as a team to achieve the quickest time and take home a National Championship Title!

Since the inaugural All-Service JROTC Raider Nationals, the number of Raider teams nationwide has more than doubled, a testament to the sport's incredible growth. Each year, new programs join returning competitors to test their mettle in the beautiful mountains of North Georgia. The camaraderie, classic camping atmosphere, and unmatched natural scenery make Lawhorn Scouting Base an unforgettable experience that strengthens teams and creates memories to last a lifetime. Competition slots typically remain available through September, but registration closes soon, so contact us now to secure your school's spot.



Competition day temperatures started at a brisk 38 degrees, but the cold did little to slow the action. Designed for younger programs and developing cadets, the Challenge Level division showcased outstanding performances throughout the field. In the Male Division, Island Coast HS (USA, Florida) and Smiths Station HS (USMC, Alabama) each captured an event first place to finish 4th and 5th overall, while Riverside Preparatory Academy (USA, Georgia) earned 3rd Overall through consistently strong finishes across all five events. Northside HS (USAF, Georgia) battled to the very end with three 3rd place and two 2nd place finishes, but Live Oaks CDC (USA, Ohio) proved too strong. The Wolf Pack captured first in Mountain Run, PTT, and Rope Bridge to claim the Challenge Level Male Division Overall Championship.

For the Challenge Mixed Division, a larger pool of teams made competition even more fierce. Despite a tough placement in Rope Bridge, the Colquitt County HS's Packers (USMC, Georgia) bounced back with a 3rd place finish in the Mountain Run to secure 5th place overall. Cedar Shoals HS (USA, Georgia) grabbed an impressive 4th place overall finish after conquering the Gauntlet and the Mountain Run, earning trophies in both events. The fight for Overall National Champion Runner-Up was a nail biter! A shocking tie-breaker granted Rope Bridge champions Pinellas Park HS (USCG, Florida) the title, narrowly beating out Walker HS (USMC, Louisiana), who placed 3rd in all but one event. This left Kenwood HS (USA) as the Champions! With 1st place trophies in the PTT and Mountain Run, no one could stop the Black Knights from Tennessee.

In the Masters Level, teams arrived ready to put months of training to the test. In the Male Division, White County HS (USA, Georgia) collected three 4th-place trophies, narrowly trailing Riverside Preparatory Academy (USA, Georgia), which captured 2nd in Rope Bridge and 5th in three other events. The Overall Title remained up for grabs as each of the top three programs claimed multiple event top-five trophies. Osborne HS's Raiders (USA, Georgia) made a late push with a runner-up finish in the Mountain Run and three additional third place trophies but it wasn't enough to overtake Adairsville HS's Tiger Pride (USA, Georgia), whose three event first place and one second place secured them the runner up title. Consistency ultimately proved decisive, as Etowah HS's Eagles (USAF, Georgia) turned two event victories and top-three finishes across the board into the Masters Level Male Division Overall National Championship.

In the Female Division, some of the nation's top JROTC raider teams in the country battled for the National Championship. Georgia powerhouse Veterans HS (USAF) earned a top five placement in every event except CCR, but they were just two placement points shy from cracking the top three overall. With three 2nd place finishes and one 4th place, it was Osborne HS (USA, Georgia) that captured 3rd place overall. In another amazing finish, despite the Etowah Lady Eagles (USAF, Georgia) claiming 1st place in the Mountain Run, Gauntlet, and CCR, it was the Live Oaks CDC Lady Wolf Pups (USA, Ohio) who came out on top by securing 1st place in Rope Bridge and PTT, 2nd in Gauntlet, and 4th in the Mountain Run and CCR. Live Oaks came to dominate the competition.

The Mixed Division produced one of the closest races of the day, with placement points separating top teams by the slimmest of margins. Clarkrange HS's Buffaloes A (USA, Tennessee) claimed 4th place overall finishing just one placement point behind the leaders. Spring Hill HS (USA, Tennessee) and GMC Prep's Bulldogs (USA, Georgia) finished deadlocked for 3rd place overall. Spring Hill captured three top-five trophies and GMC took four top-five placements. But GMC won the tie-breaker giving them the Runner-Up title. At the top of the standings, Walker HS's Devil Dogs (USMC, Louisiana) proved impossible to catch, capturing 1st in Gauntlet, 2nd in PTT and CCR and 4th in the Mountain Run to secure the Masters Mixed Division Overall Championship. It was a thrilling finish to one of the day's most competitive divisions.

The final competition of the weekend starts bright and early Sunday morning. The Ultimate Raider is an individual competition that includes a grueling 1.4 mile run while wearing a 35 lb. ruck, designed to push each cadet to their limits. Cadet Hernandez from Osborne HS took home 1st place for the Male Division with an impressive time of 10:41.87. For the Female Division, Cadet Jasso-Rios from GMC Prep blazed through the course at 12:26.41 to take home 1st place. The winning times get faster every year!

The Masters Level awards ceremony gathering is a celebration of excellence every year. Teams gather in their traditional horseshoe formation to gaze upon the glistening display of trophies waiting to be awarded. We are always honored to reward teams who have worked so hard to reach this event with trophies befitting National Champions!



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## 2026 U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC National Drill Championships

The **LARGEST** Single Service JROTC Competition Drill Event in the World!



Since 2021, the U.S. Army Drill Nationals has made its home at the Ocean Center Arena in Daytona Beach, Florida. In early May, this prestigious event once again kicked off the largest and most impressive weekend of JROTC drill excellence in the world. This year marked the one of the largest Army Drill Nationals with 83 schools and more than 100 teams competing. With the level of competition reaching new heights, defending National Champions knew that nothing would be handed to them. Every event, from intense inspection showdowns to jaw-dropping exhibition performances, showcased America's premier JROTC cadets competing at the highest level. By the close of competition, another chapter had been written in the proud history of Army JROTC drill.

### ARMED DIVISION

Long before dawn, teams were already suited up and prepared for battle as spectators settled in for one of the most exhilarating days of JROTC drill competition. In the Armed Division, Texas powerhouse and 2025 National Champions, Ronald Reagan High School, set out to defend their title, but their competitors would not be defeated without a fight. With two Lone Star State heavy hitters, Heights High School Rough Riders and Central Catholic High School Chaminade Guard, taking 1st and 2nd place respectively in Inspection, the Ronald Reagan Rattler Guard would have to push even harder to improve on their 3rd place inspection standing. Breaking through the Texas fog, Leavenworth High School's Pioneer Guard from Kansas posted a very precise performance in Regulation to claim 1st place, besting Ronald Reagan High School

the podium in 1st place with West Creek High School not far behind in 2nd, and Florida locals Mariner Senior High School placed 3rd.

The always exciting Armed Exhibition event saw San Antonio shine bright. The San Juan Guard from Theodore Roosevelt High School performed with strength capturing 2nd place in Exhibition. With phenomenal skill and poise, the Rattler Guard from Ronald Reagan claimed 1st in Armed Exhibition which also cemented their repeat as the 2026 Overall National Champions. Central Catholic High School's Chaminade Guard placed 3rd in Exhibition and also secured the Overall Runner-Up title in one of the CLOSEST finishes in recent memory, falling short of the Championship by just six points and continuing the long line of Texas Pride at Army Nationals.

In Solo & Dual Exhibition, Oak Ridge Military Academy's Gold Star Platoon dominated the competition! Cadet Braydon Stafford was crowned the Solo Ex Champion, while brothers Andrew and Nathan Corum took home the Armed Dual Exhibition Championship.

### UNARMED DIVISION

With over 50 other teams hungry for the Unarmed Division National Championship, 2025 winners Theodore Roosevelt High School would have to fight hard to retain that title. Unlike some years, when only a handful of teams dominate the awards stand, this race saw victories spread across the field, leaving the overall title very much in doubt until the final results were announced. In Inspection, Ronald Reagan High School's Diamondbacks earned the top spot, Ridge Community High School's Lady Bolts (Florida) secured a strong 2nd place finish, while Blythewood High School's Bengals (South Carolina) took home 3rd.

to earn 1st place with 1,486 points, while Southern High School's Knights Battalion from Guam finished a close second with 1,468 points. Elbert County High School's Blue Devils (Georgia) secured 3rd place with 1,467 points, just a single point behind the Knights. Taking home another trophy for Tennessee, Montgomery Central High School earned 1st place in Color Guard, narrowly defeating Leavenworth High School by just two points, with Elbert County coming in 3rd.



Thrilled unarmed cadets from Ronald Reagan HS Diamondbacks proudly display their Championship Trophy.

In another Texas victory, Harlingen High School's Silver Guard duo of Hayley Ruiz and Giselle Garcia captured the 1st place in Unarmed Dual Exhibition.

Although the Riderettes from Theodore Roosevelt High School performed a near perfect routine to win 1st place in Unarmed Exhibition, it was not enough to hold onto the National Championship title. In the end, it was Ronald Reagan High School's Diamondbacks that emerged victorious through their consistently strong performances throughout the day, capturing the Unarmed National Championship. With a 2nd place finish in Exhibition added to their trophy collection, Leavenworth High School's Cavalry Angels took home the Runner-Up Overall Championship.

While championships and trophies celebrate excellence, they are not the true measure of success. The hard work, passion, discipline, and dedication displayed by every cadet who earned the opportunity to compete at the 2026 U.S. Army Drill Nationals represent the competition's greatest achievement. Long after the trophies have been placed on a shelf, the lessons learned through drill will continue to shape these young men and women throughout their lives.



