# Frequently Asked Questions

**Revised June 2019**

### *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. A deposit may be required for Lego kits for the Engineering Challenge. Teams are invoiced for Legos not returned by the deadline.

### *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 and the number of entries or students. Be sure to read your contest's rules to determine if there are requirements for the number of boys and girls or the number from a specific grade.

## Contests

| | GRADE LEVELS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EVENT** | **K** | **1st** | **2nd** | **3rd** | **4th** | **5th** | **6th** | **7th** | **8th** | **9th** | **10th** | **11th** | **12th** |
| **Academic Challenge Quiz** | | | | | | | 1 Team of 6 per School or Group | | | 1 Team of 6 per School or Group | | | |
| **Agricultural Identification Contest** | | | | Elementary Level No Limit on Entries | | | Middle School Level No Limit on Entries | | | High School Level No Limit on Entries | | | |
| **Art Contest** | | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade | 2 per grade |
| **Computer Science Fair** | | | | Elementary Level - 4 entries in each category | | | Middle School Level - 4 entries in each category | | | High School Level - 4 entries in each category | | | |
| **Drama Festival** | | | | | | | 1 Performing Group of 15 plus support | | | 3 Monologues, 3 Duologues, 3 Musical Solo, 3 Musical Ensemble | | | |
| **Engineering Challenge** | | | | Elementary Level - 1 Team of 4 per school | | | Middle School Level - 1 Team of 4 per School | | | | | | |
| **Kinder Critters Contest** | 6 per school | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Mathletics** | | | | | 2 Teams per School or Group | | | | | | | | |
| **Mindset Breaking Experience©** | Primary Level 1 team of 5-7 | | | Intermediate Level 1 team of 5-7 | | | Middle School Level 1 team of 5-7 | | | High School Level 2 teams of 5-7 | | | |
| **Pentathlon** | | | | | | | | | | 2 Teams of 4 per School or Group | | | |
| **Science Fair - Display Only** | Class Project | Class Project | Class Project | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Science Fair** - Experimental projects, models, or drawings | | | | Elementary Level - 6 experimental, 4 models, 6 illustrations per school | | | Middle School Level - 6 experimental, 4 models, 6 illustrations per school | | | High School Level - 6 experimental, 4 models, 6 illustrations per school | | | |
| **Spelling Bee** | | | 4 per grade | 4 per grade | | | | | | | | | |
| **Writing Contest** | | | | | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school | 3 per school |
| **Youth Fashion Show** | | | | Elementary Level No Limit on Entries | | | Middle School Level No Limit on Entries | | | High School Level No Limit on Entries | | | |

### *What awards do students receive?*

All participating students will receive recognition of their participation in Academic Rodeo. Students who do not place receive either a participation ribbon or certificate of recognition depending on the contest involved.

Winners will receive awards designated for the specific contests. An overview of awards is available on each contest page. Awards (depending on the contest) include trophies, place ribbons, and medallions. Elementary students who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a contest receive a cash award. Middle School and High School students who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a contest are eligible to apply for one of 11 scholarships awarded each year. See the Academic Rodeo Scholarship page on the ETSF website for more information.

Awards will be presented at the Academic Rodeo Awards Celebration where all students go on stage to be recognized in their contest groups. See the Awards Section of this Contest Manual for additional information.

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

Use the **Student Registration Form** in Excel format (sent by e-mail after the Group Registration Deadline) 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. Also, an e-mailed list is much easier to lose in the large stacks of registrations than the actual registration form.

### *What if I need to change the students registered?*

Use the online **Add/Drop Form** on the **Academic Rodeo** main page. Please supply all of the information requested. Do **NOT** send an updated copy of a previous Student Registration form. This results in duplication and/or confusion as many forms may be received before they are actually entered into the database.

### *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. Check the contest page on the website for any available resources.

### *Can I bring other students to see contests and contest entries and can families attend?*

Some contests are designed for an audience, while others are not. Anyone is welcome to attend the Academic Challenge Quiz matches, Drama Festival, 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.), 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.

An Open House may occur in February for families to see the entries. You will be notified if this is offered.

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. Only students who place in contests, their teachers, and their family may attend the Awards Celebration. Unfortunately, there is not enough space for all participating students to attend.

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.

### *Why are there limits to the number of entries in a contest?*

Limits on number of entries may exist for a variety of reasons. These include space available for the contest and amount of time involved in judging entries for a particular contest. With more than 100 schools and groups registering each year, the potential number of entries in many contests is large. The format of some contests would result in contest length that would eventually discourage rather than encourage entries.

### *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 some contests, 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 can I find the location of contests?*

Location of a contest can be found on the general **Academic Rodeo Timeline**. Most contests and activities are located in Buildings B, C, and E on the Fairgrounds. (See the map below.)

### *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 Academic Rodeo in the East Texas State Fair Office at 2112 W. Front Street. Finding it is a little tricky. See map and directions at the end of this document as a guide.

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

In a few contests, results are known by the end of the contest. These include: Academic Challenge Quiz, Mathletics, Mindset Breaking Experience, Pentathlon, Spelling Bee and Youth Fashion Show.

Results for other contests are posted on the ETSF website on the **Academic Rodeo Results** page of the Academic Rodeo section and some information is posted on the Academic Rodeo Facebook page. 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.

