



## 2016-2017 Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl

Register your unit to participate in this challenging Academic Competition!

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

**MCJROTC HQ will send 8 teams to the Academic Championship!**

There are many benefits of participating in the Academic Bowl including:

- Improve SAT/ACT scores
- Increase interest in college admissions
- Demonstrate academic strength of JROTC program
- Boost esprit de corps
- Earn the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital

### Dates of Competition

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| October 1-25, 2016  | Practice Test for Level I (open to all cadets!) |
| November 1-20, 2016 | Team Registration                               |
| November 1-20, 2016 | Level I   |
| February 1-15, 2017 | Level II  |
| June 23-27, 2017    | Level III – The Championship in Washington, DC  |

#### NOTES:

- All cadets are encouraged to participate in the Practice Test (free of charge). It's a great way to assess college test readiness.
- There is a one-time fee of \$50 to participate in the online team competition, which covers both Level I and Level II (if your team qualifies to advance to Level II). To register and pay, go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com).
- Teams with scores in the top 50% in Level I will advance to Level II (no additional fee required).
- A student may only participate on one COF sponsored academic or leadership team; either a JROTC Leadership Team (Army only), a JROTC Academic Team (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Civil Air Patrol) or an All American Academic Bowl Team.
- If your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a limited basis.
- **MCJROTC Command will cover the cost of administrative fees, travel, meals, and lodging for the 8 teams attending Level III - The Championship.**



## Competition Website

**COF Contests** – To register and participate in the Practice Test, Level I, and Level II, go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com).

## How to Assemble an Online Academic Team

- Online Academic Team = 4 primary members and 2 alternates
- Cadets may be Juniors (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Sophomores (10<sup>th</sup> grade) or Freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> grade)
- NO seniors may participate

Each JROTC unit will be allowed one team consisting of **four cadets** – they may be freshmen, sophomores or juniors. Seniors may not be included on the team. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online testing. However, if your unit is eligible to participate in the final competition in Washington, DC, **only four team members may attend JLAB. New this year, alternates will not be allowed to attend; however, we will be streaming many of the main events during JLAB including the MCJROTC Championship and Joint Service Championship.**

### Selecting Team Members

Instructors may assess and select potential team members using the following criteria –

- Peer selection boards (e.g. interviews, essays)
- Teacher or school recommendations
- GPA
- Performance on the Practice Test (details below)
- Overall enthusiasm for the competition

### **PRACTICE TEST (October 1-25)**

**The Practice Test is taken individually, not as a team**, and consists of 25 questions similar to those questions in Levels I and II. There is NO charge for the Practice Test and it is open to all cadets in the unit. The Practice Test is open to all cadets in the unit and is a great way to evaluate your entire unit's understanding of JROTC curriculum and general subjects. We encourage all cadets in the unit to take the Practice Test at an internet-accessible computer either in the classroom, at home, in the library or other location. The cadets should logon to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com), select Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl, answer the questions, and print out their scores to turn in to the instructor. COF does not retain practice test scores. **It is up to each instructor to review the scores and determine members of the team.**



## How to Prepare the Team

One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. However, many JROTC instructors are understandably interested in measuring how well their cadets are learning the JROTC curriculum. Therefore, we will have a mix of JROTC curriculum as well as English, Math, and Science in each level of the competition. The JROTC curriculum questions will focus primarily on leadership preparation, wellness and fitness, group/team dynamics and communication skills. A few questions about current events are also included – focusing on national and international news, particularly international relations, politics, business, and science. All of the current events questions will be taken from major media available on television, the internet, and in daily newspapers (see suggested resources below).

Level I includes 25% JROTC questions, 65% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

Level II includes 15% JROTC questions, 75% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

We encourage all cadets, whether they are on the academic team or not, to prepare for the ACT, SAT, and ASVAB tests by reviewing English, Science, and Math coursework. There are several resources available, free-of-charge, to all students.

Websites to review include:

[www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) – practice questions developed by COF

[www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) – online SAT and ACT guides

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) – a free test prep website

[www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) – a free test prep website

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) – a free website with math, history, and science lessons

[www.foxnews.com/index.html](http://www.foxnews.com/index.html) - FOX News

[www.cnn.com/studentnews/](http://www.cnn.com/studentnews/) - CNN Student News

[www.npr.org/](http://www.npr.org/) - National Public Radio

[www.reuters.com/](http://www.reuters.com/) - Reuters

[www.usatoday.com/](http://www.usatoday.com/) - USA Today Newspaper



## How to Register the Team

Team registration is open **Tuesday, November 1 – Sunday, November 20** at [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com). All teams, regardless of previous participation, must register using a new User ID and Password. The instructor should click on Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl and then select Registration. It will take approximately 15 minutes to answer a few required questions to register your team – each unit may register ONE academic team. The team must be registered prior to competing in Level I. We suggest that each instructor register his or her team before the team is ready to participate in Level I. We strongly encourage all teams to register and participate before the last day of competition.

