



The Park of East Texas Academic Rodeo

*“Promoting excellence in education
and showcasing the talents of all our youth”*

A Quick Look at Academic Rodeo

What is Academic Rodeo?

Academic Rodeo is a collection of competitive events for students in grades K through 12. They range from individual to team contests, written tests to hands-on activities, identification to construction activities.

Who can participate?

Academic Rodeo is open to any school (public, private, or home school) or educational organization in the East Texas area. 400+ East Texas schools receive notices concerning upcoming registration for Academic Rodeo.

Typically, 1,200 students participate in one or more contests each year.

When does it occur?

Academic Rodeo began as a part of the East Texas Fair in 1991. Academic Rodeo is now a stand-alone event with the majority of the contests held in January. Preliminary rounds for Academic Challenge Quiz and Mindset Breaking Experience are held in the fall, and entries for Art Contest, Kinder Critters, and Writing Contest are submitted in the fall for judging.

Where do contests occur?

All contests are held at the East Texas State Fairgrounds on Front Street and Fair Park Drive in Tyler, TX.

How do I get my school or group involved?

The following information guides you through the process of registration and gives an overview of the responsibilities for the Primary Contact for the school and coaches/sponsors for each contest.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who puts together the Academic Rodeo program and runs the contest?

Academic Rodeo is a presentation of The Park of East Texas (formerly the East Texas State Fair Association). The Director of Competitive Events oversees the program. An Advisory Committee offers advice concerning contest rules, procedures, and scheduling. Volunteers conduct and judge the contests.

Support Partners assist with development of the contests and advise concerning rules, assist with running the contests, and supply volunteers for various contests. Current Support Partners include AAUW (American Association of University Women), Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Smith County Master Gardeners, Tyler Junior College Art Department, the University of Texas at Tyler College of Education and Psychology, the University of Texas at Tyler Ingenuity Center, and various individuals from the East Texas area.

What is the cost to participate in Academic Rodeo?

There currently is no charge to participate in Academic Rodeo. Preparation resources are the responsibility of the groups involved. Some supplies and resources are provided by Support Partners, but the majority of the expenses involved, including awards is covered by The Park of East Texas. Some scholarships are underwritten by local businesses or organizations. A deposit may be required for Lego kits for the Engineering Challenge.

Can any student participate in any of the contests?

Each contest is designed for specific grade levels of students. The following chart gives an overview of the grade levels for each contest, but be sure to read your contest’s rules to determine if there are requirements for the number of boys and girls, the number from a specific grade, numbers allowed on a team for team events, or a limit to the number of individual student entries for the contest.

Contests

Contest	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Academic Challenge Quiz							■	■	■				
Ag ID Contest				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Art Contest		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Computer Science Fair				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Engineering Challenge				■	■	■	■	■	■				
Kinder Critters Contest	■												
Mathletics					■	■							
Mindset Breaking Experience	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pentathlon										■	■	■	■
One Act Play Festival							■	■	■				
Science Fair Class Display	■	■	■										
Science Fair Display ONLY				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Science Fair Experimental				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Spelling Bee			■	■									
Writing Contest					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Youth Fashion Show				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

What is the best way to register my students for a contest?

Use the **Student Registration Form** available on the **Forms** page for registering students for each contest. Be sure to include all of the information needed. Resist the temptation to e-mail a list of names. The other information on the form is needed to properly register the students in the contests.

Where do I submit entries for the Art Contest, Computer Science Fair, Kinder Critters Contest, Writing Contest and Youth Fashion Show?