Ronald Reagan HS Armed Rattler Guard drill team from San Antonio, Texas repeated as the Armed Division Champions!

in 2nd and the Black Tigers from Smith-Cotton High School (Missouri) in 3rd. In Color Guard, Central Catholic High School muscled back to

of the most tightly contested finishes of the championship. Continuing their winning streak, Ronald Reagan High School outshined all others

# ***Beavercreek HS - Inaugural Chris Longfellow Luminary Award Recipient***



In 2025, Sports Network International lost a treasured member of our family with the passing of Christopher Longfellow following a battle with pancreatic cancer. While his absence continues to be deeply felt, his legacy of service, kindness and generosity lives on.

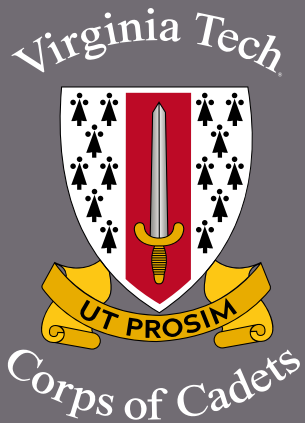
For many cadets and instructors, Chris was the smiling face behind Team Pictures at the Air Force Nationals and National High School Drill Team Championships. But his impact on SNI, and especially the Air Force Nationals, went far beyond his role at the events. An Air Force veteran, JROTC parent and active booster at Lebanon High School, Chris was instrumental in bringing the Air Force Nationals to Dayton, Ohio in 2015. Chris and his family subsequently became an integral part of the SNI event family, generously gifting our events their hard-work and passion year after year.

To ensure that spirit remains a part of the Air Force Nationals for generations to come, SNI established the Chris Longfellow Luminary Award, recognizing a unit that exemplifies the qualities Chris demonstrated throughout his life: service above self, integrity, generosity of spirit and eternal optimism in the face of adversity.

At the 2026 Air Force JROTC National Drill Championships, Beavercreek High School (Ohio) was named the inaugural recipient. Beavercreek arrives at every event not simply prepared to compete, but ready to contribute. Their cadets and instructors consistently offer to help wherever they are needed, precisely the kind of instinctive generosity that defined Chris Longfellow. They are kind, courteous, hardworking and respectful, with a dedication to excellence evident both on and off the competition floor.

That is what makes a luminary. A luminary is someone who brings light to the people around them. Chris Longfellow did that throughout his life, and through this award, SNI hopes his example will continue to inspire the young men and women who pass through our events for years to come.

Congratulations to Beavercreek High School, the first recipient of the Chris Longfellow Luminary Award. Thank you for helping us carry Chris's light forward.



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# 2026 AFJROTC Open Nationals

*The Battle in Blue is always Memorable in the Midwest*

Air Force JROTC - Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do!



Many of the nation's finest Air Force JROTC drill programs gathered in Dayton, Ohio this March as 26 schools and more than 35 teams converged on the Nutter Center Arena at Wright State University for the 2026 U.S. Air Force JROTC National Drill Championships. In a single day filled with military precision, athleticism, and unwavering discipline, cadets competed for national honors across Armed and Unarmed Divisions in Inspection, Regulation, Color Guard, Exhibition, Solo Exhibition, and Dual Exhibition.

For many years, the Nutter Center has provided a first-class home for this prestigious championship, and the continued support of Wright State University has helped make the event one of the premier competitions in JROTC military drill & ceremonies. Sports Network International also extends its sincere appreciation to the Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau, whose partnership and hospitality once again helped create an outstanding experience for competitors, instructors, families, and spectators.

## ARMED DIVISION

The Armed division this year hosted 21 teams all looking for the chance to unseat the multi-year reigning champions the B-1 Bombers from Beavercreek High School (Ohio). This powerhouse team captured the armed championship in 2023, 2024, and 2025 and they were looking to make it four in a row and they did not disappoint. Missing a clean sweep by less than 100 points in the Exhibition event, they bested the rest of the field by 568 points out of 4800, an incredibly wide margin. They were the only team to place in all four team events. So once again, the B-1 Bombers maintain their championship title making the target on their backs even larger for teams next year.

The true race was for the Runner-Up trophy. Second through fourth place overall was separated by only 265 points but rising to the top with 1st place Exhibition, 4th place Regulation, and 5th place Color Guard were the Black Dragons from Jefferson High School (Georgia). Close on their heels were the Flying Eagles from Woodrow Wilson High School from West Virginia. The Flying Eagles captured 3rd in Inspection and Exhibition and a 5th place in Regulation but fell just 62 points shy of the runner-up title. West Aurora High School's Thunder Rifles were not far behind landing in the fourth place overall spot. They only took home one team trophy (4th Inspection) but by placing just outside of top-five in the other three events, their general consistency kept them near the top.

Another notable finish was delivered by Mascoutah High School Chief's Guard. They captured 2nd in Inspection, Regulation, and Color Guard. If they had competed in the Exhibition event, they most likely would have taken home the runner-up title this year.

Outstanding individual leadership was recognized through the Armed



**Beavercreek HS cadets from Beavercreek, Ohio once again capture both the Armed and Unarmed Championships for the third year in a row.**

Regulation Commander's Trophy, where Beavercreek High School claimed another 1st place victory for their program, posting a winning score of 255 points. Mascoutah High School followed with 247 points, while Ramstein High School earned third with 240 points in another close finish, making the long plane ride from Germany more than worth it!

Armed Solo Exhibition showcased exceptional individual talent and months of practice to nail down such complicated routines. Cadet Gonzalez of Illinois' Bolingbrook High School captured 1st place, followed by Cadet Ke of the Unity Reed Roaring Lions from Virginia. Cadet Spidell of Ohio's own Green High School Band of Bulldogs completed the podium at 3rd place. Armed Dual Exhibition competition concluded with a 1st place victory from Springfield Central High School's Central Guard duo of Cadets Kuilan and Jimenez. Cadets Gonzalez and Sanders from Bolingbrook High School finished very close behind in 2nd, while the Flying Eagles, Cadets Delimont and Lopez, secured 3rd for Woodrow Wilson High School.

## UNARMED DIVISION

With 25 teams, competition in the Unarmed Division proved equally impressive with discipline, precision, and timing being scrutinized by the judges to the highest degree. The B-2 Bombers from Beavercreek High School were poised to defend their three-year title with a fourth championship and although the scoring was much closer in the unarmed division as opposed to their armed counterparts, they did keep their crown with an impressive three 1st place trophies and one 2nd place.

The runner-up spot was a lot harder to call with two teams in the hunt. Green High School's Band of Bulldogs (Ohio) and the Panthers from Springboro High School (Ohio) battled it out throughout the day. Both teams placed in the top-five in all four events with the Band of Bulldogs capturing 2nd place in Exhibition and 3rd place in Inspection, Regulation, and Color Guard. But the Panthers squeezed out their victory by only 65 points out of 4800. They took home 1st in Color Guard, 2nd in Inspection and Regulation, and 4th in Exhibition securing them the Runner-Up Title.

The Unarmed Commander trophies recognized some of the top performing cadets in one of the tightest races of the entire competition. Springboro High School earned first place with an impressive 268 points. Beavercreek High School finished just two points behind at 266, while Green High School secured third with 262 points, winning a tiebreaker over O'Fallon Township High School after identical scores.

The Unarmed Dual Exhibition competition concluded with Mascoutah High School's duo of Gora and Shi capturing the 1st place trophy by 18 points. Unity Reed High School's Osorio and Korabi earned runner-up honors, and Springfield Central High School's Torres and Hernandez claimed 3rd place.

We were honored to have Mr. Daniel Gomez from Air Force JROTC Headquarters join us at the event to observe these hard working teams give it their all on the drill pad. He also served as our keynote speaker at the Awards Ceremony to share words of wisdom with the attendees and give out the always impressive National Championship trophies. Every year, teams raise the bar for this competition, working harder and harder to be the standard bearers of excellence in the drill community. It is always an honor and privilege to provide a platform to celebrate these talented, driven, and dedicated programs. Start practicing now, and we'll see you back in 2027!

<https://thenationals.net>

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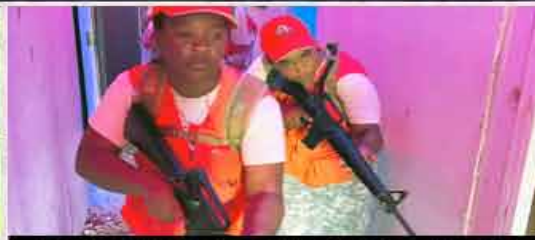


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2 WEEKS

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# 2026 USMC JROTC DRILL CHAMPIONSHIP

See the Full Scoring Results: <https://thenationals.net/mc-results-2025.pdf>



The 2026 U.S. Marine Corps JROTC National Drill Championship brought together the nation's finest high school USMC drill programs for an unforgettable weekend of competition in April at Colquitt County High School in Norman Park, Georgia. Featuring nine elite Unarmed teams and eight elite Armed teams selected through an extremely competitive qualification process, the championship showcased the very highest level of Marine Corps drill and ceremony excellence. Hundreds of supporters packed the venue, creating an electric atmosphere as cadets competed for the Championship title.

Adding another unique element to this year's championship, schools were given the opportunity to compete either in person or virtually through submitted performance videos. All participating programs traveled to Georgia except Lynn English High School, whose performances were evaluated virtually alongside the live competition. Because of this virtual element, the Inspection competition was not factored into the Overall Championship.

## ARMED DIVISION

Starting off with Armed Inspection, South Iredell High School from Statesville, North Carolina demonstrated exceptional military bearing and command presence to capture 1st place by a commanding lead. One of the most dominant Texas USMC JROTC programs, Brenham High School, followed closely behind in 2nd place, and the Red Knights from Reading High School in Pennsylvania secured 3rd place. The narrow margins immediately signaled that the battle for the Overall Championship would remain undecided throughout the day.