Each team will be automatically placed into a Division based on demographics including socio-economic and geographic factors.

### **Please be prepared to answer the following questions when registering:**

High School Name, Address, Phone Number  
Instructor Name, Email Address, Phone Number (office and cell)  
Cadet Names, Grade, Gender, GPA, Email Address  
High School Demographics – Number of students, Number in Free Lunch Program, Type of School (suburban, rural, private, public, etc.)

**\* Be prepared to create a User ID and Password to use throughout this year's competition and keep it in a secure place for future reference.** Payment will be tied to your team's User ID and Password.

**Registration Fee:** There is a fee of \$50 per team to cover administrative expenses. The fee permits teams to compete in Level I and Level II (if the team qualifies to advance to Level II). To pay with a credit card, go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) during registration (November 1 - 20).

To pay by check, please send a check or money order (payable to College Options Foundation) to:

College Options Foundation  
ATTN: Emily Donahue  
115 Lloyd Avenue  
Tyrone, GA 30290

**\*Please be sure to include the instructor's name, school name, city, state, contact phone number, and your User ID and Password (created during Registration) with your check.**



## How to Participate in Levels I and Level II (online)

1. The instructor or team captain should logon to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com)
2. Select the Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl
3. If the team has not registered, click on Team Registration (see instructions above)
4. Select **Level I** (November 1-20)
5. Enter your User ID and Password; your high school name should appear
6. Follow directions on that page and begin the competition
7. Level I consists of approximately 75 questions and takes approximately 1 hour to complete. **Level I is a TEAM event** – all cadets on the team (including alternates) should sit at one computer and answer questions as a team.

If your team advances to **Level II** (February 1-15), you will follow the same procedure, using the same User ID and Password.

**Keep your User ID and Password for this year's use.** If you misplace your password, you may go to [www.cofcontests.com](http://www.cofcontests.com) and select Marine Corps, then select For Instructors, then select Retrieve Your Team User ID and Password.

## Level III – The Championship (JLAB)

The top 8 teams (based on Level II scores) will be invited to participate in Level III - The Championship! Four teams with top scores from each division will receive an invitation to Washington, DC. If there is a tie in Level II for one of the two spots (per division), the tie-breaker will be the Level I – Section 2 score (SAT/ACT portion).

MCJROTC HQ will pay for all expenses - travel, meals, and lodging - to attend The Championship.

## Official Rules of the Online Competition

1. The designated point of contact should be a JROTC instructor with access to email. Most correspondence with teams is through email; therefore, it is essential that instructors check their email and respond as soon as possible. Foundation staff is also available by phone for questions or concerns. (1-888-576-8287 or [edonahue@collegeoptions.net](mailto:edonahue@collegeoptions.net))
2. A student may not participate on more than one COF sponsored academic or leadership team. A student may participate on either a JROTC Leadership Team (Army only), a JROTC Academic Team (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Civil Air Patrol) or an All American Academic Bowl Team.



3. Each JROTC unit will be allowed ONE academic team consisting of four cadets. The team may include juniors, sophomores, and/or freshmen. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online portion of the competition but will not be allowed to attend The Championship in Washington, DC. No seniors may participate in the Academic Bowl.
4. Level I and Level II are internet-based competitions. The team must have high speed (DSL, cable, etc.) internet access (not a dial-up connection).
5. Level I and Level II each require approximately one hour to complete. Once a team has logged in, there is no ability to stop and start over. **The competition must be completed in one sitting.**
6. No one is allowed in the room during the competition except for the 4 members of the team, two alternates, and one instructor who will act as proctor for the test. Instructors may not assist the team with questions during the test.
7. No outside sources or other electronic devices (cell phone, additional computer, dictionary, thesaurus, text book, newspaper, etc.) are allowed. Calculators, pens/pencils, and scratch paper are permitted.
8. No communication about the competition with other JROTC teams or schools is allowed. Teams are not permitted to discuss the questions or design of the competition with anyone outside of the team members and instructors.
9. All scores will be sent to the Foundation's server automatically. If a team believes there has been an error in scoring, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of completion of their participation (upon finishing the test). A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email ([edonahue@collegeoptions.net](mailto:edonahue@collegeoptions.net)).
10. If your team qualifies to advance to Level II, and your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a very limited basis
11. If there is an electrical outage or other technical difficulty during the competition, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of the difficulty. A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email ([edonahue@collegeoptions.net](mailto:edonahue@collegeoptions.net)).
12. The JROTC Academic Bowl relies on the adherence by all teams to the JROTC Code of Honor/Core Values. The Foundation expects that all team members and instructors will abide by all rules.
13. Finally, we believe the **Number 1 rule in this competition is...Have Fun!** We hope you enjoy this challenge.