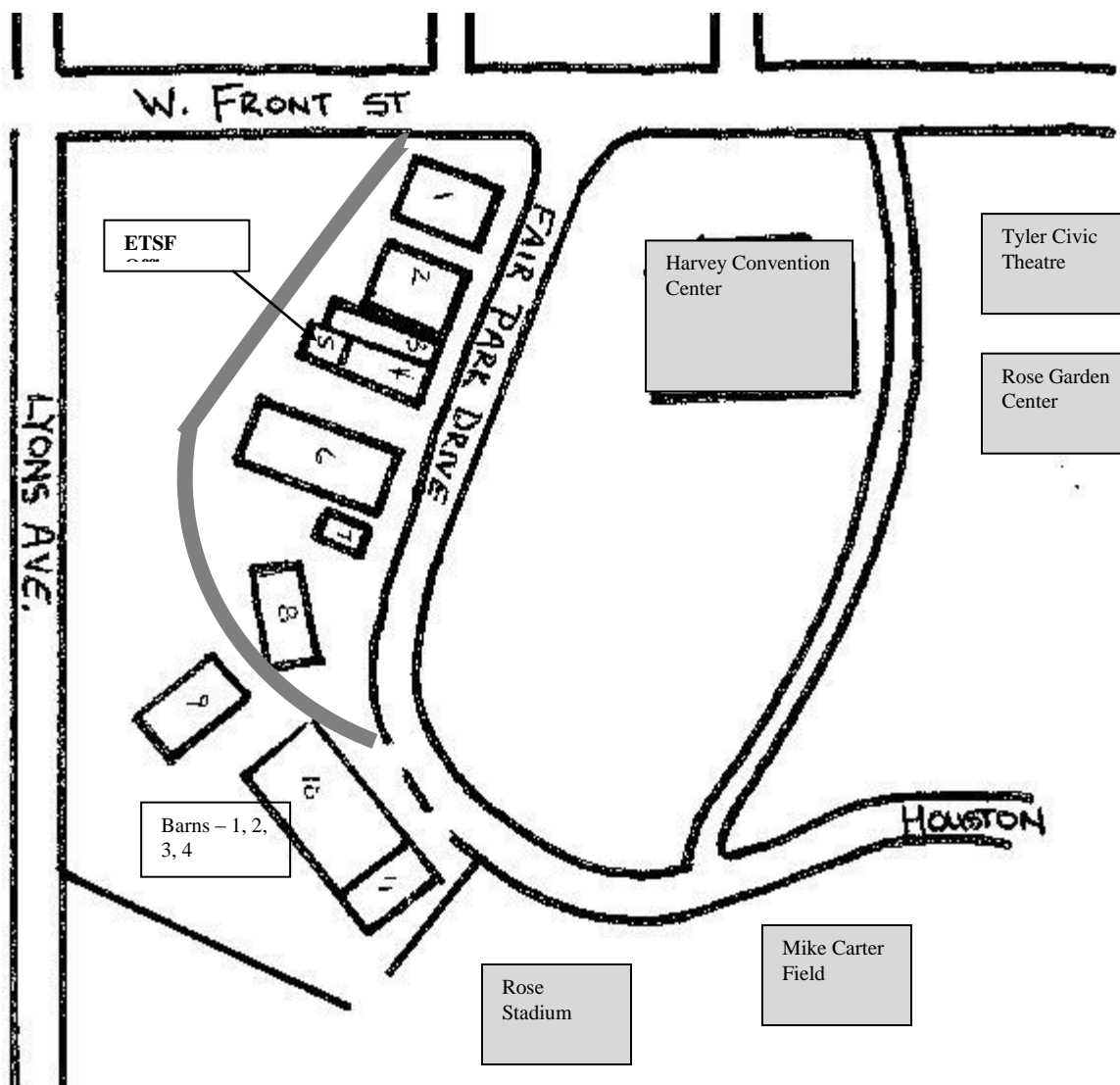
These, as well as the Science Fair Notebooks are submitted to the East Texas State Fair Office at 2112 W. Front Street. Finding it is a little tricky. Use the following map and instructions as your guide.

To East Texas State Fair Office:

From West Loop 323, turn east on Hwy. 31/Front Street and driving toward downtown. Pass Lyons Avenue. Turn right into the drive going west of the permanent buildings on the Fairgrounds.

From the East Loop and Downtown, go west on Front Street, passing the Rose Garden and Harvey Convention Center. Immediately after Fair Park Drive, turn left onto the drive going behind/west of the buildings.

From South Tyler, take 69 to Houston Street; turn left. When Houston Street turns and becomes Fair Park Drive, turn left in front of the barns and follow the drive behind the buildings to the Fair Office.



Can I just submit entries at any time prior to the deadline?

For some entries – Art, Computer Science, and Writing – submission at any time within a reasonable period before the deadline is appropriate and actually helpful in sorting and organizing the entries. With Kinder Critters to some extent and especially Science Fair, the size of entries makes it important for them to be delivered on the appropriate day to the location where they will be displayed.

