

17th Annual MSA Showdown
Official Competition Packet

From Earthly Seeds to
Heavenly Blossoms



The University of Texas at Dallas

March 1-3, 2024

Table of Contents

Purpose

About MSA Lone Star Council

Theme

General Guidelines

Important Deadlines

Changes from Previous Showdowns

Scoring

Overall Score Sheet

Competition Rules: Sporting Events

Brothers' & Sisters' Basketball

Brothers' & Sisters' Volleyball

Brothers' & Sisters' Track

Sisters' Dodgeball

Brothers' & Sisters' Outdoor Soccer

Brothers' Flag Football

Brothers' & Sisters' Table Tennis

Mixed Super Smash Bros

Competition Rules: Non-Sporting Events

Knowledge Bowl

Business Venture

Research Showcase

Catan

Tajweed

Quran Memorization

Nasheed: Individual & Group

Short Film: Comedy & Drama

Promo Video

Public Service Announcement (PSA)

Art: 2D, 3D, & Calligraphy

Photography

Event Photography

Written Poetry

Ready Writing

Prepared Essay

Performance Poetry

Extemporaneous Speaking

Children's Storybook Design

Fashion Design

Physical Scrapbook

T-Shirt Design

#RaceToShowdown2024

Project Sadaqa

Team Spirit: Chant, Sportsmanship, & School Spirit

Purpose

The purpose of Showdown is to bring together MSAs and Muslim students all across the state of Texas in the spirit of healthy competition and unity. This event is a manifestation of the MSA Lone Star Council's understanding that through cooperation, we can achieve much more than we can individually. As we continue to work at local levels, we recognize that each MSA is part of a national and global movement working to bring positive change among Muslims and the society at large. By participating in this event, we are coming together in an act of good and joining a movement that will impact the masses through the will of Allah (SWT) and our efforts, InshAllah.

About the MSA Lone Star Council

The MSA Lone Star Council (LSC) is a coalition of MSAs across the state of Texas whose primary purpose is to unify MSAs for the sake of Allah (SWT). Since 2002, LSC has served as a forum for efficient and effective interaction between the various MSAs in Texas by focusing on networking, training, and the development of Muslim student leaders. LSC operates with the understanding that through cooperation, we can accomplish anything. We serve with the primary purpose of being the meeting ground for goodness.

Please reach out to bod@msa-texas.org for any questions, comments, or concerns.

Theme: Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms

“If the Hour starts to happen and in the hand of one of you is a palm shoot or seedling; then if he’s able to plant it before the Hour happens, then let him plant it”.

(As-Silsilah as-Saheehah #9)

As the world is crumbling, the sun will rise from the west, the mountains will turn to dust, and everyone will be worried about their well-being in the last hour of the universe. In those final moments, when no trees will even have the opportunity to bear fruits, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) encourages us to plant seeds, regardless of what is going on.

As Muslims living in America, it is our responsibility to build upon the path paved by the prophets to establish and nurture Islam in a context that spans multiple generations – no matter the measure – creating an environment where our descendants can live as strong Muslims, not shaken by the ever-changing winds of society around us.

“Were you present when Jacob faced the hour of death, and he asked his sons, who will you worship after me? They answered We will worship your God and the God of your fathers, Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac: the one God; we have submitted ourselves to Him”

- Surah al-Baqarah (The Cow) [2:133]

From the time of Adam (AS) to the era of the Prophets who followed and carried the Islamic teachings for generations, the thread of legacy has been woven into the fabric of history. Legacy encompasses all the thoughts, experiences, and lessons from the past, present, and future; the timeless pursuit of goodness and the foundational growth of instilling strong roots that will carry over to the next generation.

What will you pass on? How can you plant seeds that will impact generations to come?

General Guidelines

- All Showdown competitors must meet the following requirements: be a member of a university/collegiate MSA registered with LSC and **18 years** or older. Only **current students or alumni** who graduated in **Fall 2022 or onwards** can compete. Alumni that have graduated before Fall 2022 can attend, but not compete, at Showdown.
- LSC reserves the right to **disqualify** or eject any Showdown attendee for **inappropriate behavior or suspicion of dishonesty**.
- LSC reserves the **right to make any changes** to the stated rules and regulations, as deemed necessary.
- All names **MUST** be provided **on rosters** provided by the respective MSA in order to be deemed an official competitor.
- **Plagiarized** submissions and **AI generated submissions** for competitions are an **automatic disqualification**. Each competition entry/submission must be unique.
- Any participant who enters a competition **late** is subject to **disqualification** at the discretion of the competition's judge(s).
- Participants must be wearing their **Showdown wristbands and ID badges at all times** and will **not be allowed** to enter event areas without their wristband and ID badge.
- Competitors must be wearing their **Showdown wristbands and ID badges during the duration of their respective competition (with the exception of sports, but must be wearing it at time of check-in)** and will **not be allowed** to enter the competition without their wristband and badge.
- **Dress code** for both brothers and sisters should be **loose fitting and not transparent**. Feel free to wear your school's MSA shirt if available.
- Schools may under **NO circumstances** use or bring any of the following materials:
 - Decorative items or spirit gear that will leave a mess behind (i.e. glitter, smoke bombs, etc.)
 - Instruments of any kind (cow bells, drums, etc.)
- It is your responsibility to check **the LSC website** for the most up to date versions of this packet.

Important Deadlines

Registration is not complete until payment is received. **Individual registration is required.** No refunds will be issued to an individual or MSA that is unable to attend after registering and submitting a payment online.

Registration Costs

Regular Registration + FREE shirt (\$45):

Friday, January 28th by 11:59 PM CT

*all competitors **MUST** register by this deadline*

Late Registration (\$55):

Wednesday, February 28th by 11:59 PM CT

Click here to register.

Individual Submissions

Each competitor must be **registered** by **the regular registration deadline**. Check the rules, submission forms, and ballots to determine what must be **submitted prior** to Showdown. All submissions and rosters must be submitted on the LSC website. Online submissions will **NOT be accepted after 11:59 PM CT** on the day of the deadline.

Competition Roster Forms

All competitions have a **limited number of spots** available per school. The MSA President or Showdown Coordinator will submit **two rosters**: a **sports** roster and a **competition** roster. For sports, rosters will **declare captains and vice captains** of each sports team and a list of all the **team members** for the sport (with their name, phone number, and email). LSC will email each registered MSA's President and/or Showdown Coordinator a password-protected link to access the competitions & sports rosters on the LSC website and must be completed by the deadline of Friday, January 28th. Competitors that are **not registered** by the regular registration deadline will be **dropped** from their competition.

Submitting Rosters

LSC will email each registered MSA's President or Showdown Coordinator a password-protected link to access the competitions & sports rosters on the LSC website. When clicking this link, you'll be prompted to enter a password that was emailed to you. Only one submission of each form is allowed per school. Do not submit roster forms until all information is complete. Feel free to use LSC's Roster Template for internal use to coordinate the team. in order to make your MSA's roster submission process as easy as possible.

Competition & Roster Deadlines

All submissions and rosters can be accessed [through this link](#).

Saturday, January 6th @ 1:00 PM CT

- T-shirt design competition submission due

Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

- Rosters due for Sports
 - Br./Sr. Basketball, Br./Sr. Volleyball, Br./Sr. Track, Sr/Br. Soccer, Br./Sr. Table Tennis, Br. Football, Sr. Dodgeball & Super Smash Bros.
- Rosters due for Non-Sport Competitions
 - Knowledge Bowl, Business Venture, Research Showcase, Catan, Tajweed, Quran Memorization, Nasheed (Individual & Group), Short Film (Comedy & Drama), PSA, Art (2D, 3D, Calligraphy), Photography, Written Poetry, Ready Writing, Prepared Essay, Performance Poetry, Extemporaneous Speaking, Children's Storybook Design, Fashion Design

Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT

- Mandatory Captains' Meeting (all sports)

Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT

- Business Venture - individual submissions
- Research Showcase - individual submissions
- Short Film (Comedy & Drama) - individual submissions
- Promo video - MSA submission
- PSA - MSA submissions
- 2D Art, 3D Art, & Calligraphy - individual pre-submissions
- Photography - individual pre-submissions
- Written Poetry - individual submissions
- Prepared Essay - individual submissions
- Performance Poetry - individual submissions
- Children's Storybook Design - individual pre-submissions
- Fashion Design - individual pre-submissions

Friday, March 1st @ 11:59 PM CT

- All Project Sadaqa offline donations (checks & cash) must be turned in to LSC
- Deadline to complete #RacetoShowdown2024

Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT

- All of the following MUST be physically checked in at the Founders' Atrium
 - 2D Art, 3D Art, Calligraphy, Photography, Fashion Design, Children's Storybook Design, and Physical Scrapbook

Sunday, March 3rd by 10:00 AM CT

- Event Photography submissions must be emailed to bod@msa-texas.org.

Changes from Previous Showdowns

- Alumni of 3 semesters (**Fall 2022 and after**) are **allowed to compete** at Showdown. Contact the MSA President or Showdown Coordinator to be included on the rosters.
- All competitors **MUST** be registered **by the regular registration deadline** or they will be **dropped** from the roster.
- All competitors will be given ID numbers after registration which will be used for all competitions. Competitors are expected to use the ID numbers for all pre-submissions and for all competition check-ins. All competitors **MUST** wear their **Showdown ID badges** with their ID numbers during the duration of their competition. Failure may result in **disqualification**.
- **Brothers' & Sisters' Track, Business Venture, Research Showcase, Qur'an Memorization, Prepared Essay and Catan**, have been added as brand new Showdown competitions.
- Point value for Project Sadaqa has increased and is **worth the most** out of any competition.
- Schools will now be rewarded **additional points** for Project Sadaqa if they are able to raise a predetermined **minimum amount**. This is to encourage all schools to fundraise regardless if they place 1st-3rd in the competition.
- **Digital Scrapbook** has been changed to **Physical Scrapbook**.
- Music will **not be permitted** in the Promo video or PSA – however the use of duff is allowed.
- **Event Photography** will be awarded **15 points** and **10 points** will be awarded for **Team Spirit (Showdown Stars)**.
- Competitors **can only compete** in **1 sport** for the duration of the weekend. This means that one can only choose 1 out of the 5 sports. Esports, table tennis & track are exceptions.
- Any sports captain that **does not attend** the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT, or **give 3 days prior notice of absence** to LSC or the Sports Chairs will have their **team disqualified** from the competition (i.e. volleyball captain from UH does not show up, nor does she give prior notice, will have her team not playing on Saturday at all).
- Game clocks will be on a running format and will only be stopped for timeouts called by the teams. Teams will be allowed one timeout per half.
- Playoff seeding will be determined by the overall record during prelims. Prelim games that end in a tie by the end of regulation will not continue over time. The game will simply end in a tie. Those team's seeding will be

determined by point differential. Ties on point differential will be decided on head-to-head matchups from prelims.

- The following policies for sports regarding behavior will remain in use:
 - Referees, sports (tournament) heads & chairs, and LSC will **automatically disqualify** any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.
 - All competitors will be required to **present a photo ID and badge** before play begins.