In Armed Regulation, Brenham High School claimed 1st place by over 80 points, setting the standard for precision. Reading High School earned a strong 2nd place finish, while South Iredell High School finished third. These three programs were all fighting hard for every point. The Armed Regulation Commander's Trophy recognized the top cadet commander among the division's elite leaders. Cadet Allison Mendoza of Brenham High School earned top honors with an impressive score

of 325 points. In a dramatic finish, Cadet Boduroglu (Reading High School) and Cadet Conlin (South Iredell High School) TIED at 297 points, leading to an exciting tie breaker wherein the Red Knight from Reading, Pennsylvania took home runner-up with a higher head judge score!



For Armed Color Guard, Reading High School captured 1st place after another thrilling tiebreaker with Brenham High School while Rio Rancho High School, from out west in New Mexico, earned third place honors.

Armed Exhibition brought creativity, precision, and athletic rifle work to center stage. South Iredell High School claimed 1st place followed by Rio Rancho High School in 2nd place and Reading High School in 3rd place.

When the final calculations were complete and the dust settled, Brenham High School Reapers successfully defended their Armed Division National Championship! Even with a tie for 1st place in Color Guard going to Reading High School, Brenham's dominance and consistent excellence could not be stopped. South Iredell High School took home the National Champion Runner-Up title and will be back next year to try to unseat the defending champs.

## UNARMED DIVISION

In Unarmed Inspection, ILTexas-Garland High School earned 1st place, demonstrating an impressive commitment to the discipline required to win. Brenham High School finished in 2nd place with Reading High School claiming 3rd place, setting the tone for another fiercely competitive division.

Unarmed Regulation saw Brenham High School enter the top of the standings with a winning score of 1,291 points. Romeoville High School (Illinois) finished second with 1,245 points, while South Iredell High School earned 3rd place with 1,241 points, just FOUR points behind. The Unarmed Regulation Commander's Trophy highlighted outstanding individual leadership as Cadet Neon Ibanez of Romeoville High School captured first place with 315 points. Brenham High School's Cadet Valeria Alfaro finished second with 313 points narrowly missing the top spot, while Cadet Audrey Sapp of South Iredell High School placed third after another tiebreaker with 305 points.

The Brenham High School Reapers continued their strong performance by winning the Unarmed Division Color Guard competition. ILTexas-Garland High School earned 2nd place, and South Iredell High School secured third by another very tight margin, only four points behind. Unarmed Exhibition was thrilling to watch from start to finish! Brenham High School once again claimed the top spot, Reading High School earned 2nd place, and Walker High School from Louisiana secured the 3rd place trophy.

The Unarmed Division Overall Championship became clear to all as event winners were announced. Once again, Brenham High School successfully defended their national title with a perfect proportional score after winning Regulation, Color Guard, and Exhibition. Romeoville High School captured the Unarmed Overall Runner Up title through sheer grit and determination, earning high marks in all events.

As the final trophies were presented, the 2026 U.S. Marine Corps JROTC National Drill Championship celebrated another outstanding year of military precision, leadership, and teamwork. Brenham High School's successful defense of both Overall National Championships provided an impressive conclusion to an unforgettable day, while every participating program left Georgia having added another chapter to the proud legacy of Marine Corps JROTC excellence.



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# 2026 U.S. NAVY JROTC NATIONAL

## Academic, Athletic & Drill Championship

Held at NAS Pensacola, Florida



Few competitions in high school JROTC demand excellence across as many disciplines as the U.S. Navy JROTC Academic, Athletic & Drill National Championship. Unlike traditional drill meets that focus solely on ceremonial precision, this unique national championship identifies the nation's most complete NJROTC program by challenging cadets academically, physically, and militarily over two demanding days of competition.

Held in late March at historic Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida, the 2026 championship once again brought together many of the nation's premier Navy JROTC units to compete in an event designed to reward the well-rounded development that lies at the heart of the Navy JROTC mission.

Throughout the championship, every school competed in both Armed and Unarmed Drill events, ensuring that versatility and consistency, not specialization, determined the national champion. Combined with rigorous academic testing and physically demanding athletic events, every point earned contributed toward the Overall National Championship, creating one of the most challenging titles in JROTC.

The Drill Championship portion featured Unit Personnel Inspection, Armed Platoon Basic, Unarmed Platoon Basic, Color Guard, Armed Platoon Exhibition, and Unarmed Platoon Exhibition. Unlike many national championships where schools compete in only one drill division, Navy Nationals requires every unit to demonstrate proficiency across the full spectrum of military drill.

Academics proved equally important. Each participating school selected 15 cadets to complete a demanding 100-question academic examination covering naval science, military knowledge, leadership, and current events. Individual honors recognized the nation's top-performing cadets while combined team scores determined the Academic National Champions.

Athletic events completed the championship with Shuttle Relay, Curl-Ups, and Push-Ups testing speed, endurance, teamwork, and physical fitness. Every event contributed toward the overall standings, emphasizing that the nation's best NJROTC program must excel in every aspect.

Among the many outstanding performances throughout the weekend, Troy High School from California once again demonstrated why they have become one of the nation's elite Navy JROTC programs. Despite competing against a field traditionally dominated by powerhouse programs from the East Coast and Texas, Troy captured its second Overall National Championship in just three years, continuing to prove that excellence knows no geographic boundaries.

The Personnel Inspection competition established the tone for the weekend as Troy High School earned first place with an outstanding score of 1,268 points. Pace High School finished second with 1,226 points, while Allen D. Nease High School rounded out the top three with 1,212 points.

The Academic Championship showcased the exceptional classroom preparation of Navy JROTC cadets. Troy High School once again led the nation with a combined score of 1,043 points, followed by Allen D. Nease High School with 1,011 points and Green Run High

The Drill Championship produced one of the closest competitions of the weekend. Pace High School captured the Drill National Championship with an impressive showing throughout the five events narrowly edging Troy High School. El Camino Real Charter High School completed the top three.

Several individual drill events featured exceptional performances. Troy High School claimed first place in Armed Platoon Basic while Pace High School earned first in Unarmed Platoon Basic. Southeast Guilford High School captured first in Color Guard, Pace High School won Armed Platoon Exhibition, and Troy High School finished the drill competition by dominating Unarmed Platoon Exhibition.

When every inspection, academic test, athletic event, and drill performance had been completed, the championship's unique scoring system rewarded consistency across every discipline. Troy High School emerged as the 2026 Overall National Champion. Pace High School finished just behind by only 66 points out of 6000 after winning drill overall while Allen D. Nease High School earned third overall thanks to exceptional performances. The top five overall were rounded out by Green Run High School in fourth and Southeast Guilford High School in fifth.

The final standings perfectly illustrated what makes the U.S. Navy JROTC Academic, Athletic & Drill National Championship unlike any other competition. Success cannot be achieved through outstanding drill alone. It requires disciplined cadets, exceptional students, physically fit athletes, and dedicated instructors working together toward a common goal.

As another championship concluded at NAS Pensacola, cadets returned home carrying far more than trophies. They left having demonstrated the leadership, teamwork, scholarship, physical fitness, and military professionalism that define Navy JROTC at its very best. Troy High School's second national championship in three years will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the defining stories of the 2026 season, but every unit that competed helped showcase the remarkable breadth of talent found throughout Navy JROTC.



School with 986 points. Individually, Colin Gulka of Colts Neck High School earned National Academic Champion honors with an outstanding score of 85, while Troy High School placed six cadets among the nation's highest individual scorers, a remarkable demonstration of academic depth that helped propel the California program to another national title.

Athletically, Green Run High School proved to be the nation's strongest all-around Navy JROTC fitness team, capturing the Athletic Championship. Colts Neck High School finished second while Allen D. Nease High School claimed third after consistently strong performances across the Shuttle Relay, Curl-Ups, and Push-Ups competitions.



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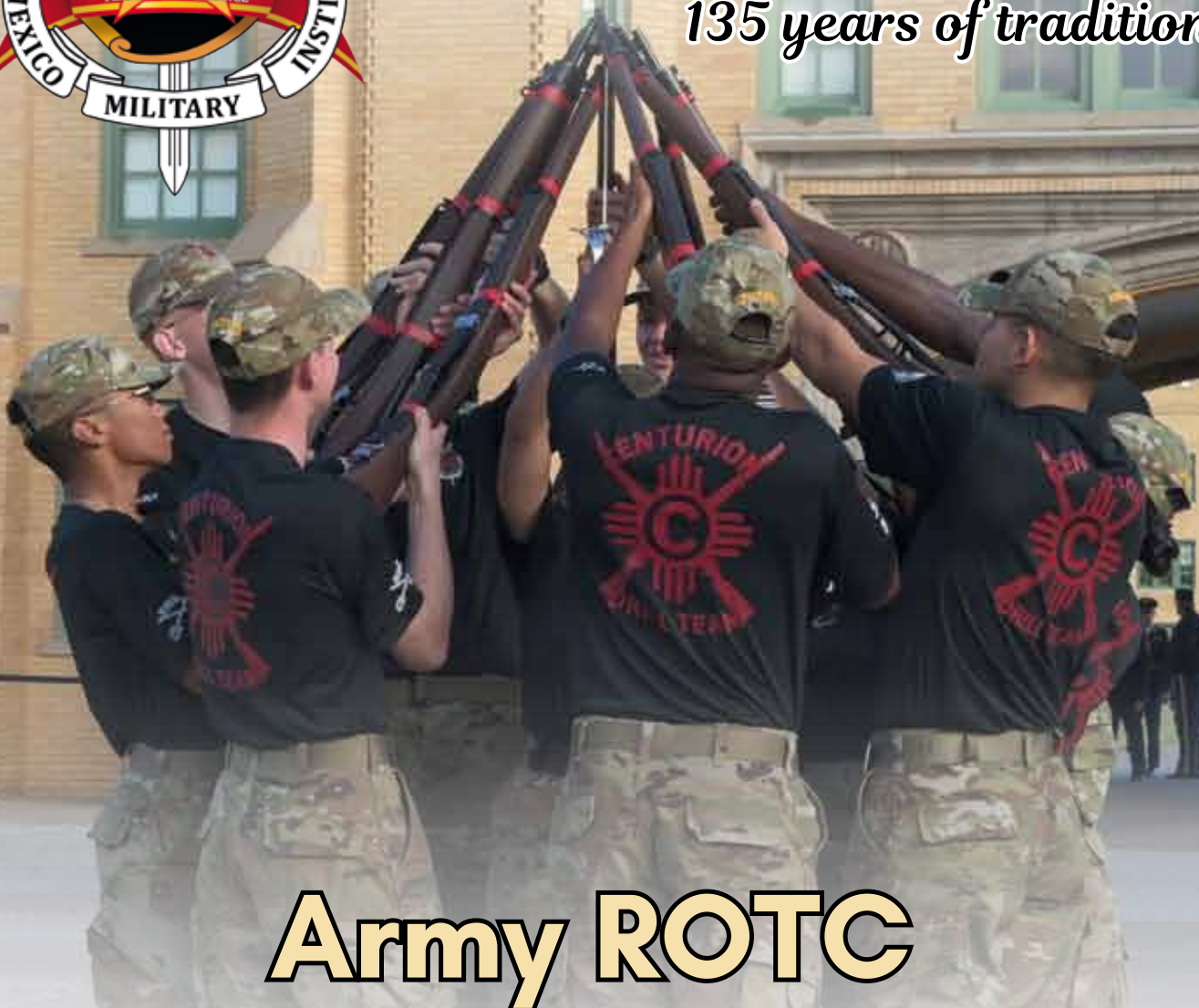
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# **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM**