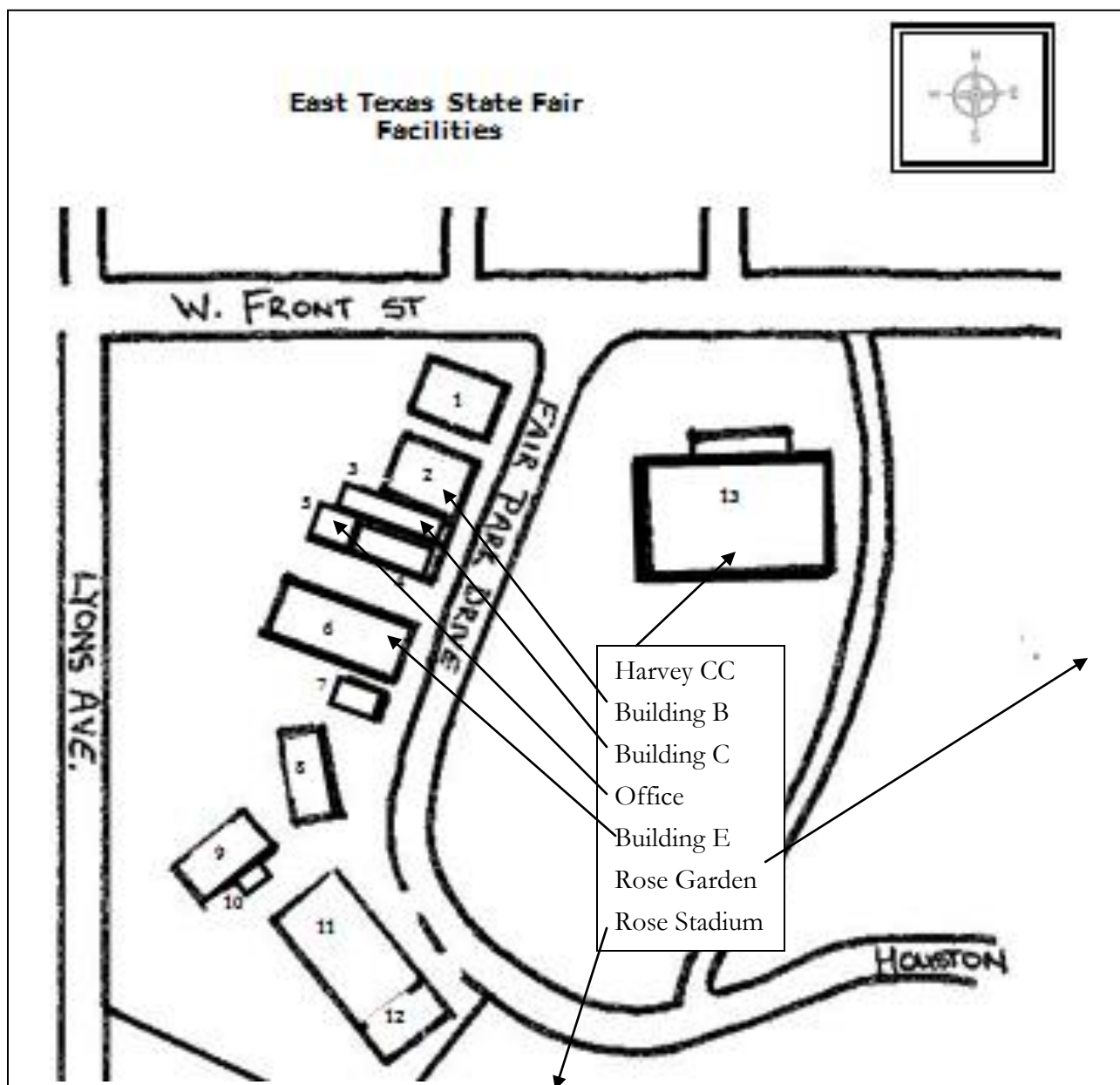
How do I prepare my students for contests?

Suggestions for specific contests are given in the contest information to follow. Many contests have resource information and/or links to other websites which may be helpful to you. To access these additional resources, go to the **Resources** page on the ETSF website.

See a listing of possible resources later in this manual.

How can I find the location of contests?

Location of a contest can be found on the **Timeline** for the contest on the **Academic Rodeo Schedule** page. Most contests and activities are located in Buildings B, C, and E on the Fairgrounds.



Can I bring students to see contests and contest entries?

Some contests are designed for an audience, while others are not. Anyone is welcome to attend the Academic Challenge Quiz matches, Engineering Challenge (See rules for specifics regarding schools in the competition.), Mathletics Finals, Mindset Breaking Experience (See rules for specifics regarding schools in the competition.), One Act Play Festival, Pentathlon final round, and Youth Fashion Show.