- **Sports Coalition Rule:** In an effort to **promote fairness and maintain the integrity** of our sports competitions, we have implemented an official coalition clause for this year's sporting events. The following rules apply to students and alumni that are registered with their university:
 - a. **For MSAs with a population 200+ members (Tier One), the following rules apply:**
 - i. *Team Composition:* Teams from a **tier one** MSA are **required to consist solely** of students from their respective school.
 - ii. *ID Verification:* All team members must **undergo ID verification** at the time of registration and check-in. This verification process ensures that each team member is representing their respective school.
 - iii. *Disqualification:* Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the **immediate disqualification** of the non-compliant team member.

 - b. **For MSAs with a population less than 200 (Tier 2-3), the following rules are in place:**
 - i. *Team Composition:* While these MSAs may not have a sufficient population to form a complete team, they are **allowed to collaborate** with any **Tier Two or Tier Three** school in order to fill up a roster (i.e. Rice x UHCL)
 - ii. *Coalition Teams:* These teams, formed as **coalitions** of students from different schools (**Tier 2 or 3**), are permitted to compete to ensure a full roster. Points will be **awarded to all schools** who partake in the coalition team **contingent on placing** (i.e school A and school B compete in one team together as a coalition and earn first place (15 points), both school A and B will receive the 15 points). However, School A and B **cannot have their own separate team** in that respective sport.

 - c. Schools that have **incomplete rosters**. Please reach out to **LSC for further assistance**.
 - d. **Additional Rules**
 - i. No one person may play in place for another team in any circumstance. If a full team is not present at the competition at the allotted time, that team will be **disqualified**.
 - e. **FAQ**
 - i. If I go to a tier one MSA and don't make the team, can I try out for a small school (<200)?
 1. **No**
 - ii. How can I participate if my school does not have an MSA and/or is not registered for Showdown?
 1. You may **choose whichever school** you would like to associate with, but stick with that respective school for all competitions. However, we will still **ensure ID verification**.
 - iii. What if I forget my ID on the day off?
 1. This may result in **disqualification** if one can't prove they are from the **tier schools**.

Current Tiers:

<p><i>Tier One:</i></p> <p>UH TAMU UT UTD UTA UNT</p>	<p><i>Tier Two:</i></p> <p>TTU Collin College UTSA TCU Rice UHCL Austin College TSU SMU</p>	<p><i>Tier Three:</i></p> <p>UTEP St. Edward's UTT PVAMU Richland College TWU Trinity Southwestern OU</p>
---	---	---

Scoring

- Each competitive event is allocated a certain number of points.
- Final scores will be determined by the sum of points received by each team in each competition.
- The team with the most points will receive the first place grand prize. Second and third places overall will also be recognized.
- Each competition will award a first, second, and third place with some exceptions:
 - T-shirt design will only recognize first place.
 - #RaceToShowdown2024 participating schools will be awarded 20 points each.

EVENT NAME	MAXIMUM ENTRIES	POINTS DISTRIBUTION		
		1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Sports: Basketball	1 Team per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Volleyball	1 Team per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Track	1 Team per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Sr. Dodgeball	1 Team per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Br. Flag Football	1 Team per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Soccer	1 Team per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Table Tennis	2 individuals per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Sports: Super Smash Bros.	4 entries per school	15pts	10 pts	5pts
Knowledge Bowl	1 Team per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Qur'an Memorization	2 individuals per gender per school per level	15pts	10pts	5pts
Business Venture	3 individuals and/or team per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Catan	1 individual per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Tajweed	3 individuals per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Nasheed: Solo	2 individuals per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Nasheed: Group	2 groups per gender per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Short Film: Comedy	3 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Short Film: Drama	3 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Promo Video	1 entry per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Public Service Announcement	3 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Art: General 2D	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Art: General 3D	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Art: Calligraphy	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Photography	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Event Photography	1 entry per school	15 pts	10pts	5pts
Performance Poetry	2 performances per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Written Poetry	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Ready Writing	3 individuals per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Prepared Essay	3 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts

Research Showcase	3 individuals and/or teams per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Extemporaneous Speaking	2 individuals per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Children's Storybook Design	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Fashion Design	5 entries per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
Physical Scrapbook	1 submission per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
T-Shirt Design	∞ per school	5pts	-----	-----

EVENT NAME	MAXIMUM ENTRIES	POINTS DISTRIBUTION		
		1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Promo Video	1 entry per school	15pts	10pts	5pts
#RaceToShowdown2024	1 campaign per school	40pts	35pts	30pts (20 pts for completion)
Project Sadaqa	1 campaign per school	50pts	45pts	40pts (35 pts for minimum amount raised)
Showdown Stars: Best Chant	-----	10pts	-----	-----
Showdown Stars: Best School Drip	-----	10pts	-----	-----
Showdown Stars: Most Hype	-----	10pts	-----	-----

Competition Rules: Sporting Events

Note: Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from that category.

For certain games (indicated with an *), prelims will be played on **Saturday, March 2nd**.
 Finals will be played on **Sunday, March 3rd**.

Brothers' and sisters' sports will be played separately. Any changes to the rules will be announced via an addendum and updated below. Competitors can **ONLY** play one sport (**excluding table tennis & esports & track**). You **cannot compete** in **ANY** two sports.

Morning Sports

Sisters Sports	Brothers Sports
Track	Track
Dodgeball	Basketball
Soccer	Volleyball
Table Tennis	-

Afternoon Sports

Sisters Sports	Brothers Sports
Basketball*	Table Tennis
Volleyball*	Flag Football*
-	Soccer*

Sports: Basketball

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition (played separately)

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 Team per gender per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on February 17, 2024 @ 7pm CT.

Bracket & Teams

- Tournament play is 5-on-5, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only register one team. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made (by LSC). Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the LSC website.
- Each player may play for only one team. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each team will consist of 5 players and a maximum of 5 substitutes (10 players total).

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Basketballs will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs.
- If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of the team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of game points. .
- Teams must be early to their respective games. Teams with players more than five minutes late will have to forfeit that match.

Gameplay

- All rules and regulations related to gameplay can be found here on UTD's intramural website.
 - Games will be played two 14 minute halves with a 2 minute half time.
 - Each player is allowed five (5) personal fouls before disqualification.

Sports: Volleyball

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition (played separately)

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 Team per gender per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Bracket & Teams

- Tournament play is 6-on-6, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only register one team. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made (by LSC). Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the LSC website.
- Each player may play for only one team. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each team will consist of 6 players and a maximum of 6 substitutes (12 players total).

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Volleyballs will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs. Team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Game Play

- All rules and regulations related to gameplay can be viewed here on UTD's intramural website.

- Prelims:
 - Games will be played in a best 2 out of 3 format. Each of the three sets will go to 15 points. Teams must win by 2 points (cap at 20 points).
- Playoffs:
 - Games will be played in a best 2 out of 3 format. The first two sets will go to 21 points. Teams must win by 2 points (cap at 25 points).
 - If a third set is played, the first team to 15 points will win the game.

Sports: Track

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition (played separately)

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 team per relay/gender and 3 individuals per dash/gender

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on February 17, 2024 @ 7pm CT.

Bracket & Teams

- Tournament play is each individual/team within their heat, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made by LSC. Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register their team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the [LSC website](#).
- An individual may compete in multiple relays and/or dashes. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each relay will consist of 4 players.
- A heat will consist of 7 players at a time. Placing for each individual is based on the overall timings contingent on all heats.
- Rankings are determined based on the best time achieved for all competitions.

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - Spikes are recommended, but not required.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Batons will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs. Team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Game Play

Individual Races (100m dash, 200m dash, 400m dash)

Starting Procedures:

- Athletes start from blocks in individual and/or staggered lanes.
- In the 100m and 200m, athletes must remain in their lanes. In the 400m, athletes will be placed in staggered formation and must remain in their lanes. Stepping out of the lane, even slightly, can lead to disqualification

False Starts:

- A single false start results in a warning for the field, but a subsequent false start by the same athlete will lead to disqualification.

Timing:

- Electronic timing systems will be used for accurate measurement of sprint times.

Relay Races (4x100m, 4x200m, 4x400m):

Starting Procedures:

- Each team is assigned a lane, and the athletes in a relay team start within their respective lanes.
- All runners stay in their lane for the entire distance in the 4x100m and 4x200m relay.
- In the 4x400m relay, runners may break into lane 1 after the first 100m.
- In the 4x200m and 4x400m relay, athletes run in staggered positions, with each athlete starting ahead of the next in adjacent lanes.

Exchange Zones:

- Relay teams consist of four athletes who each run a specified distance.
- Baton exchanges must take place within the 20m designated exchange zones.
- Athletes cannot pass the baton outside of these zones.
- Proper baton passing technique is crucial. The outgoing athlete must pass the baton to the incoming athlete within the exchange zone.
- Dropping the baton or passing it outside of the exchange zone results in disqualification.

Timing and Scoring:

- Each relay team is timed from the start of the first leg to the finish of the final leg.

False Starts:

- A single false start usually results in a warning for the field, but a subsequent false start by the same athlete will lead to disqualification.

Disqualifications:

- Relay teams can be disqualified for violations of exchange zone rules, improper baton passing, or other infractions.

Sports: Dodgeball

Sisters' Only Competition

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 team per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Bracket & Teams

- Tournament play is 6-on-6, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only register one team. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made (by LSC). Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the [LSC website](#).
- Each player may play for only one team. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each team will consist of 6 players and a maximum of 6 substitutes (12 players).

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Dodgeballs will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs.
- If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of the team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Game Play

- The winner will be decided on who has the most wins within a game. If all players from one team are not completely eliminated at the end of the clock, the team with the most players remaining will be declared the winner of that game. If both teams have an equal number of players, there will be an untimed sudden death period in which the team who first eliminates a member from the opposing team will be declared the winner of that game.
- The match will be a best three of five game format. The first team to win three games will be declared the winner
- All rules & regulations related to gameplay can be found [here](#) on UTD's intramural website.

Sports: Outdoor Soccer

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition (played separately)

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 Team per gender per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Brackets and Teams

- Tournament play is 11-on-11, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only register one team. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made (by LSC). Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the LSC website.
- Each player may play for only one team. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each team will consist of 11 players and a maximum of 7 substitutes (18 players total)

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
 - You may wear soccer cleats; however no metal cleats will be allowed. Shin guards are encouraged but not mandatory. Regulation, rubber-soled cleats, plastic cleats, detachable rubber cleats that screw into the shoe, and tennis shoes are the only permissible footwear.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Soccer Balls will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs.
- If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of the team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Gameplay

- All rules & regulations related to gameplay can be found here on UTD's intramural website.
- Games will be played two 14 minute halves with a 2 minute half time.