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## **THE NATIONALS - what makes this the greatest event in drill history?**

- ★ Premier All-Service National Drill Championship Event, in its 45th year
- ★ **Supported by all JROTC service headquarters**
- ★ Schools can attend with full teams in multiple levels and divisions
- ★ Schools can attend with stand alone Color Guards and/or individual exhibition cadets
- ★ Produced by SNI, with experience in managing over 300 competitions in the past 44 years
- ★ Nationals Judging Corps brings together professional judges from active duty military training facilities across the nation; with extensive pre-event/on-site training, this gives the event the finest judging available in the world of competition drill
- ★ Schools submit and track all paperwork & payments online
- ★ SNI works with all services to ensure payments and receipts are done in strict accordance with all military requirements
- ★ Awards ceremony streamed on-line
- ★ Daytona Beach Ocean Center Arena & Conference Center is a state-of-the-art facility, including elevated fixed seating for over 6,000, complete concessions, ample parking, extensive indoor and outdoor practice areas, and private meeting rooms
- ★ Beachfront location of venue and many hotels, nearby theme parks, Kennedy Space Center and college tours make a trip to the Nationals awesome on and off the drill floor

## **EVENT REGISTRATION - register by 4 December for automatic acceptance**

- ★ School Registration Fee is \$300 per school for up to 2 teams entered into Masters, Advanced, or Basic
- ★ Open Level Color Guard & Stand Alone Solo/Dual registration - \$75 per team
- ★ All fees paid are fully refundable prior to 4 December 2026
- ★ All schools who register by the 4 December deadline have a guaranteed entry slot!
- ★ Contact SNI for registration details if you have any questions regarding the Divisions
- ★ See the custom MySchool website where all schools register at: <https://myschool.thenationals.net>

## **PACKAGE PLAN - what your cadets & instructors will receive**

- ★ All participants are required to attend through the Hotel Package Plan to cover all event costs
- ★ Discounted billeting in standard through premium hotels in the Daytona Beach area
- ★ NHSDTC attendees receive a bronze medallion on a chest ribbon, NHSDTC collared sport shirt for adults and t-shirt for cadets (ordered to size), NHSDTC embroidered 4" event patch, 8" x 10" color team photograph taken during the event

*The price of the four day / three night Package Plan (based on four people in a room) starts at only \$213 per person. Three, two & one-to-a-room prices are slightly higher; used primarily for instructors & other adult supporters (all prices shown online). Parents may stay through this package with the school, but this is optional. Schools interested in the Hilton Hotel package (located directly across the street) or other upgraded and premium accommodations should check the website for those rates at <https://thenationals.net>*



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# TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Service National Championship Drill Event

### May 2027

to have made "The Nationals" a part of their unit's history!

#### COMPETITION EVENTS

Masters, Advanced, and Basic Levels with Armed & Unarmed divisions

**Saturday, 1 May 2027 - Sunday, 2 May 2027**

- ★ UNIT INSPECTION (All Divisions: 12 cadets + cmdr)
- ★ TEAM REGULATION (All Divisions: 12 cadets + cmdr)
- ★ COLOR GUARD (2 rifles + 2 flags only)
- ★ TEAM EXHIBITION (All divisions: 8 cadets + Commander & over - no maximum)
- ★ SOLO EXHIBITION (Armed Divisions)
- ★ DUAL EXHIBITION (Armed & Unarmed Divisions)
- ★ OPEN LEVEL COLOR GUARD competition (2 rifles + 2 flags only)
- ★ WORLD DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Post High School Drillers - see pg 31 for details)

#### AWARDS, TROPHIES & ACCOLADES

- ★ The finest event trophies and cadet competition awards presented anywhere!
- ★ National Championship trophy stands over six-feet tall
- ★ 1st-5th awarded in all events due to the amazing depth of talent & sheer number of schools
- ★ Many schools attending are featured within the *DrillNATION Magazine*, Service Headquarters websites, and the event Facebook page

With 45 years of experience and history, "The Nationals" remains without parallel in the 3,500+ program JROTC and non-affiliated drill community. The Nationals provides the finest all-service drill & ceremony competition available anywhere! Your program's fundraising dollars and quest for excellence are precious, so make sure to invest in the best and most trusted experience possible for your cadets by attending the only national drill competition with a proven track record for excellence.

Become a partner in the history and excellence of the Nationals. See, be seen and become part of the brother and sisterhood that only comes from competing with the best schools and the best instructors. Over a dozen colleges on-site offer information along with many national drill supporters/vendors. For full competition details, see the NHSDTC website online at: <https://thenationals.net>

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**For additional information:**  
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## 2027 NATIONAL JROTC FITNESS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



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Imagine your cadets competing on the shores of the World's Most Famous Beach in the most exciting and fun fitness competition ever hosted! This one-day, all-service JROTC-only competition held in Daytona Beach, Florida the day before the National H.S. Drill Team Championships will provide your cadets the ability to pull together an entire year of effort into one stellar day!

The "Fitness Nationals" typically has teams from 25 states. "The World's Most Famous Beach" is the competition home and is traffic-free. This area hosts the 3K Team



Beach Run and Physical Team Test (obstacle course) events. The Pull Ups, Standing Double Jump and Weighted Ball Throw are held inside the Ocean Center facility just a few blocks away.

Divisions for the event include a MALE Division, a MIXED Division and a FEMALE Division. Nine cadets compete in every event with a team maximum of 14 cadets on a team.

Events for the National Fitness Challenge include:

- 3K TEAM BEACH RUN -
- P.T.T. BEACH OBSTACLE COURSE -
- PULL UPS -
- STANDING DOUBLE JUMP -
- WEIGHTED BALL THROW -



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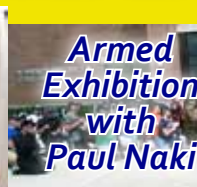
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For further information on the Nationals Drill Camp, Contact Sports Network International  
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**VISIT THE NATIONALS DRILL CAMP WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!**



# NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

## 2026 EVENT

"Where the 'World's Most Famous Beach' .."



For 44 years, the National High School Drill Team Championships has represented the ultimate destination for the finest JROTC drill programs in the world. Long before teams arrive in Daytona Beach, countless hours have been invested in early morning practices, evening meetings, weekend training sessions, and tireless fundraising efforts that make the journey possible. Every command perfected, every rifle catch repeated, and every synchronized movement refined throughout

the school year ultimately leads to one goal, competing on the national stage at the largest and most prestigious JROTC drill championship in the world.

That journey reached its destination once again during the first weekend of May as more than 140 schools, representing over 30 states and bringing together more than 5,000 cadets, instructors, family members, alumni, and supporters, filled the Ocean Center Arena in Florida. One of the largest championships in event history, the 2026 Championships showcased the extraordinary talent, dedication, and professionalism that continue to define JROTC drill & ceremonies.

SNL extends its sincere appreciation to the 40-plus judges and volunteers whose expertise and countless hours make the event possible each year, and to U.S. Army Cadet Command for once again serving as the event's title sponsor. Their commitment allows thousands of cadets to experience one of the most memorable weekends of their JROTC careers.

Unlike many drill competitions, the National High School Drill Team Championships celebrates excellence at every level of competition. Teams compete in three levels, Division III (Basic), Division II (Advanced), and Division I (Masters), with separate Armed and Unarmed championships in each. From first-time national competitors to nationally recognized powerhouse programs, every unit arrived in Daytona Beach having already achieved something extraordinary by taking their place among the nation's elite.

### ***Division 3 Basic***

For many schools, Division III represents the beginning of a championship journey, where developing programs experience the excitement of national competition while building foundations for future success. With returning teams eager to prove themselves and new attendees hungry for the spotlight, spectators were in for a very exciting weekend of competition.