Only the students and volunteers involved may view presentations of Computer Science Fair projects, and Science Fair projects or written exam portions of Mathletics and Pentathlon.

When possible, entries for each contest will be displayed during the Academic Rodeo. For some entries, this is not possible. For example, Computer Programming entries cannot be viewed other than the document containing the code for the program. Actual Fashion Show entries are not on display, but photos of the participants will be included in any slide show presentations when permission has been given for the student's photo to be used.

The display of entries will be open on the day of the Awards Celebration. When possible a slide show of photos from other contests which do not have visible entries will be shown.

A virtual Academic Rodeo will be presented using photos from competition in the various contests and photos of individual entries during the East Texas State Fair.

How will I know if my students win in a contest?

Results are posted on the ETSF website on the **Results** page and press releases are issued to local newspapers. Every effort will be made to post results by the dates designated in the contest timelines. When time permits, schools or groups will be notified when the list of winners has been posted.

What awards do students receive?

All participating students will receive recognition of their participation in Academic Rodeo. Winners will receive awards designated for the specific contests. Go to the ETSF website (www.etstatefair.com, choose **Education**, then **Academic Rodeo**, then **Awards**) to learn more about awards for each contest. Awards will be presented at the Academic Rodeo Awards Celebration where all students go on stage to be recognized in their contest groups.

What happens to the entries after the contests are over?

A representative of the school should attend the Academic Rodeo Awards Celebration to collect awards for those students not present or should make arrangements to collect these from the Academic Rodeo office in a timely manner after the Awards Celebration.

Unclaimed projects and awards will be disposed of or recycled if not claimed by the deadline for pick-up scheduled after the conclusion of the Academic Rodeo.

Are awards presented at the contests?

All awards (participation ribbons, participation certificates, place ribbons, and medallions) are held to be included in a packet for each school or group at the Awards Celebration. The exception to this is the Spelling Bee. Alternate students and students eliminated during the Spelling Bee receive their participation ribbons at the contest. See the awards for specific contests on our website (Go to www.etstatefair.com; choose **Education**, then **Academic Rodeo**, then **Awards**). Students placing in contests are invited to the Awards Celebration to be recognized in their contest groups. Each student who places in a contest will walk across the stage at the Awards Celebration in his or her contest group. Individual names of students are not called to keep the program short. Team trophies are presented on stage during the Celebration.

How Do We Get Started?

Step 1 – Identify someone who will serve as the Primary Contact between Academic Rodeo and your school or organization.

Step 2 – Choose the individuals who will serve as sponsors/coaches for each contest your school will participate in during Academic Rodeo.

Step 3 – Familiarize yourself with Academic Rodeo on the East Texas State Fair website (www.etstatefair.com). All information (schedules, contest rules, awards, etc.), forms, and resource information are located on the website. Determine which contests your group will probably enter. This is important to us in planning the schedule. You will have an opportunity to drop from the contest at a later time.

Step 4 – Register your school or group by the deadline posted on the Academic Rodeo Schedule using the **online form** on the website. This is new for 2014. **ONLY** School and Group registrations will be done online. Student registrations will still be submitted by e-mail or fax.

Step 5 – The Primary Contact should see that each Sponsor has access to the Academic Rodeo Contest Manual available for download from the website. The Contest Manual has all information about the Academic Rodeo contests.

Step 6 – The Primary Contact and each Contest Sponsor should familiarize themselves with the responsibilities involved in each role and the specific rules for each of the contests.

Step 7 – Contest Sponsors should note any deadlines associated with their specific contests to facilitate timely registrations and submissions. This will also help alleviate problems that may arise from conflicts with school events.

The image shows a screenshot of the 'ACADEMIC RODEO SCHOOL/GROUP REGISTRATION' form. The form is titled 'ACADEMIC RODEO SCHOOL/GROUP REGISTRATION' and includes instructions for users. It is divided into several sections: 'SCHOOL OR GROUP INFORMATION', 'CONTEST INFORMATION', 'CONTESTS, CONTINUED', and 'CREATE USER ACCOUNT'. The 'SCHOOL OR GROUP INFORMATION' section includes fields for School Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, School Website, and Primary Contact Name. The 'CONTEST INFORMATION' section includes checkboxes for various contests such as Academic Challenge Quiz, Mathematics, and Writing. The 'CONTESTS, CONTINUED' section includes checkboxes for contests like Spelling, Science Fair, and Youth Fashion Show. The 'CREATE USER ACCOUNT' section includes fields for User Name, First Name, Last Name, and Email Address.