Sports: Flag Football

Brothers' Only Competition

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 Team per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Brackets and Teams

- Tournament play is 7-on-7, with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only register one team. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless an approved joint team has been made (by LSC). Only current students or eligible alumni can participate.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the LSC website.
- Each player may play for only one team. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Each team will consist of 7 players and a maximum of 7 substitutes (14 players total)

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
 - You may wear soccer cleats; however no metal cleats will be allowed. Shin guards are encouraged but not mandatory. Regulation, rubber-soled cleats, plastic cleats, detachable rubber cleats that screw into the shoe, and tennis shoes are the only permissible footwear.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt. Shirts must be tucked into the shorts or pants and flag belts must remain outside of the shirt/jersey during play.
- Footballs and flag belts will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs.
- If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of the team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Gameplay

- All rules and regulations related to gameplay can be found here on UTD's intramural website.
 - Games will be played two 14 minute halves with a 2 minute half time.
 - Blocking/Rushing Rule: full contact is allowed from both sides in the upper body area. No contact below the waist and above the neck is allowed, it will result in a 5 yd penalty and may result in disqualification of the player. Unsportsmanlike conduct or use of excessive force penalties will be determined at the discretion of the officials. Repeat offenses of unsportsmanlike conduct or use of excessive force may result in disqualification.

- Blockers: pushing in the back, hooking around the body, tripping, or holding will all result in penalties.
- Rushers: Lining up in the neutral zone (1 yd off the blockers, 3 yds over center) will result in an encroachment penalty. Crossing the LOS or entering the neutral zone before the ball is snap will result in an offsidess penalty.

Sports: Table Tennis

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition (played separately)

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 2 individuals per gender per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Brackets

- Tournament play is 1-on-1, with a schedule to be released at the Captains' meeting. Tournament play with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only have a maximum of four (4) individual players competing: two brothers and two sisters.
- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register two individuals by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the sports roster found on the [LSC website](#).
- Each player may play for only one school. Players must be 18 years or older.
- Only 2 players per gender per school will be allowed to compete in this tournament.

Equipment & Attire

- Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn.
 - This includes but is not limited to covering your Awrah for each respective gender. There will be consequences at the discretion of LSC.
- Due to safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. Rubber/cloth elastic bands used to control hair may be worn. Leg and knee braces may be worn but must be covered so that no metal or hard edges are exposed.
 - Exception: medical alert bracelets or necklaces, eyeglasses, and hijabs
- All players must be wearing a visible number on their jersey/shirt.
- Ping pong balls and paddles will be provided.

Behavior

- Foul and/or directed language or any physical aggression will result in point deductions, game punishment, and/or ejection, depending on the discretion of the Referees and Sports Heads/Chairs.
- If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of the team must meet with the Sports Head/Sports Chair to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
- Referees, sports heads & chairs, and LSC reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers. Arguments will result in an offense and/or possible deduction of GAME POINTS.

Gameplay

- Matches until the quarter finals will be played best 2 out of 3 with games to 11, win by 2 and a cap at 15. There will be a ten minute limit on gametime and play is double elimination.
- Matches of the quarter final will be played best 2 of 3 with games to 15, win by 2, cap at 19. There will be a thirteen minute limit on gametime.
- All rules and regulations related to gameplay can be found [here](#) on UTD's intramural website.

E-Sports: Super Smash Bros Ultimate

Brothers' & Sisters' Competition

Deadline for team roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 4 entries per school

Final Rules

- All rules and brackets will be finalized at the Captains' meeting on Saturday, February 17th @ 7:00 PM CT.

Brackets

- Tournament play with brackets to be released at the Captains' meeting.
- Each school can only have a **maximum** of 4 players total competing, either brothers and/or sisters

Purpose

We are excited to continue esports at Showdown. Super Smash Bros allows students to come out and support their schools, as well as meet other players of their caliber from around the state. We highly encourage bringing your own controllers and Nintendo Switch to increase the number of consoles available to compete.

Rules

- Set Length
 - All tournament sets will be best-of-3 games, until Top 8, at which point the tournament sets will be best-of-5 games. Rules below do not change between these two set formats. Stock and time are determined at the Captains' meeting in February after the bracket has been finalized.
- Character/Stage Pick Procedure
 - Players will begin their set by selecting their character. After these characters have been selected the stages will alternate between Final Destination and Battlefield (no OMEGA allowed). Round 1 will always start as Final Destination.
 - Stage Agreement Clause
 - Players may choose to select any LEGAL stage if they both agree on it. Players may not play on illegal stages or change the length of a set.
- Stalling
 - Stalling, or intentionally making the game unplayable/delaying the play of a set, is banned and at the discretion of tournament staff. Stalling will result in a forfeit of the game for the player that initiated the action.
- Self-Destruct Moves
 - If a game ends with a self-destruct move, the results screen will determine the winner. If a sudden death occurs, a standard sudden death play-off game applies.
- Sudden Death
 - The results of an in-game 300% Sudden Death do count. If Sudden Death occurs in a Sudden Death game, this counts.
- Misinterpretation/Misconfiguration
 - Games or sets are not to be replayed due to a misinterpretation of the rules OR misconfiguration of game settings, excluding player-specific settings. Game settings should be configured according to the rules below. It is the players' responsibility to ask the official for any clarification of the rule set in the event of a disagreement, and the outcome of a game or set will not be changed after the fact unless under extreme circumstances. Judgment is reserved for tournament staff. In the event players begin a game with misconfigured player-specific controls (controller settings, etc.), **players may not back out of a game to**

correct their settings once ten seconds have passed. After this time limit has passed, players must use their misconfigured settings, subject to tournament staff discretion.

- Glitch Clause
 - If anything occurs within any game that results in unforeseen consequences (e.g. characters become invisible, sudden teleportation occurs, characters become affixed to other bodies, etc.), gameplay should continue uninterrupted unless the change renders the game unplayable for one or more players. In this situation, players should inform their pool captain or tournament staff for resolution.
- Modification Clause
 - This tournament series is for Vanilla Smash Brothers Ultimate, and as such any Modification to the game that changes it in any way from how Unmodified (Base Game) Smash Ultimate functions (Character Balance, Additional Characters, ect) is BANNED. Any Participant caught using such mods will be immediately and indefinitely banned and school may lose Showdown Points.
 - Cosmetic Mods that do not alter the way the Game function will be permitted
- Mii Fighter Clause
 - Mii Fighters are banned in general.

Game Settings

- Stock and time are determined at the time of Bracket
 - Final Smash Meter: Off
 - Spirits: Off
 - Damage Handicap: Off
 - Stage Selection: FD or BF or in agreement
 - Items: Off and None
 - Stage Morph: Off
 - Stage Hazards: Off
 - Launch Rate: 1.0x
 - Underdog Boost: Off
 - Pausing: Off
 - Score Display: Off
 - % Show Damage: Yes
 - Custom Balance: Off
 - Mii Fighters: All moveset combinations are legal
- Final Rulings
 - If any unforeseen situations occur, judgment by tournament staff is final. Rules may be altered between phases of a tournament in the best interests of the event. (Example: A game-breaking glitch is discovered on a stage mid-tournament that could be exploited. The stage may need to be removed from legal play for the remainder of the event.

Competition Rules: Non-Sporting Events

Note: Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from that category.

Brothers' and sisters' competitions will be separate, unless otherwise stated.
Any changes to the rules will be announced via an addendum and updated below.

Knowledge Bowl

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 Team per school

Purpose

The purpose of the Knowledge Bowl is to encourage participants to increase their Islamic knowledge, as well as knowledge of the world we live in.

Description

All teams participating in Knowledge Bowl will take a written test during the preliminary round. The top three scoring teams will advance to the final round (Jeopardy style) and compete by giving appropriate responses to point questions presented by the moderator.

Topics and Study Materials

The following topics are resources selected for this year's Knowledge Bowl.

- Topic I: Tafsir Ibn Kathir – Surah Al-Isra (Surah 17)
- Topic II: Seerah - Prophet of Mercy by Abul Hasan 'Ali Nadwi
- Topic III: Book - The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood by Rashid Khalidi
- Topic IV: Current Events - NPR World; World section only; articles dated on and between February 18 to February 25, 2024.

Rules and Procedures

- Each MSA will have the opportunity to register one team on the LSC website, with a list of team members by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT.
 - A team will consist of a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 4. No player may play for two different teams in the course of a tournament.
- All teams/team members competing must report to the competition site at the designated time. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the Knowledge Bowl.
- No notes will be allowed in any portion of the Knowledge Bowl.
- Cell phones, pagers, or any other electronic devices will NOT be allowed during the competition. Talking is NOT allowed during the written test portion, unless otherwise noted. Any violation of the rules will result in removal from the testing room and disqualification from the competition.
- Any decision made by the moderator is final. Arguing with the moderator will first result in a verbal warning or reminder. Subsequent instances of arguing will result in an immediate deduction of 50 points from the team score, with the possibility of expulsion and/or disqualification for excessive and/or repeated arguing.
- Matches will be played until all questions are answered or until the allotted 10 minute time is completed, whichever comes first.
- Only the finals round is open to audience observation. Any audience member who attempts to communicate with the competition teams in any way during the competition will be asked to leave the room. All cell phones must be silent in the competition room. No talking will be allowed.
- Cheating will not be tolerated. Any individual or team caught cheating will immediately be disqualified from the

competition.

- First through third place will be awarded according to highest points.

Preliminary Round

- The preliminary competition is a 60 question multiple choice written test, with 20 questions from each category. The test is divided into three booklets, one for each category.
- No notes of any kind may be brought into the testing room.
- Team members may communicate in writing but talking is prohibited.
- Test booklets may be written on and passed amongst the team members.
- Teams will have 30 minutes to complete all four portions of the written test. You may write on the test booklet. Final answers should be recorded on the corresponding answer sheet. Only answers written on the answer sheet will be graded.
- Booklets, answer sheets, and pens/pencils will be provided.
- The three teams with the highest test scores will advance to the finals round. Teams will be notified by LSC through the MSA's President or Showdown Coordinator, social media, and through the event app.

Final Round Rules

- The final competition is a 20 minute match consisting of two rounds, with a total of 36 questions; each round is 10 minutes and has 18 questions. The questions will be from all three categories.
- Both rounds will proceed -style with a team representative choosing the category and point value. For example, a team representative may say "History for 300, please."
- Each team will be provided a buzzer(s) to respond to the moderator's question. However, the team member who buzzes in and is acknowledged will be the only one to respond to that question. The team with the lowest score will start off by choosing a category and point value.
- Only the first answer given by a team member may be accepted.
- After the moderator has completed the question, teams are allotted ten (10) seconds to buzz in. The team member who buzzes in will have five (5) seconds to confer and provide an answer, after the moderator has recognized the team member. (*No points shall be awarded unless the team member is first recognized by the moderator.*) If no team buzzes in before the 10 seconds are up the question is considered dead and the team who originally chose the question will choose a new question.
- A correct answer is awarded full points and the team may select another question. An incorrect answer or elapsing the 5 second time frame will result in the loss of total question point value from the team's total points unless otherwise noted in the rules.
- If a team buzzes in prior to the entire question being asked, the moderator will stop reading the question immediately and the team member then has five (5) seconds to confer and answer the question. If an incorrect answer is given, the team will lose all of the points allotted for that question. The moderator will then read the question, in its entirety, to the remaining team(s) to buzz in and answer.
- The opposing teams will then have the opportunity to buzz in within ten (10) seconds after the question is repeated and answer the question within the allotted five (5) second time period and at half of the original point value. If the team provides an incorrect answer or elapses the 5 second time frame, the team will lose 1/2 of the question point value. If the team(s) chooses not to answer, no points will be added or deducted from the team(s) score. The moderator will then provide the answer and the team to whom the question was initially posed to will be able to choose another question.
- The team with the highest number of points at the end of the twenty (20) minutes is declared the winner of that

match. If the twenty (20) minute match time is completed in the middle of an answer, the team recognized is allowed to complete their answer. If it is missed, the other team(s) is allowed to provide an answer. No new questions may be asked after the ten (10) minute mark, unless there is a tie.

