

2021 Plan for Managing Academic Rodeo during COVID 19

October, November, December 2020

Submission Contests – Art, Kinder Critters, and Writing will follow normal formats. Work will be done at school as usual, then submitted by the Sponsors for the contests according to the Timeline for the Contest. Judging will occur with TJC and UT Tyler as planned.

When accepting, sorting or judging entries, Volunteers or Staff should wear gloves.

Art and **Kinder Critters** will be judged at the Fairgrounds after entries have been submitted. IF judges cannot come to the Fairgrounds for judging, another team of judges will come together for judging or photos will be taken of all entries and made available for judging remotely.

Entries may or may not be displayed at the Fairgrounds for viewing or an Open House, depending on the status of COVID in January. If entries cannot be displayed physically, at minimum, the pieces receiving awards will be posted online on the Academic Rodeo section of the ETSF website and/or on Academic Rodeo Facebook page.

Writing will be judged at UT Tyler in select classes in whatever format works best for the Professors/Instructors overseeing the classes involved. IF needed, essays will be scanned and submitted to UT Tyler electronically for judging remotely.

Entries may or may not be displayed at the Fairgrounds for viewing or an Open House, depending on the status of COVID in January. If entries cannot be displayed physically, at minimum, the pieces receiving awards will be scanned and a PDF posted online on the Academic Rodeo section of the ETSF website.

Mindset Breaking Experience Prelims in November will **NOT** occur on site. One of the following options will occur:

Option 1 – Prelims will be virtual (details to follow) with Finals planned for the usual format unless conditions worsen.

Option 2 – Prelim problems will be sent to schools and groups for completion at school under specific parameters as in Destination Imagination (another problem-solving contest). A presentation of the problem will be submitted by video or the solution to the problem will be something groups can complete and submit. Work on the problems for 2021 is currently underway but have not been finalized.

The specific plan for November Prelims will be in place by the School/Group Contest Registration Deadline of October 15. The Mindset Breaking Experience Timeline will be adjusted by October 15 to reflect changes to the Prelims and/or Finals for 2021.

January and February

Academic Challenge Quiz First Round matches will occur in person unless situations with COVID have worsened or schools are unable to bring students to the Fairgrounds.

- Only students on the specific teams involved in a match will be allowed in Building E for the match. No one will be present in the audience except the coaches involved.
- When teams arrive for their matches, they will wait in vehicles until signaled by Academic Rodeo Staff to enter.
- Schools and Groups are asked to be sure students' temperatures were taken BEFORE attending school that day and should not bring anyone who has had contact with someone who showed symptoms within two days after the individual's last contact with the student.
- Twice the number of tables will be set-up to keep students and score keepers properly separated during matches. No tablecloths will be used.
- Buzzers will be covered with disposable plastic covers and staff will wear gloves when removing or attaching the plastic to the buzzers.
- Any computer mouse used by a Coach during score keeping will also be covered with plastic if possible or the coaches will wear gloves.
- Tables will be wiped with disinfecting products between each match. Microphones and buzzers will be sprayed with disinfecting spray after each match as is normally done.
- Students should wear masks or plastic shields when entering and leaving the building. Plastic shields are encouraged for use during the match.
- Students will disinfect with hand sanitizer before taking seats.
- Students will bring their own pencils to use.
- Scratch paper will be provided, but it will be thrown away by the students at the end of the match.
- IF some groups cannot attend in-person matches, efforts will be made to schedule groups in that situation in the same bracket section for a possible delayed match OR teams that cannot attend will forfeit and enter the consolation bracket in January.
- With no First Round matches in November, the tournament bracket for Middle School will become a modified single-elimination bracket like the current format for High School.
- Possibilities for virtual matches will be researched and considered if conditions worsen by January.

Agriculture Identification

Academic Rodeo is currently researching an online option for participation.

IF the contest is on site . . .

- Table areas for competition will be tripled to allow proper social distancing between students. Groups will remain in vehicles until time to compete.
- All volunteers will wear masks or shields, and in some instances, may wear gloves if touching materials that will be given to students or received from students.
- It may be necessary for groups to print their own worksheets and/or student labels before attending OR a coach will check-in students upon arrival and receive the labels and worksheets to prepare for the students.

- Students will bring their own pencils and clipboards.
- Students will not be allowed to touch the tables where products are displayed and will have to keep a distance (marked by tape) from the tables.
- Students will wear masks or shields while in the building.
- Entry and exit signage will keep foot traffic moving in one direction only to prevent close contact.
- Volunteers judging the worksheets may be in a different building from the contest.

Computer Science

Projects will be submitted according to the Computer Science Timeline in early January. A decision will be made by that time, if not before, regarding in person or remote interviews about the projects.

If in person on the contest date in February . . .

- Interviews and demonstration of projects will occur in a separate building from other contests occurring that day.
- Students and judges will wear masks or shields.
- Tables and seating for judging will be spaced for social distancing.
- Clear barrier shields and/or gloves will be provided for covering computer mouse, keyboards, and other surfaces.
- No more than 3 students and the judges for those students will be in the room/building at the same time. Students will wait in vehicles to be called for judging, or they will be given a specific time to arrive.

If the contest is judged virtually . . .

- Interviews and demonstration of projects will occur through Zoom or some other online program preferred by UT Tyler.
- Each student will be given a specific time window for the interview by judges.

Drama Festival

A final decision about the status of One Act Plays will be made by December.

High School:

The current plan is for High School Drama Interpretations to occur on site as scheduled in January. However, if conditions make it necessary to avoid on site contests in January, students will be judged by video submissions or through an online format, such as Zoom, depending on the best method for the judge for the interpretations.

If performances occur in person on site . . .