What are the responsibilities of the Primary Contact?

1. Register the school or group **online** by the deadline. Click Register on the Academic Rodeo main page to access the online form.
 - a. Determine with others on your campus or in your group which contests to register.
 - b. Check all contests and levels you **think** your school will participate in during Academic Rodeo. However, please remember to drop by the contest Drop Date if you will not participate using the **Add/Drop** form on the Academic Rodeo main page.
 - c. You may serve as the Contact for each contest or you may list another sponsor/coach to serve as the contest. Please include the e-mail address for each contact. They will receive e-mails about the contest as needed.

- d. Only one registration should be done per campus. Please coordinate this with others in your school or organization. Encourage others in your group to be involved and offer opportunities to your students.
2. Check Registered Schools periodically to see that your group is registered correctly.
3. Check your school calendar to anticipate any possible conflicts with your school's participation.
4. Assist contest coaches/sponsors in getting rules and other information for their contests. Rules, Timelines and other resources for each contest are available on the contest's page.
5. Be aware of the deadlines and any special requirements for the contests and remind coaches/sponsors of these.
6. Relay information about other special opportunities to your group – training, Outstanding Educator recognition, etc.
7. Submit student registrations on the **Student Registration Form** from the **Academic Rodeo main page** for contests according to the deadlines in the timelines for the contests or allow coaches/sponsors to submit student registrations for the individual contests. Deliver entries to the ETSF Office as needed or allow coaches/sponsors to take the entries. A map showing the location and directions to the office is included in this manual.
 - a. **Be consistent in spellings of names for students who participate in more than one contest and may be registered at different times.**
 - b. Include the student's grade level when registering.
 - c. List the contest for the student and any divisions or categories for that particular contest.
 - d. Check to see if permission is on file at your school or organization for photos of the student to be used and indicate this on the registration form.

East Texas State Fair Academic Rodeo
OFFICIAL STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

Name of School/Group: _____ Public School

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ Private School

School Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____ FAX Number: _____ Home School

Email Address of Contact: _____ Contact Position: _____ Organization

Please read the following instructions before completing registration form.
List student name, grade, contest & category for each student. Use additional sheets (additional page is provided) if needed. Be sure to include Category for Computer Science Fair (Desktop, Multimedia, Digital Video, Web Page, Programming), Science Fair (Biological, Earth/Space, Environmental, Physical/Chemistry), and Youth Fashion Show (E, MS, HS; Smart Buying or Construction; and specialty category - Formal, Casual, Specialty, Dressy). Include Level (E, MS, HS) or team designation for team events (A or B) for Penathlon and Mathletics under Category. Also, indicate if an alternate for Mathletics or Spelling Bee under Category. Complete Fine Arts Form to give documentation information for One-Act Play Festival.

Student Name	Grade	Contest	Category	Permission for AR to use Photo is on file with school

E-mail, mail or fax this entry form by the registration deadline to register students for participation in contests.

Academic Rodeo
2112 W. Front Street
Tyler, TX 75702

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8. Relay results to your school or organization as they are posted online under Results.
9. Determine and RSVP to Academic Rodeo the number of winners who will attend the Academic Rodeo Awards Celebration in February.
10. Attend the Awards Celebration with your placing students or designate someone to attend.
 - a. Arrive in time to pick up your packet containing medallions, ribbons, certificates, and some entries. Distribute these per your group's policies – giving to students at the Awards Celebration OR holding to present at a school's awards program.
 - b. Allow time for your students to see the Academic Rodeo display of entries and the slide show of pictures from the contests.
 - c. Help students find their seats for the program. Students sit with their contest group. Students placing in more than one contest will usually sit with the contest coming first alphabetically and will then move to the other group after appearing on stage with the first contest.

- d. Be considerate of all students and stay through the entire program. Presentation of awards takes approximately one hour.
 - e. Collect entries from the display area at the conclusion of the awards program. The area remains open for a couple of hours to allow groups to collect entries immediately or take students to lunch and then return to collect entries.
11. Pick up your group's packet and all entries for your group in the week after the Awards Celebration if you are unable to attend the program.
 12. Complete the **Report** from the **Forms** page within one month of the conclusion of Academic Rodeo to indicate the number of students from your school involved in Academic Rodeo. This is very important to Academic Rodeo in working with potential sponsors and support groups.