- In the event of a tie, one additional question may be asked as a toss up question. The first team to buzz in and answer correctly wins the question points. All final rules outlined above apply.

Round #	Style	Incorrect Response Attempt 1	Response Attempt 2 by other team	Incorrect Response Attempt 2	Time to Answer
1	Jeopardy	Loss of Points	Yes, ½ Points	Loss of ½ Points	5 seconds per attempt
2	Jeopardy	Loss of Points	Yes, ½ Points	Loss of ½ Points	5 seconds per attempt

Business Venture

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submission outline: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 3 individuals and/or 3 individual teams

Purpose

The purpose of Business Venture is to encourage participants to think outside the box to help aid worldly problems.

Description

1. Each school can have 3 individuals and/or teams competing in this competition. A team may consist of a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 6 people.
2. A venture related to the year's theme will be awarded additional marks. However, there are no points deducted if the theme is not reflected.
3. This competition consists of
 - a. A written Business Venture outline.
 - b. A 3-5 minute presentation.
4. Each team must have a student leader as a representative, but all team members should be involved in developing the written outline as well as the presentation of the project.
5. Competitors must submit their completed outline of their desired project by February 17th.
 - a. Must submit 3 printed copies for their Business Venture Outline with folders for the judges on the day of the competition labeled with their ID numbers.
6. Each team must present to a panel of judges for 3-5 minutes.
 - a. The presentation will be followed by a two minute question and answer session.
 - b. The focus of the presentation will be to pitch your idea with the goal of convincing judges to invest in your venture.
7. The presentation should include supplemental materials. These can include:
 - a. Product samples
 - b. Pictures or other visual or video aids (ex. PowerPoint, television advertisement, etc.).
 - c. Poster boards or display boards.
8. Project ideas must be original and innovative.
 - a. Submissions must be the entrepreneur's original idea - proof of origination should be available if requested by the judges.
 - b. The business idea may be new or already implemented.
9. The primary criteria the judges will use in evaluating the business venture will be: "Would I invest in this company?" Think, Shark Tank!

Outline Rules

The following is a list of requirements for the Business Venture Outline:

1. Typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font.
2. Cover page with the title of the project stapled on the left side.
3. The project outline should include visual aids, such as pictures, charts and graphs. Do not include any physical samples.
4. Format should be as follows and no more than 6 pages long:
 - a. Executive Summary: A summary of your business venture project, description of your project, market analysis, marketing plan and financial plan. Ensure this does not exceed 2 pages.
 - b. Introduction: Describe your product/service in detail.
 - i. What is the business? How does it work and how does it make money?
 - ii. What is the value of your product/service in the industry? What is the industry like?
 - c. Market Analysis: Who are your customers (i.e. the targeted market) and what are they like?
 - i. Who are your competitors and what are they doing?
 - ii. What are the market characteristics and size? Is it a growing market? Is there a demand for your product/ service?
 - d. Marketing Plan: How can you reach this market?
 - i. What is your overall strategy?
 - ii. What competitive advantage(s) do you have over your competitors?
 - iii. How will you test your product/service against your targeted market?
 - iv. Ensure that you detail the specifics of your marketing plan, including timelines, and specific marketing strategies.
 - e. Financial Plan: What does your budget look like and how will you monitor costs?
 - i. How much startup funding would you need and what would you do with the money?
 - ii. What is your profit potential?
 - iii. What key financial considerations do you need to take into account?
 - f. Project Viability: What are the biggest threats to your business venture and how will you address them?
 - i. Is the venture stable and growth oriented or speculative and risky?
 - ii. What are your risk factors and how will you address them?
 - g. Discussion: How will the project contribute to the Muslim community and the community at large?
 - i. How does it relate to this year's Showdown theme?
 - ii. What are some ways you can expand this project in the future?
 - h. Please note that the questions above are simply a guide. Teams do not need to answer all of the questions, however all topics (market analysis, marketing plan, financial plan...etc.) must be addressed.

Judge's Name: _____

Business Venture Ballot

_____ Technical (10 Points)

_____ (5 pts) Presentation is a minimum of 3 minutes, with a maximum of 5 minutes.

_____ (5 pts) The presenter(s) look credible and are dressed for an interview.

_____ Presentation Components (20 Points)

_____ (5 pts) Was the visual presentation neat, clearly comprehensible, and tied in with their project?

_____ (5 pts) Was the business venture clearly stated in the introduction? Was the introduction brief and concise?

Did the presenter preview and give focus to the key ideas?

_____ (5 pts) Did the presenter make effective use of signposting, internal summaries, and transitions? Was there a logical progression of ideas?

_____ (5 pts) Did the presenters conclusively tie the presentation together? Was there a note of finality?

_____ Presentation Delivery (20 Points)

_____ (5 pts) Was the delivery natural, lively, and spontaneous? Was the language precise, grammatically correct, and vivid?

_____ (5 pts) Did their delivery reinforce the ideas of the project? Did the presenters exhibit command of conversational style?

_____ (5 pts) Were their gestures varied, movement motivated, enunciation clear, and eye contact direct?

_____ (5 pts) Was there sufficient variety in rate, pause, and pitch? Was the language suitable enough to inform the audience?

_____ Presentation Analysis & Content (20 Points)

_____ (5 pts) Was the content informative? Was the information pertinent to their project idea? Was the information adequately documented?

_____ (5 pts) Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, visual aids, and/or expert opinion?

_____ (5 pts) Did the competitors approach the business venture in an original manner? Was the venture well thought out?

_____ (5 pts) Did the venture show initiative in thought and design?

_____ Business Venture Outline (30 Points)

_____ (3 pts) Does the Executive Summary identify the problem and the business proposition for solving the problem?

_____ (3 pts) Does the venture have a sound value proposition?

_____ (3 pts) Have the competitors developed the product concept clearly? Are key features and benefits of the product/service clearly described?

_____ (3 pts) Does the venture demonstrate a need/want for the product/service by customers?

_____ (3 pts) Does the Market Analysis show evidence of research and is well thought out?

_____ (3 pts) Is the Marketing Plan clear and is it appropriate for the chosen product/service?

_____ (3 pts) Are descriptions of target market segments and competitors clearly established and are their attributes clearly illustrated?

_____ (3 pts) Is the product/service feasibly marketable? Is there a demand? Is there sustainable competitive advantage?

_____ (3 pts) What is the likelihood of the business plan becoming a viable business? Could the venture be profitable?

_____ (3 pts) Have key financial considerations been taken into account adequately? Does the return clearly justify the investment and the risk involved in the project?

_____ (3 pts) Does the venture have high sensitivity to the actions of competitors, technology, the industry, etc.? Is the venture stable and growth-oriented or speculative and risky?

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Research Showcase

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for abstract pre-submission: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 3 individuals and/or 3 individual teams

Purpose

The purpose of the Research Showcase is to encourage participants to advance and/or start their own research projects of their own interest.

Rules and Procedures

- Three (3) copies of the abstract and any physical visual aids must be submitted to judges on-site, at the time of the competition.
- Presentation (Medium of choice)

Registration Guidelines

- The Research Showcase competition can be both an individual and/or team effort. A minimum of one (1) and a maximum of six (6) people can register for this competition per team.

Competition Guidelines

1. Competitors must submit an abstract (5 pages or less) of their desired science project by Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT.
 - a. This must include the title page, the abstract itself, bibliography and citations.
 - b. Submissions should include no identifiers aside from ID Numbers.
2. The presentation must be a minimum of 3 minutes and not exceed 5 minutes. There will be 2 minutes allocated for Q&A.
3. Visual aids are required along with the speech.
 - a. Visual aids can vary anywhere from a PowerPoint presentation to posters, pictures, props, and video clips (encouraged to include figures, pictures, tables, and graphs).
 - b. The three-paneled display board has minimum dimensions of 36" x 48".
4. In order for the science project to be complete each team must do their own active research.
 - a. The active research should consist of experiments, surveys, questionnaires, etc. and the results must be compiled and analyzed within the research paper.
 - b. If surveys and questionnaires have been conducted, they must be included in the presentation.
 - c. A scientific research question should be presented at the beginning of the abstract. The question should then be answered by the conclusion of the presentation.
5. At least two sources must be cited accurately within the abstract submission and a works cited page must be provided separate from the bibliography page that is required with the speech and visual aids.
 - a. Abstract and all citations must adhere to MLA format
6. This science project should consist of four components - Each team must prepare the following things:
 - a. Speech
 - b. Visual Aids
 - c. Bibliography as part of your abstract
 - d. Abstract (with active research included)

Judge's Name: _____

Research Showcase Ballot

_____ Technical (5 points)

- _____ (2.5 pts) The presenters appear professionally credible and appropriately dressed for an interview.
- _____ (2.5 pts) The presentation is 5-7 minutes.

_____ Abstract Rules (5 points)

- _____ (1 pts) The abstract is five (5) pages or less in length.
- _____ (1 pts) The font is 12-point Times New Roman.
- _____ (1 pts) The paper is double spaced.
- _____ (1 pts) The margins are 1" on each side.
- _____ (1 pts) Bibliography includes all works cited in the presentation, at least two sources are cited (MLA format).

_____ Visual Aid (5 points)

- _____ (2.5 pts) Was the display well organized so that the parts of the presentation are logical?
- _____ (2.5 pts) Did the presenter clearly tie their project with the visual aid(s) used?

_____ Introduction, Body & Conclusion (15 points)

- _____ (5 pts) Was the topic clearly stated in the introduction? Was the introduction brief and concise? Did the presenter preview and give focus to the key ideas?
- _____ (2.5 pts) Did the presenter make effective use of signposting, internal summaries, and transitions?
- _____ (2.5 pts) Was there a logical progression of ideas?
- _____ (2.5 pts) Was adequate time devoted to each section of the presentation within the 5-7 minute time limit?
- _____ (2.5 pts) Did the presenter conclusively tie the speech together?

_____ Scientific Thought (21 points)

- _____ (6 pts) Did the competitor ask his/her own original testable question that can be measured quantitatively?
- _____ (3 pts) Does the competitor have his/her own original hypothesis that can be quantitatively measured and answers the question?
- _____ (3 pts) Is that data quantitative and does it answer the question?
- _____ (3 pts) Are all variables original? Are they all considered and identified?
- _____ (3 pts) Were multiple trials performed if needed?
- _____ (3 pts) Was the data clearly interpreted? Were the conclusions accurately based on this data?

_____ Thoroughness (15 points)

- _____ (3 pts) Was the testable question original and the intellectual property of the competitor?
- _____ (3 pts) Did the competitor individually collect all data available?
- _____ (3 pts) Was the competitor able to explain any problems that arose?
- _____ (3 pts) Did the competitor relate the work to what was reported in the literature?
- _____ (3 pts) Was the study completed or brought to a logical stopping place?