In the Armed Division, Montgomery Central HS (USA, Tennessee) put up a valiant fight, taking home 3rd place in Inspection and 1st place in Color Guard, but tough finishes in Regulation and Exhibition left them in 5th place overall. Although John M. Harlan HS (USAF, Texas) performed consistently strong all weekend, a lower placement in Color Guard placed them in 4th place overall. In a thrilling tie for 1st place in Exhibition, Blackman HS (USA,

Tennessee) claimed the top spot, beating out Springfield High School's (USA, Ohio) Emerald Guard, giving the Tennessee newcomers just enough points to earn 3rd place overall.

In the end, two Marine Corps JROTC powerhouse programs fought for the Overall Championship. Walker HS's Feral Cats (Louisiana) secured trophies in every event except Exhibition, but that wasn't enough to overtake the Warrior Battalion from ILTexas Keller-Saginaw HS. In their first-ever appearance at the NHSDTC ILTexas Keller-Saginaw won both Inspection and Regulation, placed 4th in Exhibition and was just out of trophy placement in Color Guard. This rose them to the top above their competitors allowing them to capture the Championship title leaving the Feral Cats as Runner Ups.

The Division III Unarmed Overall Championship produced one of the closest finishes of the weekend as Reading HS's JV Red Knights (USMC, Pennsylvania) edged past Kenwood HS's Golden Knights (USA, Tennessee) by just FIVE points out of 4800 to claim the national title. These schools went back and forth, but Kenwood's 1st place in Color Guard was not enough to stop Reading's top spots in Inspection and Regulation. John M. Harlan High School demonstrated Air Force pride, taking home 3rd place overall. Marauders Own 'Team Gold' from Waipahu HS (USA) all the way from Hawaii claimed 4th place overall honors.

All of our Champion and Runner-Up schools demonstrated true tenacity in the face of adversity which will serve them well as they all advance to Division II in 2027.

### ***Division 2 Advanced***

Division II featured many of the nation's fastest-rising programs, with several teams positioning themselves as future contenders for Masters Division honors.

In the Armed Division, all teams competed with such strength and distinction that the overall winner could not be determined until the final moments. Beaver Creek HS (USAF, Ohio) claimed 1st place in Inspection and Color Guard, but it was not enough to advance past 5th place overall. Ridge Community HS's Striking Bolts (USA, Florida) performed consistently in every single event, earning them 4th place overall. Newcomers to the NHSDTC, Sonia Sotomayor HS (USAF, Texas), claimed 1st place in Exhibition and 3rd in Regulation, but couldn't quite match the power of our top two teams, leaving them in 3rd place overall.

Prevailing by just 11 points out of 4800, Brenham HS's Reapers Black (USMC, Texas) captured the Overall National Championship after a remarkable battle with South Iredell High School, one of the narrowest overall finishes of the weekend.

The Division II Unarmed Championship belonged to Beaver Creek HS's B-2 Bombers, who captured the Overall National Championship by a commanding margin. Winning both Inspection and Exhibition, no team could keep up with these Ohio legends! Harlingen HS Silver Guard's (USA, Texas)

# DRILL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

## HIGHLIGHTS

... Meets the "World's Most Famous Drill"



Color Guard win and Walker HS Wildcats's consistently high placements kept the competition for runner up on edge, but Harlingen took home the Runner Up title besting Walker by only 18 points out of 4800. Waukegan HS's Bulldog Reign (USA, Illinois) grabbed 4th in Inspection and 5th in Exhibition to earn them 4th overall.

### *Division 1 Masters*

Division I is only for teams looking to compete against the best of the best. Programs competing at this level have legacies of excellence where failure is not an option. The Armed Division began the weekend with an unusual level of anticipation. The 2025 Overall National Champions were unable to return to defend their title, creating a rare opportunity for another elite program to seize the day, but no one would succeed uncontested.

When the final scores were calculated, Flour Bluff HS's Sea Devils (USN, Texas) captured the Division I Armed Overall National Championship. After finishing sixth overall just one year ago, the Navy JROTC powerhouse surged to the top of the standings, defeating always impressive Army and Air Force contenders including overall runner-up Leavenworth HS Pioneer Guard (Kansas) and 3rd place overall Louis D. Brandeis HS Nighthawks (Texas).

Division I Armed individual event champions included Louis D. Brandeis HS in Inspection and Exhibition, Flour Bluff HS in Regulation and Armed Commander's, and Ronald Reagan HS (USA, Texas) in Color Guard. One of the closest finishes of the entire championship occurred in Armed Exhibition, where Brandeis edged Fern Creek HS (USMC, Kentucky) by a single point.

The Division I Unarmed Championship delivered perhaps the biggest surprise of the weekend. After finishing seventh overall in Division I just one year ago, Waller HS's Phantoms (USAF, Texas) completed an extraordinary rise to capture the 2026 Division I Unarmed Overall National Championship. Current reigning Marine Corps JROTC Drill National Champion Brenham HS Reapers finished second overall, while Flour Bluff HS SeaHawks earned third, underscoring the incredible depth of competition at the highest level.

Division I Unarmed event winners included Brenham HS in Inspection, Waller HS in Regulation and Commander's, and Flour Bluff HS in Color Guard and Exhibition, with the Exhibition event proving especially dramatic as Flour Bluff narrowly defeated Waller by just two points.

As the final trophies were presented and another unforgettable weekend came to a close, the 44th Annual National High School Drill Team Championships once again demonstrated why this event remains the pinnacle of JROTC drill. For some programs, Daytona Beach marked the culmination of championship dreams realized. For others, it became the motivation to return stronger next season. Far more important than the trophies won is the discipline, leadership, teamwork, and commitment that define the very best of JROTC. These are the fundamental building blocks of every single remarkable program that walked through the Ocean Center doors this May.

Somewhere across America, the 2027 National Champions are already hard at work, practicing not until they get it right, but until they cannot get it wrong.

## *Open Level Color Guard Competition / Solo & Dual Exhibition*

The Open Level Color Guard competition once again attracted some of the nation's premier Color Guard units, producing one of the deepest and most competitive fields ever seen. Texas programs J. Frank Dobie HS (USAF) and Central Catholic HS (USA) finished 4th and 5th respectively, separated by just two points, while Science Hill HS's Toppers (USA, Tennessee) claimed 3rd, only two points ahead of J. Frank Dobie. Traveling all the way from Alaska, North Pole HS (USAF) earned an outstanding National Runner-Up finish. Rising above an exceptionally talented field, the Waller HS Skyhawks (USAF, Texas) captured the Open Level Color Guard National Championship.



**Waller High School**

The Solo/Dual Exhibition competition never fails to energize the crowd, as spectators erupt in support of the cadets taking center stage. The Male Armed Soloist title was decided by just 10 points, with Nicholas Medina of Scripps Ranch HS (California) bringing the championship back to the West Coast. Independent driller Simon Prayne earned the Runner-Up spot, while Paloma Valley HS's (California) Gabriel Dunn completed the podium in third. The

Female Soloist division was a different story, as Red Knight Amy Luciano of Reading HS (Pennsylvania) captured first by more than 50 points in a knockout performance. Grace Dean of Central St. Joseph HS (Missouri) finished second, with Taylor McNeil of Ridge Community HS (Florida) rounding out the top three.

Armed Dual Exhibition delivered more thrilling performances, as California Independents Dunn & Medina continued their remarkable run by capturing first place. Thomas B. Doherty HS's (Colorado) Woods & Costello earned second, while Waukegan HS's (Illinois) Escobar & Gonzalez Rivera claimed third. In Mixed Armed Dual, Waipahu HS's (Hawaii) Dela Cruz & Robinson took home first followed by Ringgold HS's (Georgia) Parell & Stone earned second, with Zion-Benton HS's (Illinois) Maenenna & Brand grabbed third.

In Unarmed Dual Exhibition, Brenham HS (Texas) shined brightly as Alfaro & Lopez claimed first over teammates Turrubartes & Bernal by fewer than 20 points. West Creek HS's (Tennessee) Mejia & Oganezov completed the podium in third.



# BECOME A BLACKJACK

LEADERSHIP BEGINS HERE



## ★ THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACKJACKS ★

*Building the Next Generation of Leaders in the Tradition of General John J. Pershing*

### OUR MISSION

The National Society of Blackjacks (NSBJ) is the premier high school leadership program based on the philosophy of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Through mentorship, leadership development, precision drill and ceremony, community service, and physical fitness, Blackjacks develops the character, confidence and skills of young leaders to prepare them for success in military service, college and life.

### THE LEGACY OF GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING

*"A leader should influence others in such a way that it builds people up, encourages and educates them so they can duplicate in others this attitude."*

— General John J. Pershing

General John J. Pershing, the "Blackjack of the Great War," embodied the highest ideals of leadership, integrity, and service. The Blackjacks carry forward his legacy by developing young men and women who lead with character, serve with purpose, and inspire others.

### WHY JOIN THE BLACKJACKS?

Blackjacks gives you more than just training — it gives you a framework for a lifetime of leadership. You will gain the skills, confidence and opportunities to make a difference in your school, community and beyond.



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Build confidence and communication skills
- Learn to lead with integrity and character



#### DRILL & CEREMONY EXCELLENCE

- Master precision drill and color guard
- Prepare for competitions and ceremonial events



#### MENTORSHIP

- Learn from experienced military leaders
- Connect with Pershing Rifles alumni



#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Give back to your community
- Support veterans and local initiatives



#### PERSONAL GROWTH

- Develop teamwork, discipline and physical fitness
- Build the character to overcome any challenge

### WHO CAN JOIN?

- ✓ High School JROTC Cadets
- ✓ JROTC Programs
- ✓ Instructors Interested in Expanding Leadership Opportunities



### WHAT BLACKJACKS MATTER

For decades, Blackjacks has helped young men and women develop the qualities that colleges, employers, ROTC programs, and military organizations value most:



LEADERSHIP



INTEGRITY



SERVICE



ACCOUNTABILITY



TEAMWORK



EXCELLENCE

Blackjacks is a brotherhood and sisterhood of leaders — committed to making a positive impact through service, discipline and excellence.