### *How do students receive their awards?*

With the exception of team and One Act Play trophies, all awards (participation ribbons, participation certificates, place ribbons, and medallions) are placed in a packet for each school or group to be collected at the Awards Celebration. 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 and One Act Play trophies are presented on stage during the Celebration. Outstanding Educator honorees are also presented on stage at the Awards Celebration. Scholarship Winners are the final awards presentation at the Awards Celebration.

### *What happens to the entries after the contests are over?*

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

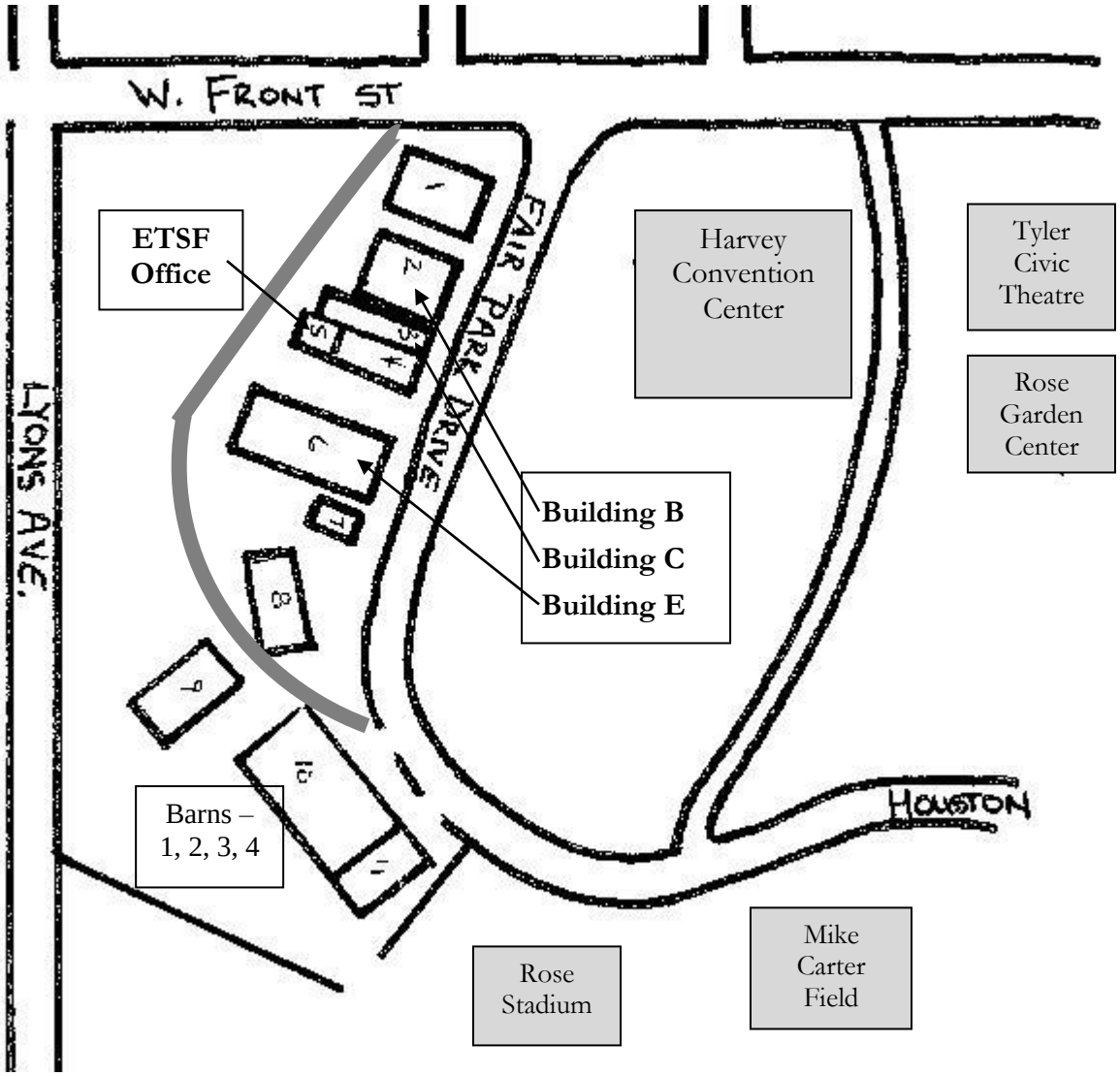
**Unclaimed projects and awards will be disposed of or recycled if not claimed by the deadline for pick-up scheduled after the conclusion of the Academic Rodeo.**

## *Grounds Map*

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.




## *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 for 2020 include:**

**AAUW** (American Association of University Women) – Spelling Bee

**Discovery Science Place** – Engineering Challenge

**Smith County Extension Education Association** – Agriculture Identification Contest and Youth Fashion Show

**Smith County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**– Agriculture Identification Contest

**Tyler Civic Theatre** – Drama Festival development

**Tyler Junior College Art Department** – Art Contest

**The University of Texas at Tyler Computing Center** – Computer Science

**The University of Texas at Tyler College of Education and Psychology** – Kinder Critters, Mathletics, Mindset Breaking Experience, Pentathlon, Science Fair, and Writing Contest

Various Individuals volunteer with Academic Rodeo.