_____ **Analysis and Content (20 points)**

- _____ (2 pts) Did the presenter answer the question clearly?
- _____ (4 pts) Was the content informative? Was the information pertinent to their specific topic? Was the information adequately documented?
- _____ (4 pts) Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, and/or expert opinion? Was scientific literature examined?
- _____ (4 pts) Was the study/research within the scope of the competitors' ability?
- _____ (4 pts) Did the competitor answer the question clearly?
- _____ (2 pts) Was the study well thought out and did it show the competitor's initiative in thought and design?

_____ **Abstract (10 points)**

- _____ (2 pts) Is the paper a maximum of 5 pages long?
- _____ (2 pts) Does the abstract have at least 2 cited sources on a works cited/reference page?
- _____ (2 pts) Is the formatting according to the MLA style?
- _____ (2 pts) Has active research been conducted by the team and have the results been compiled and analyzed within the submission?
- _____ (2pts) Is the research question present answered through the paper?

_____ **Bonus:** Four (4) bonus points can be given if the topic is relevant to the theme.

_____ / **100 Total Points**

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Catan

Brothers' and Sisters' competitions will be separate.

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 individual per gender per school

Purpose

The purpose of the Catan competition is to encourage participants to use critical thinking, problem-solving, and deep concentration skills.

Rules and Procedures

- Games follow CATAN 5th Edition rules.
- A limit of one (1) student per gender from each school may register for this competition; in total 2 people/school.
- Each game will contain a maximum of 6 players.
- Timed turn length is limited to three minutes. In the event a question needs to be clarified by a referee, the timer will be paused accordingly.
- Referees reserve the right to disqualify a player if they deem they have broken any rules.
- In the event a game runs over 2 hours, the players will finish out that round of turns. The player with the greatest amount of points at that time will be deemed the winner. If there is a tie, the player who reached that point value first will be deemed the winner.

Preliminaries

- Preliminaries will be held with multiple games occurring simultaneously. The number of games happening simultaneously will depend on the total registered competitors (a maximum of 4 games will occur simultaneously; 24 players).
- All matches will be randomized.
- The winner of each game will move on to the finals

Finals

- Match will either be a baseboard format for 1-4 players, or an expansion board for 5-6 players depending on how many registrants there are.
- 1st place will be determined by who wins the game.
- Subsequent places will be determined by the point totals of the other players. In the event there are ties, placing will be determined by which player reached that point value first.

Other Rules

- Players who are not present at the start of the round will be disqualified.
- If a player has any questions concerning the rules, they may raise their hand and talk to a referee.
- It is forbidden to distract or annoy the opponent in any way whatsoever. This includes talking and purposely offering trades when they have no intention of doing so.
- Spectators are not allowed.
- It is forbidden for players to have cell phones, or other electronic communication, computer, or media devices in the playing area (even if turned off).
- Good sportsmanship is expected of all players and will make the event a more enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Shaking hands with your opponent before and after a game is customary.

Tajweed

Brothers' and sisters' competitions will be separate.

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 3 individuals per gender per school

Purpose

The purpose of the Tajweed competition is to encourage students to learn the recitation of classical Arabic in which the Quran was first revealed.

*“Those to whom We have given the Book read it as it ought to be read.”
(Quran 2:121)*

Each person will be asked to read, with Tajweed, a random passage from Surah Maryam (Surah 19). Three competitors per gender, per school will be allowed to participate. All competitors will be asked to recite the same passage without knowing what the passage is prior to entering the competition room. Competitors are allowed to bring their own Quran, but a Tajweed Quran will not be allowed.

MSA Presidents or Showdown Coordinators must submit a list of Tajweed competitors by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the “Competitions Roster” found on the [LSC website](#).

Tajweed competitors will be assigned time slots at which time they must check in prior to competing. Competitors will be notified the week of Showdown of their time slot via email. Three minutes will be allowed for lateness. If a competitor fails to check in by this time, he/she will be automatically disqualified.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. Recitation category: Perfecting (mastering) the art of reciting the Quran and by respecting the correct outputs of the alphabets, phonetics, timing, and applying all the rules of Tajweed.
2. Articulation category: Perfecting the style of pronunciation of each Arabic letter and knowing where the sound of each letter comes from.
3. Performance Category: Perfecting (mastering) the performance process.

Tajweed Ballot

Tajweed Major Errors	Number of Errors	Notes
----------------------	------------------	-------

*1 error= 4 points off

Errors in Harakat - damma / fatha / kasra	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Lengthening Harakat/Shortening Madd Asli	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Makharij & Sifat	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Qalqalah	0	1	2	3	4	5+	

Total out of 80							
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Tajweed Minor Errors	Number of Errors	Notes
----------------------	------------------	-------

*1 error = 1 point off

Errors in Rules of Nun & Meem Sakinah	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Madd Fari	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Tafhim/Tarqiq of Ra	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Taghlidh of lam	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Errors in Waqf/Ibtida	0	1	2	3	4	5+	

Quran Memorization

Brothers' and sisters' competitions will be separate.

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 2 individuals per gender per school per level

Purpose

The purpose of the Memorization competition is to encourage students to learn and review the book of Allah SWT.

*“We have sent down the Remembrance, and we will preserve it.”
(Quran 15:9)*

Quran Memorization will be split into 4 categories, listed below.

Level 1	Surahs 87-114
Level 2	Surahs 78-86 (in addition to all the above)
Level 3	Surahs 67-78 (in addition to all the above)
Level 4	Surahs 36, 55, 56 AND choice of Surah 12, 18, 19, or 20 (in addition to all the above)

MSA Presidents or Showdown Coordinators must submit a list of Quran Memorization competitors by Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT using the “Competitions Roster” found on the [LSC website](#).

Competitors will be assigned specific time slots for their check-in prior to competing. Notification of these time slots will be sent via email during the week of the Showdown. Competitors will have a three-minute grace period for tardiness. If a competitor fails to check in within this timeframe, they will be automatically disqualified.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. Recitation category: Perfecting (mastering) the art of reciting the Quran and by respecting the correct outputs of the alphabets, phonetics, timing, and applying all the rules of Tajweed.
2. Articulation category: Perfecting the style of pronunciation of each Arabic letter and knowing where the sound of each letter comes from.
3. Performance Category: Perfecting (mastering) the performance process.

Quran Memorization Ballot

Minor Mistakes

- Heavy vs. Light - To overlook the rules of tafkheem and tarqeeq only when reciting the name of Allah and the letter Raa
- Ghunnah - Not to adhere to the the rules of izhaar, idghaam, iqlaab, ikhfaa, etc. in their respective places
- Prolongation - Not to prolong / stretch a letter when madd is present

Major Mistakes

- Incorrect Makhraj or Sifat - Not to pronounce letters from the correct place of articulation and their respective qualities, including qalqala, etc.
- Addition - To add on letters to words, or add entire words
- Omission - To leave off letters from words, or leave out entire words
- Replacement - To replace a letter for another, or replace entire words
- Change Harakah - To change the fat'ha, dhamma, or kasra
- To replace Harakah with Sukoon and vice versa
- To replace a fat'ha, dhamma, or kasra with a saakin and vice versa

Unable to Continue		Mistakes	
Reminder of beginning of verse from judge	-0.5 Point	Self-correction without being prompted	-0.5 Point
Continuation of verse by judge	-1 points	Self-correction with audible tap	-1 points
Unable to continue at all	-5 points	Self-correction with recitation	-1.5 Point
		Minor mistake not corrected	-2 points
		Major mistake not corrected	-3 points

Category	Mistakes and Comments	Subtotal
Passage 1 Memorization		_____ / 4 points
Passage 1 Pronunciation		_____ / 2 points
Passage 2 Memorization		_____ / 4 points
Passage 2 Pronunciation		_____ / 2 points
Passage 3 Memorization		_____ / 4 points
Passage 3 Pronunciation		_____ / 2 points
Tajweed		_____ / 2 points

Nasheed

Brothers' and sisters' competitions will be separate. Judging will be divided between individuals and group (2 or more people).

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: Solo: 2 individuals per gender per school, Group: 2 groups per gender per school

Purpose

The purpose of the Nasheed competition is to allow students to express themselves by combining their intellectual & vocal skills.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. The performance may be up to 3 minutes and 30 seconds long, WHICH INCLUDES a 15 second introduction. Any performance that goes more than 15 seconds longer than the allotted 3 minutes and 30 seconds time may be automatically disqualified.
2. The lyrics and presentation style must be Islamically appropriate; therefore, no inappropriate words or gestures should take place during the performance. Duff is permitted for background enhancement.
3. The competitors must explain the background and meaning of the Nasheed prior to their performance.
4. The Nasheed may be presented individually or in a group. These categories will be judged separately.
 - a. A competitor may compete in a maximum of 1 solo and 1 group (2+ people) categories.
5. Extra points will be given for originality, but groups may present Nasheeds written by other people, as long as the source is cited prior to the performance. We encourage competitors to perform traditional nasheeds or get creative and reframe a popular song to make it their own.
6. A competitor may participate at most in one solo and one group performance of any size.
7. There is a limit of 2 individual and 2 large group (no max to large group) performances per gender per school. MSA Presidents or Showdown Coordinators must submit a roster on the LSC website using the "Competitions Roster".
8. Specific performance criteria that will be judged includes: harmony, vocal style, pronunciation, and body language.

Performance Time: _____

Category: Individual / Group

Nasheed Ballot

The performance may be up to 3 minutes and 15 seconds long WHICH INCLUDES a 15 second introduction. Any performance that goes more than 15 seconds longer than the allotted 3 minutes and 15 seconds time may be automatically disqualified.

_____ Performance (60 possible points)

_____ (15 pts) Harmony

_____ (15 pts) Vocal style

_____ (15 pts) Pronunciation, enunciation, understandability

_____ (15 pts) Rhythm, flow and pitch

_____ Lyrics (40 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Explanation of meaning and background of the song

_____ (10 pts) Originality/creativity

_____ (10 pts) Islamically appropriate

_____ (10 pts) Clearly relates to the theme

Short Film

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 3 entries per category (Drama & Comedy)

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Purpose

The purpose of the short film category is to allow MSA members to express their creative interests through film and audiovisual mediums.

1. Short films must relate to this year's theme of "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms"
2. Schools may submit up to three films per category.
3. All film submissions are due by Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT. Films received beyond this deadline will not be considered.
4. Films must be submitted into one of the following categories: Drama or Comedy. These will be judged separately and will result in awards for the top three in each category.
5. All films must be submitted and uploaded through YouTube.
 - a. NOTE: Copyright rules are strictly enforced on YouTube, so please ensure all audio follows the guidelines or the site will automatically block the content. See [here](#) for more info on copyright laws.
6. Films must include open captioning or will be disqualified. Option captioning means that the captions are embedded into the film and viewers are not given the option to close/turn off the captions.
7. Films must be no more than 10 minutes in length, including opening and closing credits. There is a 10 second grace period. If the film exceeds the time limit, it will be automatically disqualified. Films may be considered for placing if the quality and film is exceptional.
8. Films must maintain Islamic Adhab. Any films containing inappropriate scenes, language, or dress code will not be tolerated and will be disqualified. LSC reserves the right to determine what is appropriate.
9. Music use is permitted. Songs with lyrics should be Islamically appropriate in content (no swearing, no sexually explicit language or references, etc.). Please use your best judgment, and if in doubt, send an email to bod@msa-texas.org. LSC reserves the right to determine what is appropriate.
10. Each film must be submitted along with the submission form (found on the [LSC website](#)) explaining the inspiration for the film, stories of how the MSA achieved unity through making the film, or any other relevant information.
11. Teams will be given 2 minutes before the film is viewed to provide an introductory context at the Film Festival at Showdown.