## ★ LEADERS ARE NOT BORN... THEY ARE DEVELOPED. ★

*Join the tradition. Build your character. Honor the legacy.*

### READY TO LEARN MORE?

Learn how your JROTC program can become part of the National Society of Blackjacks.

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LTC (R) Rene' Jewett

✉ [membership@pershingblackjacks.org](mailto:membership@pershingblackjacks.org)

DEVELOP LEADERS.  
BUILD CHARACTER.  
HONOR THE LEGACY.



★ JOIN THE TRADITION. ★ LEAD WITH PURPOSE. ★ BECOME A BLACKJACK. ★





# Daisy

## THE NEXT STEP STARTS HERE.

### 1 | WHO WE ARE

#### Cadet Portfolio is now **Cadence**.

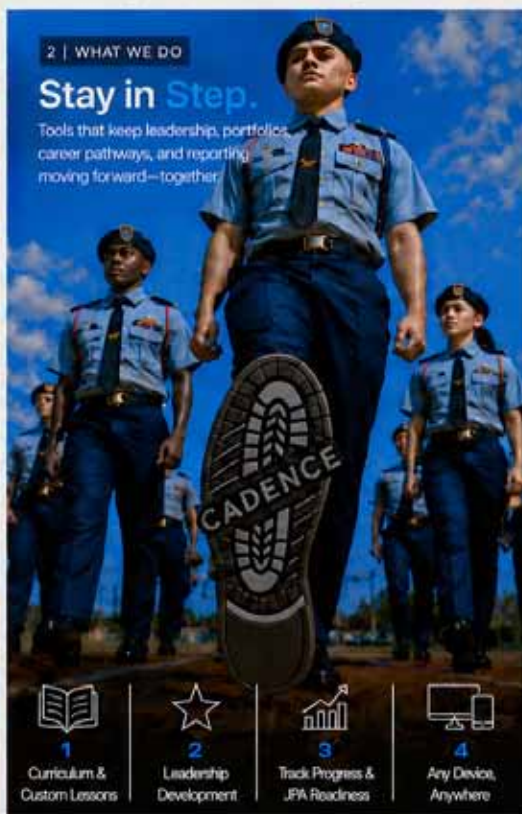
A modern platform built to support instructors, cadets, and the future of leadership education.



### 2 | WHAT WE DO

#### Stay in **Step**.

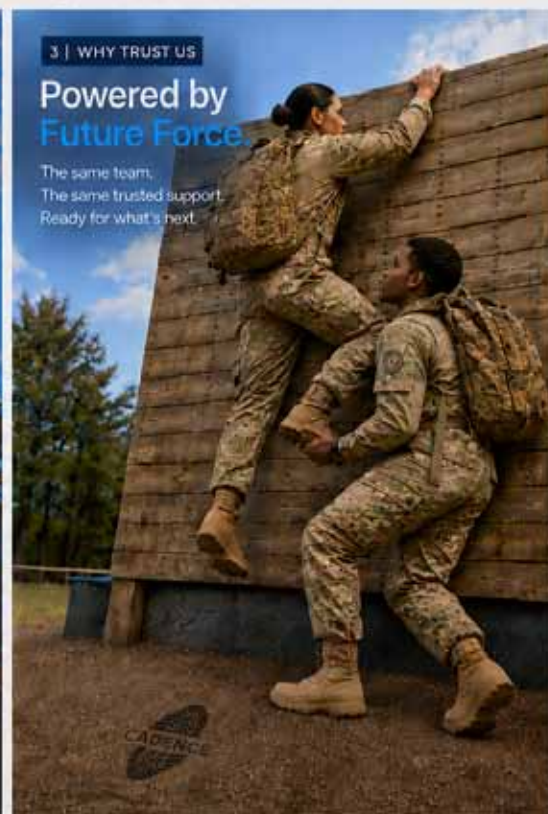
Tools that keep leadership, portfolios, career pathways, and reporting moving forward—together.



### 3 | WHY TRUST US

#### Powered by **Future Force**.

The same team.  
The same trusted support.  
Ready for what's next.



# BEYOND THE DRILL FLOOR

## The evolution of the Nationals Drill Camp

The evolution of the Nationals Drill Camp by Andrea Bryant

Since its beginning, Nationals Drill Camp has had one mission: make cadets better at drill.

The camp was designed to bring together some of the most decorated and accomplished instructors, drillmasters, coaches, and drill team trainers in the country, giving cadets access to decades of knowledge, experience, and proven training methods. It is a rare opportunity for cadets to learn directly from the people who have spent years developing some of the most successful teams in the country.

The curriculum was designed to expose cadets to exceptional instruction, give them the tools to improve their skills, and empower them to take those lessons back to their own units.

Every year, cadets flocked to camp looking to fill their drill bucket, elevate their skills, refine their technique, sharpen their precision and execution, and gain the knowledge and tools necessary to compete at the highest level. From 0600 to 2100, every second of the day was centered on the technical development of drill and competitive preparedness.

Then, a shift occurred. The cadets started asking for more. Through their enthusiasm and feedback, they demonstrated a hunger to develop beyond their technical abilities. They wanted to know how to lead. They wanted confidence. They wanted to be heard and seen, not simply as members of a formation, but as human beings with individual values, strengths, challenges, ambitions, and voices. And the NDC leadership took note.

Beginning in 2025, the Nationals Drill Camp initiated an evolution in its curriculum by integrating personal development as an essential steppingstone to team excellence. This shift was driven by the cadets' growing desire to develop as individuals, not just as drillers, and by the camp's realization that drill itself is often the final, visible product of an intangible foundation. The change was not a departure from what made NDC successful. It was an expansion of its purpose. For 18 years, the camp had

focused on developing better drillers. The next step was to develop the person standing behind the nametag.

The camp recognized that the traits a cadet develops during their leadership journey (discipline, self-awareness, emotional

regulation, ownership, communication, and personal standards) are not just important life skills. They can be the deciding factor in whether a drill team rises to the occasion or collapses under the weight of a weak culture. The NDC leadership recognized that you cannot build an elite team without first building the individual cadet. By focusing on character development, the camp is not moving away from competitive excellence, it is targeting the root of it.

If a drill team's training focuses exclusively on basic movements, it has overlooked half the battle. Lack of skill and experience is not always what holds teams back. More often, the problems are deeper: a weak culture, underdeveloped leaders, poor communication, inconsistent standards, or a lack of personal accountability. When the pressure of high-level competition mounts, those weaknesses become exposed. Character development strengthens the foundation beneath the performance. It gives teams the structural integrity to withstand pressure instead of allowing them to bend or break when things go wrong.

A team is a collection of individuals. Every team's culture is created by the behaviors those individuals bring into practice and eventually onto the competition floor. If cadets are taught accountability, the team develops a culture of accountability. If cadets develop confidence, it shows up on the drill floor. If cadets learn how to receive criticism, egos become less important than improvement. If cadets understand how their actions affect others, relationships improve. Better individuals make better teammates. Better teammates make better teams.

The added classes cover self-leadership, self-awareness, emotional regulation, ownership, communication, standards, and culture. Each addresses a different piece of the same objective: developing cadets who can lead themselves and, eventually, lead others.

The character curriculum begins with a fundamental principle: a cadet must lead themselves before they can effectively lead a team. In many JROTC units, young leaders are selected and immediately begin looking outward. They focus on planning routines, designing practices, and trying to keep their teams motivated, but that outward focus can bypass the most important follower a leader will ever have: themselves. A commander is their own first cadet. True leadership is not defined by rank or title. It is defined by personal example. Every standard a commander expects from their team must first be embodied, not simply preached.



If a leader demands punctual practice attendance but routinely arrives late, their example immediately erodes the team's respect and compliance. If a commander demands intensity from their cadets but consistently gives minimal effort themselves, no speech will compensate for the contradiction.

The Nationals Drill Camp teaches cadets to conduct a rigorous self-inventory, identifying the qualities of an ideal teammate and leader and then examining whether their own daily behavior reflects those qualities. This transforms abstract values into a practical standard of behavior. When a leader's actions match their words, they establish an authentic baseline of respect. The team begins following because they trust the leader, not because the leader has the authority to make them comply.

Another vital topic integrated into the new curriculum is the principle of ownership. The camp challenges cadets to abandon the blame-shifting mentality that can become so easy to fall into when a team struggles. When a team fails to meet expectations, attendance drops, motivation disappears, or standards begin slipping, it is easy for a leader to point at the cadets and say they are lazy, uncooperative, or simply do not care. The character curriculum challenges leaders to look inward instead. When subordinates struggle to execute a standard, a leader practicing extreme ownership does not immediately ask, "What's wrong with them?" Instead they ask, "What could I have done better?"

This shift in perspective is empowering. When a leader blames their team, they surrender their ability to change the situation because they have placed the responsibility somewhere outside of themselves. When a leader takes ownership, they reclaim the power to find a solution. The leader who owns the problem also owns the capability to fix it.

The curriculum also addresses one of the most important, and most frequently misunderstood, aspects of leadership: communication. Cadets are taught that communication is not a one-way performance. It is a continuous exchange, and it cannot be measured simply by what a leader says. It is measured by what their subordinates actually understand. A commander can give a technically perfect explanation and still fail to communicate.