- No audience will be allowed, except the Director and other students within the group who are also performing.
- Students will wait in vehicles or in a holding area where they will be seated 6 to 10 feet apart while awaiting performance time.
- Rules for submitting registrations and documentation remain as scheduled.
- Students will be required to wear masks or face shields except during the actual performance.

Middle School:

On site performances of the One Act Plays is preferred, but parameters for using video submissions or an online format are being evaluated.

IF performances occur on site . . .

- Only one group will be in the dressing room at one time. Other buildings may be made available for other dressing areas for students, depending on the schedule.
- Students may need to come in costume or at least partially in costume to minimize contact in dressing areas.
- There will be no audience other than the Director and other assistants with the Director.
- Equipment used for sound and lighting will have protective barrier sheets covering them and/or students may be required to wear gloves.
- Students will be required to wear masks or face shields except during the actual performance.

Engineering Challenge

Engineering Challenge is planned for an onsite contest. The following will be in place to provide social distancing and a certain level of precaution for student and adult safety.

- Groups will wait in their vehicles behind Building E until the actual Check-in Time.
- The table provided for set-up and checking Rover will be covered with plastic. The plastic will be replaced after each team uses the table.
- All touching of Rover will be by students on the team – during weigh-in, incline, and course tests.
- Depending on the status of COVID infections in January, only the Coaches will be allowed to be with students during testing of Rovers.
- Students and coaches will wear shields and/or masks at all times while in the building, except during the oral presentation and for the team photo. They may also be required to wear gloves for some activities.
- Directional signage will keep all students and coaches traveling in one direction through the building during competition.
- Competition times will allow an additional 15 to 30 minutes between team check-ins depending on the number of teams for additional sanitization of areas.

Mathletics

Options are still being considered for this contest.

Possibilities for an onsite contest include:

- Teams may be limited to 4 members.
- 2 tables per team may be provided for the written test.
- Teams may be asked to remain in their vehicles until time for students to come in and take their seats. Coaches will check teams in upon arrival and then return to vehicle.
- Students, Coaches, and Volunteers will wear shields and/or masks throughout the contest. Gloves may also be required for touching materials that others touch.
- Students may be asked to bring their own pencils.
- Only Top 10 teams allowed to stay for Finals and NO audience other than sponsors may be present.

Pentathlon

Options are still being considered for this contest.

Possibilities for an onsite contest include:

- 2 tables per team may be provided for the written tests and quiz bowl to allow greater social distancing.
- Teams may be asked to remain in their vehicles until time for students to come in and take their seats. Coaches will check teams in upon arrival and then return to vehicle.
- Students, Coaches, and Volunteers will wear shields and/or masks throughout the contest. Gloves may also be required for touching materials that others touch.
- Students may be asked to bring their own pencils.
- Items for Engineering Build may be “pre-packaged” for each team rather than teams gathering supplies as in the past.
- Teams may be asked to prepare and bring a toolbox containing a glue gun and other resources needed for building that all would use.
- Teams will have to remain seated when other teams are doing the Task Completion portion of the contest.

Science Fair

Journals and Illustrations will be submitted in early January as scheduled.

IF we can have in-person participation at the Fairgrounds . . .

- Tables for displaying projects will be spread out to allow social distancing while being judged.
- NO audience will be present other than Coaches for the group.
- Students may be given a specific judging time and asked to wait in vehicle until time for judging, or a holding room with ample distancing will be made available.
- A photo will be taken of each student with project when set-up occurs for use later if needed.
- **IF** there will be no Open House, projects will go home with the student after judging.
- Students, coaches, and judges will wear shields and/or masks during the contest.
- Directional signage may be present to limit contact when entering or leaving the judging area.

IF we are unable to host an onsite contest . . .

- Students may be required to submit a video explaining the project and answering a list of questions provided in advance.
- Students may also have a scheduled online interview through Zoom or other format for additional questions for the student or as the sole interview process.

Spelling Bee

An onsite Spelling Bee is planned at this time with the following conditions:

- Number of student representatives per campus may be reduced. Sponsors will be notified of this in the first Contest e-mail.
- Only the student and 1 parent may attend. The Sponsor for the group may also attend.
- Check-in will be done in Building B. Students will immediately take their seat and the adult with the student will immediately sit in the designated seats for adults.

- Students will NOT sit on the stage in Building B. Instead chairs will be arranged with distancing on the tiers of the west end of the building. A volunteer will hold up the student number of direct the student in some way without close physical contact when it is time for the student to get in line to go on stage to spell his or her word.
- Students for the 3rd Grade Contest MUST wait until check-in time to come to the building.

Youth Fashion Show

A final decision about onsite or remote contest will be decided by December. Garments and Worksheets will be submitted as usual according to the schedule.

If the contest is onsite . . .

- Only 1 person may come with the student to the Fashion Show. Sponsors for the groups may also attend. No other guests may attend.
- Student seating will be set-up on the west side tiers of the building. Only 1 or 2 students will be on stage at one time.
- Results will **not** be announced at the end of the contest.

If the contest cannot be held onsite . . .

- Students will submit videos of themselves modeling the garment for the contest. Details will be provided for how to model and length of modeling time. These will be used to judge the modeling portion of the contest.

Scholarships and Cash Awards

At this time, **NO** Scholarships or Elementary Cash Awards are planned for the 2021 Academic Rodeo. We hope to resume these awards for future presentations of Academic Rodeo.

Awards Celebration

Currently, we do not expect to be able to hold a large Awards Celebration as we have in the past. With the need for social distancing expected to continue into January and February, we do not have the space for this level of distancing.

We do have plans for an alternate Celebration, possibly a Drive-by Awards Pick-up and Celebration. Details will be available in early January regarding plans for the presentation of Awards.