Run Time: _____

Category: Comedy/Drama

Short Film Ballot

Films must be no longer than 10 minutes in length. Any film that exceeds the 10 minute time limit and the 10 second grace period will be automatically disqualified.

_____ Story (40)

_____ (10) Is the film relevant to the theme?

_____ (10) Is the video inspiring?

_____ (10) Is the storytelling clear and cohesive?

_____ (10) Is there artistic creativity and vision?

_____ Acting and Dialogue (20)

_____ (10) Does the dialogue effectively contribute to the story/narrative?

_____ (10) Are the performers and onscreen talent well directed and utilized?

_____ Cinematography (20)

_____ (5) Is the film well-lit?

_____ (5) Is the camera-work efficient?

_____ (5) Is the picture clear and in focus?

_____ (5) Does the film include a variety of shots/angles?

_____ Editing and Audio (20)

_____ (5) Does the film avoid jump-cuts and unnecessary edits?

_____ (5) Does the editing enhance the quality of the film?

_____ (5) Is the audio easy to understand?

_____ (5) Does the sound effects enhance the quality of the film?

Promo Video

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 1 entry per school

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Purpose

The purpose of the promo video is to allow MSA members to express their creative interests and represent their school to stir excitement and awareness of Showdown.

1. Videos must be no more than 1:30 minute in length including opening and closing credits. There is a 5 second grace period. Videos exceeding the 1:45 time limit will automatically be disqualified.
2. All promo videos must be submitted on the MSA's official Instagram handle as an IGTV video, as well as on YouTube.
 - a. Copyright rules are strictly enforced on YouTube, so please ensure all content follows the guidelines or the site will automatically block the content. See [here](#) for more info on copyright laws.
 - b. If an MSA is experiencing issues with posting on their MSA's Instagram account, please contact the LSC.
3. After posting the video on both YouTube and Instagram, use the hashtag #MSAShowdown2024 to submit your entry. Be sure to tag @msalsc on Instagram.
4. Promo videos must maintain Islamic Adhab. Any video containing inappropriate scenes, language, or dress code will not be tolerated and will be disqualified. LSC reserves the right to determine what is appropriate.
5. Music is NOT permitted. Usage of the duff is allowed.
6. Schools may only submit one promo video.
7. Videos must include open captioning for any non-lyrical dialogue or will be disqualified.

Run Time: _____

Promo Video Ballot

Videos must be no longer than 1 minute in length. Any video that exceeds the 1 minute time limit and the 10 second grace period will be automatically disqualified.

_____ Story (40)

_____ (20) Is the video relevant to the purpose of unity?

_____ (20) Is the video inspiring?

_____ Acting and Dialogue (20)

_____ (10) Does the dialogue effectively contribute to the story/narrative?

_____ (10) Are the performers and onscreen talent well directed and utilized?

_____ Cinematography (20)

_____ (10) Is the video well-lit?

_____ (10) Is the picture clear and in focus?

_____ Editing and Audio (20)

_____ (10) Does the editing flow well?

_____ (5) Is the audio easy to understand?

_____ (5) Does the music and sound effects enhance the quality of the film?

PSA: Public Service Announcement

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 3 entries per school

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Purpose

The purpose of the PSA is to allow MSA members to express their creative interests through film and audiovisual mediums while conveying a positive message to the Ummah.

1. Schools may only submit three entries for PSA.
2. All PSA submissions are due by Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT. Videos received beyond this deadline will not be considered.
3. Videos must be between 45 and 75 seconds. Any seconds below or over will result in deductions.
4. All videos must be submitted through YouTube.
 - a. NOTE: Copyright rules are strictly enforced on YouTube, so please ensure all content follows the guidelines or the site will automatically block the content. See [here](#) for more info on copyright laws.
5. Videos must maintain Islamic Adhab. Any videos containing inappropriate scenes, language, or dress code will not be tolerated and will be disqualified. LSC reserves the right to determine what is appropriate.
6. Music is NOT permitted. Usage of the duff is allowed.
7. Each video must be submitted along with the submission form (found on the [LSC website](#)) explaining the inspiration for the video, the topic addressed, any other relevant information.

Public Service Announcement (PSA) Ballot

PSAs must be no longer than 75 seconds in length. Any PSA that exceeds the 75 second time limit will be automatically disqualified.

_____ Story (40)

_____ (10) Is the PSA relevant to the Ummah?

_____ (10) Is the video related to our general theme of Love for Allah and/or his creations?

_____ (10) Is the storytelling clear and cohesive?

_____ (10) Is there artistic creativity and vision?

_____ Acting and Dialogue (20)

_____ (10) Does the dialogue effectively contribute to the story/narrative?

_____ (10) Are the performers and onscreen talent well directed and utilized?

_____ Cinematography (20)

_____ (5) Is the video well-lit?

_____ (5) Is the camera-work efficient?

_____ (5) Is the picture clear and in focus?

_____ (5) Does the video include a variety of shots/angles?

_____ Editing and Audio (20)

_____ (5) Does the film avoid jump-cuts and unnecessary edits?

_____ (5) Does the editing enhance the quality of the film?

_____ (5) Is the audio easy to understand?

_____ (5) Does the music and sound effects enhance the quality of the video?

Art: 2D, 3D, & Calligraphy

Competitors can submit, at most, one piece per category. Categories will be judged separately.

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Deadline for in-person submission: Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries per category (2D, 3D, Calligraphy) per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site. Pre-submission is for approval and the artist's statement only.

Purpose

The purpose of this category is to encourage artistic expression of Islamic concepts, teachings and thoughts.

1. Schools may only submit five entries for each category. Entries may be done collaboratively or individually.
2. Artwork should aim to capture this year's theme, "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms".
3. Be as creative as possible, but please ensure your art conforms to Islamic guidelines. A general shape of a human or animal is allowed; however, specific features such as eyes and nose are not allowed. Plants, landscapes, and inanimate objects are allowed. Please use your best judgment, and if in doubt, send an email to bod@msa-texas.org. Abstract art is definitely encouraged.
4. You may bring art that you have made in the past, or make art just for this competition.
5. Please limit your art to **1 submission per category per entry**. If the pieces are small (ex: tiny sculptures, small paintings that are at most 8 in x 4 in.), then you can bring up to 3 to be judged as a collective entry for one category.
6. If you are unsure which category to submit a piece through, please contact LSC at bod@msa-texas.org.
7. 2D art is defined as anything two dimensional including but not limited to paintings, graphic design, murals, and drawings.
8. 3D art is defined as anything three dimensional including but not limited to sculptures, pottery, and paper mache.
9. All artists must complete the art pre-submission form (found on the [LSC website](#)) by the deadline for approval.
 - a. Pay close attention to the "Art Piece Explanation" and the guidelines for this section, as listed on Art Ballot.
 - b. DO NOT include your name on the art itself; only write your name in the submission form and the email for submission.
 - c. Indicate the names of all the individuals who created the piece on the pre-submission form, if done collaboratively.
10. Judging will take place in person so please bring your art piece to Showdown.

Important Note: Art may be left without supervision at times. Table space will be provided to place your art piece. Make sure to bring the appropriate tools/materials you need to mount your submission. If your submission needs to be put on an easel, bring it with you. Make sure it can get through the door. All artwork will be checked again at the door for final approval.

2D Art Ballot

_____ Artist Statement (40 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose and motivation for artwork is explained

_____ (10 pts) Decision-Making: How did the person go about making the submitted piece, i.e. what steps were taken to create the piece?

_____ (10 pts) Creativity and Expression: In what ways does this artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?

_____ (10 pts) How does the artwork relate to the theme?

_____ Artwork (60 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose: There is evidence in the artwork of the student's effort to achieve the stated purpose.

_____ (10 pts) Technique: The artist chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.

_____ (10 pts) Organization: Uses elements and principles of art effectively, choosing those which enhance the overall appearance of the work.

_____ (15 pts) Personal Expression: Expression is unique & fully developed to present original concepts in imaginative and inventive ways.

_____ (15 pts) Visually Appealing: Does the piece catch one's eye and portray a message?

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

3D Art Ballot

_____ Artist Statement (40 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose and motivation for artwork is explained

_____ (10 pts) Decision-Making: How did the person go about making the submitted piece, i.e. what steps were taken to create the piece?

_____ (10 pts) Creativity and Expression: In what ways does this artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?

_____ (10 pts) How does the artwork relate to the theme?

_____ Artwork (60 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose: There is evidence in the artwork of the student's effort to achieve the stated purpose.

_____ (10 pts) Technique: The artist chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.

_____ (10 pts) Organization: Uses elements and principles of art effectively, choosing those which enhance the overall appearance of the work.

_____ (15 pts) Personal Expression: Expression is unique & fully developed to present original concepts in imaginative and inventive ways.

_____ (15 pts) Visually Appealing: Does the piece catch one's eye and portray a message?

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Calligraphy Art Ballot

_____ Artist Statement (40 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose and motivation for artwork is explained

_____ (10 pts) Decision-Making: How did the person go about making the submitted piece, i.e. what steps were taken to create the piece?

_____ (10 pts) Creativity and Expression: In what ways does this artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?

_____ (10 pts) How does the artwork relate to the theme?

_____ Artwork (60 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Purpose: There is evidence in the artwork of the student's effort to achieve the stated purpose.

_____ (10 pts) Technique: The artist chooses and controls media and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work.

_____ (10 pts) Organization: Uses elements and principles of art effectively, choosing those which enhance the overall appearance of the work.

_____ (15 pts) Personal Expression: Expression is unique & fully developed to present original concepts in imaginative and inventive ways.

_____ (15 pts) Visually Appealing: Does the piece catch one's eye and portray a message?

Photography

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Deadline for in-person submission: Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site. Pre-submission is for approval and the artist's statement only.

Purpose

The purpose of this category is to encourage artistic expression of Islamic concepts, teachings, and thoughts through the medium of a camera.

1. Schools may only submit five entries for this competition.
2. Entries may be done collaboratively individually.
3. The photographer should try to aim to capture this year's theme, "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms".
4. Be as creative as possible, but please ensure your photography conforms to Islamic guidelines. Humans or animals are allowed. Please use your best judgment, and if in doubt, send an email to bod@msa-texas.org. Abstract photography is definitely encouraged.
5. This will be judged as an individual participant submission (not group).
6. You may bring photos that you have shot in the past or take new photos just for this competition.
7. Competitors must submit 3-5 photographs to be counted as one submission.
8. All artists must complete the photography pre-submission form (found on the [LSC website](#)) in its entirety for their submission to be approved.
 - a. Be sure to pay close attention to the "Photography Explanation" and the guidelines for this section, as listed on the Photography Ballot.
 - b. DO NOT include your name on the photography itself; only write your name in the submission form.
 - c. Indicate the names of all the individuals who created the piece on the pre-submission form, if done collaboratively.
9. Judging will take place in person so please bring your photography pieces to Showdown.