Active listening is therefore treated as the first step toward understanding a team. When commanders take a sincere interest in their subordinates as individuals, they gain more than information; they build trust, create buy-in, and develop a shared belief in what the team is capable of accomplishing. Cadets also participated in nonverbal communication exercises designed to demonstrate how much information is communicated without words. Body language, posture, facial expression, eye contact, and physical presence all contribute to command presence. A leader's presence can communicate confidence or uncertainty before they ever give a command.

Perhaps the most important part of this evolution is that the camp did not simply teach the cadets; they listened to them. NDC became increasingly focused on the cadets' individual goals and the areas in which they wanted to improve. The camp worked to ensure that cadets received the repetitions they actually needed. For one cadet, that might mean addressing a perceived technical weakness. For another, it might mean marching a platoon. For another, it might mean standing in front of a group and overcoming a fear of public speaking. That individualized approach reflects the larger philosophy behind the curriculum: development does not look the same for every cadet.

The objective is not to make every cadet identical. It is to help every cadet become better in the ways that are most important to them.

With this evolution, the metrics of Nationals Drill Camp have changed. It is no longer enough for cadets to leave camp knowing how to drill better. The goal is for them to leave more confident, with a greater sense of responsibility, stronger communication tools, a deeper understanding of ownership, and a clearer vision of their ability to influence their teams and their own futures. Cadets are given the tools to lead and win on and off the drill floor.

The integration of character development into the Nationals Drill Camp marks a bold new era for competitive drill. By treating character not as a separate academic subject, but as the active engine behind team performance, the camp has bridged the gap between personal growth and competitive success. Through this holistic training, the camp is doing far more than preparing cadets to win trophies on the drill pad. It is equipping them with the self-discipline, integrity, and command presence needed to lead themselves and others through the challenges of adulthood.

Great teams are never satisfied. They continuously raise their standards, identify their weaknesses, and pursue new levels of excellence. The NDC is doing the same thing.

For 16 years, the Nationals Drill Camp asked a fundamental question: How do we make better drillers? Today, it is asking a bigger one: How do we develop better cadets AND empower them to build better teams? NDC prepares cadets to perform when the pressure is on, but its purpose extends far beyond competition. It challenges them to communicate, adapt, lead, and bring out the best in those around them. Because the greatest measure of Nationals Drill Camp's success may not be what happens when a cadet steps onto the competition floor, but rather what that cadet carries with them when they step off of it.



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# 30-DAYS.

**BUILD** A RIFLE EXHIBITION DRILL TEAM.  
CURRICULUM AVAILABLE **AUGUST 4TH, 2026** ON **DRILLDOJO.COM.**



## Day 0

**Intro**  
to the series

## Day 1

The  
**First Spins**

## Day 2

The Test Out  
**Process**

## Day 3

Marching and  
**Port Spin**

## Day 4

Marching and  
**Single Spins**

## Day 5-6

**Entry & Report**  
In Position

## Day 7

Developing  
**Team Manuals**

## Day 8

✦ TikToks and  
**Beats**

## Day 9

The **Report**  
In Position

## Day 10

**Scripting**  
the Report  
In Position

## Day 11

**Freestyle** and  
Games

## Day 12

How to **Find**  
Quality Videos

## Day 13

Mid Routine  
**Formations**

## Day 14

Plotting Your  
**Routine**

## Day 15

Intro to  
**Ripple Lines**

## Day 16

**Ripple**  
Formations

## Day 17

Breakdown of  
the **Scorecard**

## Day 18

Movement  
**Transitions**

## Day 19

**Footwork** and  
Marching  
Advancement

## Day 20

**Yellow Sling**  
Advancement

## Day 21

**Checkpoints**  
and Names

## Day 22

The Outro  
**Position**

## Day 23

The Outro  
**Excitement**

## Day 24

Leaving the Box  
and **Final**  
**Impressions**

## Day 25

Advanced  
**Rifle Work**

## Day 26

Final **Tweaks**

## Day 27

Competition  
Equipment  
**Replenishment**

## Day 28

Last **Advice**

## Day 29

**Game Day**  
Readiness

## Day 30

Looking to the  
**Future**



# WORLD DRILL CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Dare Mighty Things

*Where the Elite Meet to Compete!*

Drillers from around the globe make the World Drill Championships their annual home each & every May. The "Worlds" competition remains the finest collection of post high school exhibition drillers ever assembled in a single location each & every year. Founded by Drill Hall of Fame member and former nationally ranked driller, Mr. Abdul Al-Romaizan, the WDC welcomes all drillers who feel they are ready to be a part of the best drill weekend ever presented. Be surrounded by the legends in drill every year and see dozens of the newest superstars, graduating cadets from the championship ranks of the NHS DTC. There is no other weekend in the world of competition drill that can compare to the Nationals weekend!

**THE BUZZ CAN ONLY BE EXPERIENCED  
IN THE OCEAN CENTER COMPETITION ARENA!**

This WDC event is ONLY for those who are post-high school. With the addition of a brand new Instructor Division this year, there are more opportunities than ever for talented drillers to demonstrate their prowess to the visiting JROTC cadets, spectators, and the WORLD! This international event is operated for independent, college, military reserve or active-duty drillers. With the motto, "Dare Mighty Things", the WDC serves to take drill to the next level beyond the high school arena. Winners are crowned on the biggest stage in drill during the Awards Ceremony of the National High School Drill Team Championships. The WDC is without parallel - ask anyone who has been there! Drillers of all skill levels are urged to be a part of the brother and sisterhood that is the trademark of the WDC. There is simply nothing like it!

## World Drill Championships

Saturday/Sunday 1-2 May 2027  
at the Ocean Center Arena  
in Daytona Beach, Florida

**COMPETE ON THE BIG STAGE  
SET YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!**

For more information on the  
finest gathering of post-high school,  
professional drill talent ever  
assembled in one location,  
please visit:

<https://thenationals.net/wdc/index.html>

### 2026 Solo Exhibition Winners

First Place: **Trey Davidson**

Second Place: **Andrew Katz**

Third Place: **Jackson Rainwater**

### 2026 Dual Exhibition Winners

First Place: **Katz & Hsu**

Second Place: **Ryan & Jeup**

Third Place: **Wang & Torres**

### 2026 Team Exhibition Winner

First Place: **River City Drill**

Second Place: **Battle Born Elite**

Third Place: **AFA Cadet Honor Guard**



# Your Best Self Starts with Service



AmeriCorps

# AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps brings individuals of all backgrounds together to tackle our nation's most pressing challenges. AmeriCorps NCCC Volunteers are young adults who serve on teams nationwide, supporting projects that strengthen communities. The full-time, 10-month program provides lodging, travel support, and hands-on leadership experience.

## Programs



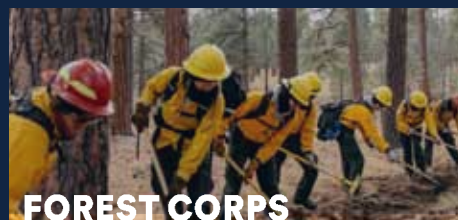
### TRADITIONAL CORPS

- Complete hands-on projects in a variety of areas
- Work alongside nonprofits, local and state government agencies, tribal organizations, and faith-based groups



### FEMA CORPS

- Work with FEMA staff in an administrative capacity
- Support communities before, during, and after disasters
- Gain transferrable skills to build your resume



### FOREST CORPS

- Work on wildfire risk mitigation, reforestation, resource management, timber harvest prep, and wildfire suppression incident response
- Field based, rigorous work with the US Forest Service

## Position Options

### Team Leader

- For those with leadership potential, ages 18+
- Supervise, mentor, and guide a team of 8-12 AmeriCorps Volunteers

### Volunteer

- For young adults, ages 18-24
- Serve on a team of your peers
- Gain personal and professional experience



Scan to learn more

## Benefits

### During Service

- Basic expenses, including communal housing, meals, a modest living allowance, and a limited health benefit
- All program-related travel, including to your training location, projects, and back home after your service term
- Forbearance for federally backed student loans

### After Service

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of over \$7,300 to use on future educational expenses or to pay back qualified student loans



# NATIONALS

S C R A P B O O K

Short Stories Surrounding the always changing JROTC Universe

## Nationals Drill Camp 2026 put together another unparalleled week of drill training & fun for cadets & instructors alike!

Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas again served as the base for the 7-day Nationals Drill Camp. This 19th annual event brings together cadets & instructors from all backgrounds hungry to learn about drill from the most accomplished cadre and platoon leaders in the world. National Champion competitors and coaches provide an unparalleled immersion starting and ending everyday in darkness, to milk every minute of their time to improve all aspects of your personal skills. This is then transferred to the entire unit and history is made.



JROTC Booster Clubs and even individual parents send campers to better themselves and their unit with great success. Attendees are tired and often sore when they leave, but filled with motivation & knowledge from those who know how to excel. It is the ultimate fantasy camp for drill devotees and those that want to pursue excellence. The progress can be quite astounding. Start making plans today for instructors & cadets to be there for Summer, 2027!



### The 2026 Jean K. Weil Scholarship winners feature the "Best of the Best" at the Nationals!

The venerable Jean K. Weil Scholarship awards recognize the two most outstanding overall graduating senior cadets at the NHS DTC. With hundreds of deserving young men and women attending and dozens applying annually, it is always a nail-biter to see who gains this prestigious award. The 2026 presentation was no exception.

Each applicant submits their academic transcripts, an extended personal essay, as well as letter of recommendation from their JROTC instructor and school administrator to SNI. The SNI Scholarship Committee reviews their complete package and ranks every cadet. These scores are then totalled with the top five finalists then being chosen to go through on-site interviews during the busy competition weekend with a chosen select Scholarship Committee member. It is always a pleasure to meet these amazing cadets who have gotten so much from JROTC!