Important Note: Art may be left without supervision at times. Table space will be provided to set each piece; however, you may bring a stand to mount your submission, if you'd like. If your submission needs to be put on an easel, bring it with you. Make sure it can get through the door. All photography will be checked again at the door for final approval.

Photography Ballot

_____ Written Explanation (30 possible points) (200 words or less)

_____ (15 pts) Purpose/Vision: Purpose and motivation for photo is explained

_____ (15 pts) Decision-Making: How did the person go about making the piece, i.e., what steps were taken to create the piece?

_____ Artwork (60 possible points)

_____ (15 pts) Purpose/Vision/Concept: There is evidence in the photo of the participant's effort to achieve the stated purpose. Is the concept of the photo original or is it a rendition of an original? Does it express the photographic vision intended/explained?

_____ (15 pts) Composition: Is there a sense of order & balance that helps to lead the eye through the composition? The subject is clear and not competing with other elements of the photograph. Are there any erroneous elements included that take away from the subject? Does the depth of field, focus/sharpness, detail, lighting, angle, crop and perspective enhance the composition?

_____ (15 pts) Technique: The participant chooses and controls photographic elements and tools effectively to enhance the appearance of the work. Does the exposure/contrast/saturation/color help enhance the overall appearance of the photo?

_____ (15 pts) Creativity/Expression: Expression is unique & fully developed to present original concepts in imaginative and inventive ways. Does the photo disclose more about the subject, or show it in unexpected ways? Is the photo interesting and fresh? Does it elicit emotion/awe factor?

_____ Theme (10 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Clearly relates to/incorporates the theme.

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Event Photography

Deadline for submissions: Sunday, March 3rd @ 10:00 AM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 entry per school

1. The photograph should aim to capture this year's theme of "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms".
2. This competition takes place during Showdown. Be as creative as possible, but please ensure your photography conforms to Islamic guidelines. As with general photography, humans or animals are allowed. Please use your best judgment, and if in doubt, send an email to exec@msa-texas.org. Abstract photography is definitely encouraged.
3. This is meant to be a collaborative piece from each school; therefore, only ONE submission is allowed per school.
 - a. All participants can take pictures but they will have to collaborate with their respective MSA President or Showdown Coordinator on which picture to submit for their school.
4. If you happen to use people as objects in your photograph, please consult them for permission to submit that photograph.
5. DSLR, SLRs, point and shoot, film, and phone cameras are allowed.
6. Computer editing of photography is allowed.
7. Please submit the entry by emailing exec@msa-texas.org no later than Sunday, March 3rd @ 10:00 AM CT. Be sure to include your name and your MSA's name in the email.

Event Photography Ballot

_____ Content (100 possible points)

_____ (20 pts) Captures the essence of the theme

_____ (20 pts) Creativity/Originality

_____ (20 pts) Relates to theme

_____ (20 pts) Written explanation on submission form supports paragraph

_____ (10 pts) Clarity of idea and image

_____ (10 pts) Technique

Written Poetry

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries per school

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Purpose

The earliest Muslim poets can be dated back to the 6th century or before. The purpose of this competition is to reflect on Islam through poetry and provide insight into topics that are best understood and interpreted through poetic mediums.

1. Poems should relate to the theme of “Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms” and can be written in any style or meter.
2. This competition is NOT a team effort. Competitors must individually complete their submission form found on the [LSC website](#).
 - a. DO NOT include your name on the poem itself; only write your name in the submission form and the email for submission.
 - b. Poems must be submitted in PDF format.
3. The written version must be single-spaced in 12-point font. Poems can be designed in any manner and can incorporate different shapes, if needed.
4. Poems must be original. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
5. Poems must be in English. Any non-English words must have context to its usage so that the judges may understand its meaning.
6. The written poetry composition will be a maximum of 750 words. All abbreviations, acronyms (excluding a, an, the) will be counted. Only the first 750 countable words will be judged.
7. Poems must adhere to Islamic beliefs and customs. Those that do not meet this criterion will be disqualified. Obscene language will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification.
8. Only 1 entry is allowed, per competitor.

Please note: If entering both Poetry Performance and Written Poetry, your pieces must be different poems. Dual submissions are subject to disqualification.

Written Poetry Ballot

_____ Poem Content and Appropriateness (35 points)

_____ (5 pts) Is the title clearly stated?

_____ (15 pts) Is the poem thoughtful and holds a deeper meaning? Does it tell a story? Is the message/meaning clear?

_____ (15 pts) Is the poem inclusive/reflective of the theme?

_____ Word Choice & Voice (35 points)

_____ (15 pts) Does the writer use appropriate words to set the mood/tone of the poem? Do the words used help to paint a story in the reader's mind? Do they stir emotion?

_____ (10 pts) Are words utilized to communicate both a literal and suggested meaning? Do the chosen words help convey the main idea of the poem?

_____ (10 pts) The poet displayed passion through the word choice and voice of the poem about his/her topic.

_____ Technical Poetic Elements (30 points)

_____ (5 pts) Correct use of grammar, spelling, or punctuation as it flows with the poem

_____ (5 pts) Do the chosen words create a rhythm, beat and/or pattern that flows naturally? Does it create a tempo that matches the message of the poem?

_____ (20 pts) Use of creative language such as rhyme, metaphors, similes, personification, alliteration, etc.

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Ready Writing

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 3 individuals per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site.

Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to encourage Muslim students to express their beliefs and opinions through words by refining their writing abilities.

1. Competitors will choose between two prompts from which to write an expository composition. The prompts will be an excerpt from literature, publications (past and present), or speeches. Only one writing prompt may be chosen for composition.
2. Competitors will have exactly 2 hours to write their piece, either through personal laptop or by hand.
3. Competitors can bring their own personal laptop. Otherwise, a packet with lined paper and pens will be provided for a competitor to write by hand.
 - a. If writing by hand, the competitor shall write on only one side of the paper.
4. Competitors will only be able to use their own physical thesaurus or dictionary during the competition. No other resource materials may be used or provided during the competition.
5. Compositions can be editorial/opinion pieces, fictional stories, autobiographical accounts or personal narrative, but must be in the form of an essay.
6. Compositions must adhere to Islamic beliefs and customs. Those that do not meet this criterion will be disqualified. Obscene language will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification.
7. Entries cannot include your name, school, or other identifying information.
8. Compositions must be in English. Any non-English words must have context to its usage so that the judges may understand its meaning.
9. Only 1 entry is allowed, per competitor.
10. Sample essays can be [viewed here](#).

Ready Writing Ballot

_____ Organization (25 possible points)

_____ (9 pts) The introduction grabbed the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls.

_____ (8 pts) There was an adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control.

_____ (8 pts) Writer tied the essay together in his/her conclusion and there was a note of finality.

_____ Interest (20 possible points)

_____ (10 pts) Writer showcases originality of thought.

_____ (5 pts) Writer took a unique approach and stayed on topic throughout the entire essay.

_____ (5 pts) The theme or message was clear.

_____ Word Choice (15 possible points)

_____ (4 pts) Writer used thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the reader's mind.

_____ (4 pts) Writer used strong action verbs that help support the essay's message.

_____ (3 pts) Writer used precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message.

_____ (4 pts) The overall usage of words created color and texture in the description. Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

_____ Sentence Fluency (12 possible points)

_____ (4 pts) Writer varied sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences.

_____ (4 pts) When read aloud, it flows smoothly and has a rhythm to it.

_____ (4 pts) There was a logical development of ideas.

_____ Voice (21 possible points)

_____ (7 pts) The reader displayed passion about his/her topic.

_____ (7 pts) The tone was natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression.

_____ (7 pts) Writer captured a tone or mode with his/her words.

_____ Conventions (7 possible points)

_____ (2 pts) Free of spelling mistakes.

_____ (2 pts) Free of punctuation mistakes.

_____ (2 pts) Free of grammatical mistakes.

_____ (1 pts) Free of capitalization mistakes.

Rules and ballot adapted from the University Interscholastic League (UIL).

Prepared Essay

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 3 entries per school

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to encourage Muslim students to express their beliefs and opinions through words by refining their writing abilities.

Procedure

1. Competitors shall write about any topic that reflects this year's theme. The topic chosen must refer to authentic sources of Islamic knowledge, as well as to historical facts.
2. The written essay must be typed or word-processed and double-spaced. a. It must be on white, 8.5 x 11 paper.
3. The essay MUST have a cover page.
4. If outside sources are used, proper MLA citations as well as a "Works Cited" page must be included in the essay.
5. No forms of AI are permitted for this competition. Any usage is grounds for point loss and/or disqualification.
6. Competitors must individually complete their submission form found on the [LSC website](#).
This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
 - a. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
 - b. Entries can be double or single-spaced.
7. The written essay shall be a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,000 words.
 - a. All abbreviations, acronyms (excluding a, an, the) will be counted.
 - b. Only the first 2,000 countable words will be read.
8. Competitors will be judged according to the Prepared Essay Ballot.
9. Only 2 entries per school.

Competitor Checklist

- Does the essay have a cover page with the title and ID number only?
- Is the essay between 1,500 - 2,000 words?
- Did the writer address their topic and take a unique approach in addressing the topic?
- Was the theme or message clear to the reader?
- Was there outside information used and cited within the essay?
- Was there an adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs and precise nouns that help support the essay's message?
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the description? Was it clear that the writer took risks?
- Does the reader show passion about his/her topic?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?
- The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
- Essay is easily understandable for Muslim and non-Muslim alike?

Prepared Essay Ballot

_____ Organization (25 possible points)

- _____ (9 pts) The introduction grabbed the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls.
- _____ (8 pts) There was an adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control.
- _____ (8 pts) Writer tied the essay together in his/her conclusion and there was a note of finality.

_____ Interest (20 possible points)

- _____ (5 pts) Writer showcases originality of thought.
- _____ (5 pts) Writer exhibited analytical acuteness and overall coherence of exposition.
- _____ (5 pts) Writer took a unique approach and stayed on topic throughout the entire essay.
- _____ (5 pts) The theme or message was clear.

_____ Word Choice (15 possible points)

- _____ (4 pts) Writer used thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the reader's mind.
- _____ (4 pts) Writer used strong action verbs that help support the essay's message.
- _____ (3 pts) Writer used precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message.
- _____ (4 pts) The overall usage of words created color and texture in the description. Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

_____ Sentence Fluency (12 possible points)

- _____ (4 pts) Writer varied sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences.
- _____ (4 pts) When read aloud, it flows smoothly and has a rhythm to it.
- _____ (4 pts) There was a logical progression of ideas.

_____ Voice (21 possible points)

- _____ (7 pts) The reader displayed passion about his/her topic.
- _____ (7 pts) The tone was natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression.
- _____ (7 pts) Writer captured a tone or mode with his/her words.

_____ Conventions (7 possible points)

- _____ (2 pts) Free of spelling mistakes.
- _____ (2 pts) Free of punctuation mistakes.
- _____ (2 pts) Free of grammatical mistakes.
- _____ (1 pts) Free of capitalization mistakes.