Cadet Hayley Ruiz from Harlingen High School in Harlingen, Texas (left) and Grecia Padilla Carranco from Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi, Texas (right) displayed the kind of overall excellence that earns the Jean Weil Scholarship. Selecting these individuals was difficult but deserved as ALL applicants were amazing in 2026. They should be quite proud and as always, we expect great things going forward!

Along with the prestige of such an award, each of these graduating seniors earned a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for future scholastic expenses. To see more on this award or how to ensure your top graduating seniors apply for the award at the 2027 Nationals, go to the on-line home: <https://thenationals.net/nhsdtc/jkw/nhsdtc-scholarship.html>.

## Kenwood HS - the Swiss Army Knife of JROTC! Excellence in all they do is the standard they live by

Every year, Sports Network selects one school at The Nationals to earn the Spirit Banner. This program must epitomize MANY THINGS, but they always feature hard work, betterment of JROTC in all they do, pursuit of excellence in the face of adversity. The decision is never easy, as all JROTC programs tend to be a cut above the rest. Several schools moved to the forefront, but in 2026 Kenwood HS from Clarksville, Tennessee was unanimously selected by SNI as the clear Spirit Banner winner.



This unit is solid in NUMEROUS co-curricular activities. This variety gives every cadet a chance to find their niche and excel! The cadets and the instructors exude a willingness to put in the hours to make their mark, often helping others along the way. They make a lifetime difference in their cadets. Their community service & school related activities are unparalleled. The Black Knights drill team lives by a simple yet powerful acronym: **ELITE**: Experience - Leadership - Ignites - Teamwork - Excellence.

Shortcuts to exceptionalism are non-existent. The program earns what they get without excuse or apology. They join an illustrious group of schools as they carry the Spirit banner for just one school year, posting it proudly at activities they participate within. Congratulations to the cadets & instructors, parents & administrators! See more from Kenwood in this phenomenal YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73LCiVDRBiw>

Learn more: <https://thenationals.net/nhsdtc/spirit-banner/nhsdtc-spirit-banner.html>

## Junior ROTC Enrollment Surges Nationally

It surprises many people to learn that Lee County, Florida, is home to more JROTC cadets than anywhere else in the world. With approximately 6,500 cadets participating across 17 area high schools, it boasts the largest concentration of JROTC enrollment anywhere, followed by Chicago-area schools with approximately 5,000 cadets. And that growth is being seen across the country.

There are likely many reasons behind the surge, some sociological, some practical, but ask the cadets themselves and their answers are often much simpler: JROTC is fun, it provides a powerful sense of belonging, and cadets can see and feel themselves becoming more confident, capable and accomplished young people.

There is momentum in Washington as well. The proposed SERVE Act (H.R. 3107) seeks to strengthen connections between the military and high schools by expanding ROTC and JROTC opportunities, improving recruiter access and creating more structured pathways for students interested in military service. Support for JROTC expansion has also been voiced in the Senate.

"This committee is serious about building Junior ROTC," Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said during a January 2026 hearing. "Junior ROTC is a citizenship builder."

The legislation reflects a broader recognition of the role JROTC can play in connecting young people with future opportunities. While military service remains one possible path, today's programs increasingly emphasize something much broader: preparing cadets for success wherever they choose to go.

JROTC has changed considerably over the decades, but its foundation has not. Character development, leadership, personal accountability and service remain at its core. The biggest difference may be that today's cadets are encouraged to see military service, higher education and civilian careers as equally viable paths forward.

Perhaps that helps explain JROTC's enduring and growing appeal. Few programs offer young people the same combination of structure, belonging, challenge, leadership and opportunity. Every year, JROTC equips hundreds of thousands of cadets with tools they can carry well beyond high school, continuing a remarkable success story that is helping shape tomorrow's leaders.

## HAVE YOUR PROGRAM INTERN AMONG THE BEST OF THE BEST AT "THE NATIONALS!"



Susie G. Gibson Science & Tech Center Interns win 2026. This newer program is now set-up for success!

Every year, Sports Network International looks to accept one (sometimes TWO) outstanding JROTC programs looking to step forward and participate as our official "Internship School". Begun in 2006, our internship program selects a school that wishes to learn what it takes to succeed at the National High School Drill Team Championships FROM THE INSIDE

OUT. They are best described as a "fully immersed spectator school," but they experience the Nationals from a "behind the scenes" perspective. This school will see the event from the eye of an event director, interacting extensively with event officials, cadets, judges - everything that normally only the few Sports Network International officials have the opportunity to do. Your involvement will help your cadets appreciate what it takes to run a competition the size and scope of the Nationals, as well as learn the psychology, motivation and often details that both judges and competing cadets maintain.

If selected, your cadets will receive training in advance and upon arrival. Staff vests identify your cadets as special envoys of the National High School Drill Team Championships. Food is provided for the cadets working the day and of course for the instructors supervising. Schools can rotate two groups of cadets should they wish for their students to get a chance to roam around the event arena as well.

This selected school must be willing to attend the entire event and be highly motivated! Many cadets will work as event runners attached to a specific judging group to see the performance, review and scoring of the best drill units in the nation UP CLOSE. Some would work with the scoring of the NHSDTC while other cadets will assist with the photo room, where 4,000+ cadets move through to make memories lasting a lifetime.

History shows this position often serves as the perfect stepping stone to competing here in the future! Complete details are best provided via telephone. We encourage all schools who may be interested in joining the illustrious groups that have been a part of the Nationals Internship Program to contact SNI today. Speak directly with Samantha Ste. Claire and she can help provide all details needed to make this trip happen (800-327-9311).

### A Legacy Without Equal: LtCol Blake Jackson Enters the Drill Hall of Fame

The National Drill Hall of Fame represents an illustrious and diverse collection of individuals, organizations and institutions whose contributions have forever changed the world of military drill. In May 2026, that distinguished group grew stronger with the induction of LtCol Blake Jackson, USMC, a man whose remarkable legacy touches nearly every facet of the activity. Few Hall of Fame inductees can claim a relationship with drill as varied, visible and enduring as Jackson's. His story is one of exceptional personal achievement, leadership, mentorship and decades of service to the activity that helped shape him.



His journey began as a JROTC cadet and ultimately took him to the pinnacle of individual exhibition drill. Along the way, he became a standout at Norwich University and even brought military drill to a much wider audience through his involvement in a Disney film. But his influence did not end when his own competitive years were behind him. Jackson went on to become a longtime Nationals Head Judge, a mentor to generations of cadets and instructors, and a driving force in developing and maintaining the exceptional cadre of Marine Corps drill evaluators who have served the Nationals for decades.

That extraordinary journey, from cadet, competitor, and performer to Marine officer, judge, mentor and steward of the activity, is what makes Jackson's legacy so distinctive. He did not simply excel at drill; he spent a lifetime giving back to it.

### "The Ranch" Earns Another Championship

The Scripps Ranch HS academic team from San Diego, California won the prestigious national title at the 2026 JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) Joint Branch/All-Services Academic Championship in Washington, D.C.

This high flying Air Force JROTC program has won multiple titles in the last decade and did not disappoint in the 2025-2026 school year. Their outstanding performance reflects the leadership, teamwork, and academic excellence that JLAB inspires in cadets across the country.

The JLAB teams begin with on-line Level I challenges versus JROTC schools in large nearby geographic areas. Winners move on to Level II competition competing in another on-line challenge against all JROTC programs worldwide.

The 32 JLAB Teams with the Level II high scores go to Washington DC, to compete in the Level III JLAB Championship. Teams are comprised of six cadets (4 primary and 2 alternates) for each team. Seniors cannot participate as team members but are encouraged to serve as mentors.



### Drill & Ceremony is a GLOBAL Showcase

With 99% of JROTC activity happening in the continental USA, it is easy to think of drill & ceremony competition as a uniquely "American" phenomenon. But a simple look around the globe shows the sport is alive & well across the many continents.

The largest and most well-known of these international events include the **European JROTC Drill Championship** hosting JROTC units from across Europe. The **West Point Society Drill Competition**, competing all-service programs from Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific. Also, the venerable **DoDEA Pacific's Far East Drill Meet** has a decades-long tradition and has winners that have advanced to compete at the NHSDTC in Daytona Beach.



Combined with other nations who maintain similar high school programs in Canada, the Phillipines and others, and rest assured drill is alive & well in all areas due to the amazing benefits it provides.

### The Explosive Growth of "Big Raider" Continues Across the JROTC Universe

JROTC Raider continues to captivate cadets and expand across the country. SNI hosts its own All-Service Raider National Championship and assists with both the Army and Marine Corps Raider championship events. What began in Georgia more than 30 years ago has grown into one of the most exciting and accessible competitive activities in JROTC. At its core, Raider is an outdoor test of physical fitness, mental toughness, teamwork and communication. Competitions are often tailored to local terrain and traditions, so events can vary widely. The One-Rope Bridge is perhaps the single most recognizable element shared throughout the Raider universe.



One reason Raider has become so popular is its accessibility. Many JROTC competitive activities require significant equipment, specialized instruction and considerable "delayed gratification" before cadets are ready to compete. Raider is different. Give motivated cadets some basic Rope Bridge instruction, and you have the beginnings of a team. They won't be GREAT on day one, but they have a foundation. From there, the formula is simple: the harder they work, the better they get. Much of that work can happen individually. Cadets can run, lift, climb and train on their own to improve strength and endurance. As many instructors have said, "You don't have to tell me you've been working. I'll know."

There may be no activity in JROTC that is more HOOAH!

Interested in getting started? Find a nearby school with an established Raider program. Most teams LOVE introducing new programs to the basics. Then come see us in the Challenge Level at the Raider Nationals in Georgia each fall for a weekend filled with camping, competition, hard work, teamwork—and the kind of memories that keep cadets coming back for more.



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