Performance Poetry

Poetry submissions will be performed in front of the general audience. Only 2 competitors per registered MSA can compete.

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 2 individuals per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site. Pre-submission is for approval purposes only.

Purpose

The earliest Muslim poets can be dated back to the 6th century or before. The purpose of this competition is to reflect on Islam through the recitation of poetry and provide insight into topics that are best understood and interpreted through poetic mediums.

1. Poems must be in English and should relate to the theme of “Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms”.
2. A poetry submission form is REQUIRED to be submitted by the performer themselves. A typed copy of the poem to be performed must also be submitted with this submission form, which can be found on the [LSC website](#). Submissions received beyond the deadline will not be considered, unless otherwise decided by the judging panel.
3. Poems must be original; thus the author and presenter must be the same person. They can be performed in any meter or style.
4. Poems must adhere to Islamic beliefs and customs. Those who do not meet this criterion will be disqualified.
5. A performance component is part of the judging ballot. If you do not feel comfortable performing in front of a mixed audience, you might consider submitting the piece as a written poetry submission.
6. Competitors will be given timeslots to perform in front of the audience and panel. Failure to appear on time will result in disqualification.
7. Competitors will have up to 30 seconds to introduce themselves and their poem, and up to 4 minutes to perform their piece. Competitors will be given a 15 second grace period. Performances (including introductions) over 4 minutes and 45 seconds will be stopped.

Please note: If entering both Poetry Performance and Written Poetry, your pieces must be different poems. Dual submissions are subject to disqualification.

Performance Poetry Ballot

The competitor has up to 4 minutes & 30 seconds for introduction and complete poem delivery.

_____ Poem Considerations (65 possible points)

Poem Content and Appropriateness (55 points)

_____ (10 pts) With the knowledge available, is the poem an original work, written, and presented by the author?

_____ (15 pts) Is the poem thoughtful and holds a deeper meaning?

_____ (15 pts) Does the material have literary merit?

_____ (15 pts) Is the poem coherent and reflective of the theme?

General Poetic Elements (10 points)

_____ (5 pts) Is the mood for the poem set?

_____ (5 pts) Is the information relevant and sufficient to the meaning of the poem?

_____ Delivery (35 possible points)

Tone of Voice (15 points)

_____ (15 pts) Tone: Did the speaker's tone match that of the poem?

Interest and Demeanor (20 points)

_____ (10 pts) Was the performance captivating?

_____ (5 pts) Understandability in terms of pronunciation/enunciation.

_____ (5 pts) Confidence

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Extemporaneous Speaking

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: 2 individuals per school

Note: Extemporaneous speaking is an on-site competition that will be judged at Showdown.

Purpose

The purpose of extemporaneous speaking is to deliver an engaging and coherent speech, without the help or guidance of preparation.

1. Only 2 competitors per school will be allowed to compete. Their names must be submitted by the MSA President or Showdown Coordinator on the “Competitions Roster” found on the [LSC website](#).
 - a. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.
2. Paper and pen/pencil will be provided, but competitors may bring their own. Competitors are not allowed to bring any outside material, with the exception of a mobile device or laptop.
3. Participants may, if they choose, bring references (books, the Quran, etc.) If any reference is used, the participant **MUST** cite the reference during his or her speech. The use of reference material is *optional*.
4. 15 minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the others. The other competitors shall draw in a similar manner, in their speaking order, at seven-minute intervals.
 - a. Topics are to be phrased in the form of a question. Topics will not necessarily require reference materials, but will require an understanding of contemporary issues affecting Muslims domestically and internationally.
 - i. Example topic: Does a significant rift exist between African-American Muslims and immigrant Muslim communities?
 - b. After the competitor has chosen a topic, the competitor will withdraw to the preparation area and have 15 minutes to plan his/her speech without conferring or exchanging information with anyone. No prepared notes or outlines will be allowed in the preparation room. Reference to books, websites, magazines and a bibliographical file is permitted. Once a competitor has chosen a topic, she/he may neither change from nor alter that topic. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech.
5. During the content, the time limit for speaking is seven minutes maximum with a *30-second grace period*. Violation of this rule will result in the competitor being ranked last in the round when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.
 - a. A note card may be used.
6. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the speech.
7. This competition will have one round only.

Extemporaneous Speaking Ballot

____ Section A: Technical (10 possible points)

____ (5 pts) Participant is on time for the competition and looks dressed for an interview.

____ (5 pts) Did the speech last less than seven minutes? If yes, did it end before the 30 second grace period finished?

____ Section B: Content (35 possible points)

____ *Introduction* (10 possible points)

Did the speaker get the audience's attention? Was the topic clearly stated/addressed? Did the speaker preview and give focus to the key ideas?

____ *Body* (15 possible points)

Was adequate time devoted to each division within the 7-minute time limit? Was there a logical progression of ideas?

____ *Conclusion* (10 possible points)

Did the speaker tie the speech together? Was the answer to the question clear? Was there a note of finality?

____ Section C: Presentation (45 possible points)

____ *Analysis & Content* (15 possible points)

Did the speaker answer the question? Was the content informative? Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, and/or expert opinion? Was the information pertinent to the selected topic?

____ *Delivery* (15 possible points)

Was the delivery natural, lively, and spontaneous? Was volume appropriate? Did the speaker exhibit poise and confidence? Were gestures varied, movement motivated, and eye contact direct?

____ *Language* (15 possible points)

Was the language precise, grammatically correct, and vivid? Did the speaker exhibit command of conversational style?

____ Section D: Speech Ranking (10 possible points)

Rate the entire experience from 1 to 10 (1 being very poor; 4 to 6 being average; 10 being exceptional).

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Children's Storybook Design

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Deadline for in-person submission: Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site. Pre-submission is for the artist's statement only.

Purpose

Participants create an illustrated children's story of high artistic, instructional, social, and religious value. The narrative may be written in prose or poetry and take the form of a fable, adventure story, or other structure. The physical story book should be of high quality, designed to meet the year's given theme.

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries/school

Each submission will have to design the overall storybook, illustrations, writing, and content themselves.

1. Entries may be done collaboratively or individually.
2. The story must be no more than 1,500 words and the physical storybook should not exceed 12"x12" when closed. There is no limit on the number of inside pages (may be one-sided or two-sided).
3. There should be a minimum of seven (7) illustrations that enhance the story and deepen one's understanding and enjoyment of the reading experience. The illustration must be original, freehand, and/or computer-generated drawings by the team member(s).
 - a. Physical or computer templates, previously existing drawings, characters, etc. are not permitted. No copyrighted material is permitted.
4. Design should aim to capture this year's theme of "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms".
5. Be as creative as possible, but please ensure your art conforms to Islamic guidelines. Humans, animals, plants, landscapes, and inanimate objects are allowed. Please use your best judgment, and if in doubt, send an email to bod@msa-texas.org.
6. Competitors will be asked to pre-submit a written statement that includes the story's intent, summary of storyline and theme, intended audience, word count, a list of software (if any) and tools used in the creation of the storybook, and a breakdown of collaborators (if team submission). Pre-submission forms can be found on the [LSC website](#).
7. Judging will take place in person. You will be asked to read the storybook to judges and answer any questions they may have.

Important Note: Art may be left without supervision at times. Table space will be provided to place your art piece. Make sure to bring the appropriate tools/materials you need to mount your submission. If your submission needs to be put on an easel, bring it with you. Make sure it can get through the door. All artwork will be checked again at the door for final approval.

Children's Story Book Design Ballot

_____ (50 pts) Technical

- _____ (10 pts) Is the book creative/original in its storyline, artwork, and conception?
- _____ (10 pts) Do the Illustrations match the storyline to provide a good visual experience?
- _____ (10 pts) Is the expression fully developed and presented in imaginative ways?
- _____ (10 pts) Does the piece catch one's eye and portray a message?
- _____ (10 pts) Is it free of grammatical errors?

_____ (40 pts) Organization

- _____ (10 pts) Are the storyline, illustrations, and message displayed in a quality manner?
- _____ (10 pts) Does the book contain elements of the theme?
- _____ (10 pts) Is the storyline consistent, engaging, and can be consumed by children?
- _____ (10 pts) Does the book use elements and principles of art effectively?

_____ (10 pts) Presentation

- _____ (10 pts) Rate the entire presentation from 1 to 10.

Rules and ballot adapted from Technology Student Association (TSA).

Fashion Design

Deadline for roster & individual competitor registration: Friday, January 28th @ 11:59 PM CT

Deadline for pre-submissions: Saturday, February 17th @ 11:59 PM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Deadline for in-person submission: Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT (include ID numbers, no name/university)

Maximum entries per school: 5 entries per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site. A pre-submission form is required for the artist's statement.

Purpose

The purpose of the fashion design category is to encourage MSA members to express their creativity in the form of fashion design.

1. The portfolio should include the following items:
 - a. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 outfits
 - i. The outfits must include a mix of adult men and adult women outfits. It is up to the discretion of the competitor to decide the number of outfits for each gender.
 - b. Each outfit should have the following:
 - i. One (1) 5"x7" to 8.5"x11" illustration of each design as worn, in color, matted and mounted on heavy paper or poster board enclosed in an 8.5"x11" page protector to protect the design.
 - ii. Two (2) flat design sketches (working/detail sketches) for each outfit.
 1. Example: front and back flats should be in black and white so the details can be seen easily.
 - iii. Description and sewing notes
 1. Included in this section should be details in the design, illustration and/or sketches.
 - iv. The illustration (photographs are not acceptable) must be clean, neatly mounted or matted. Colored pencils, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, colored pen/ink, or crayons may be used.
 - c. The philosophy and how you are going to use this year's theme as inspiration to make a collection (your inspiration can be combined with other defined inspirations).
 - d. A "Mood" or "Inspiration" page of the image(s) that inspire your collection.
 - e. A fabric swatch/color palette page
 - f. Images included should relate to your overall philosophy.
2. The outfits can either be on a figure or as a colored flat (i.e black and white flats or colored). Competitors are welcome to make xerox copies of their flats and color on top.
3. Competitors will be asked to pre-submit a written statement that includes the purpose and inspiration behind the collection, materials for the palette, and any tools or software used. Submissions can be found on the [LSC website](#).
4. Competitors are encouraged to be original in all their designs. Sketches must fulfill all the basic requirements below:
 - a. Modest in nature while exuding creativity.
 - b. Inspire comfort, confidence, and dignity.

5. Each participant will be interviewed by a judges' panel for five (5) minutes in order to describe the purpose and inspiration of the artwork.
 - a. Competitors should be ready to explain any details, parts, and characteristics in the design that are outstanding or unusual.
 - b. Judges may ask competitors what they think makes their designs different from others.
6. Both the interview and the portfolio will be judged according to the Fashion Design Ballot.
7. We recommend that participants use a sturdy portfolio that has all required items securely intact.
8. Click here to view a [sample of the portfolio \(pg. 26\)](#).

Important Note: Art may be left without supervision at times. Table space will be provided to place your art piece during the Gallery viewing and judging. Make sure to bring the appropriate tools/materials you need to mount your submission. If your submission needs to be put on an easel, bring it with you. Make sure it can get through the door. All artwork will be checked again at the door for final approval.

Fashion Design Ballot

_____ (45 pts) Design & Technical

_____ (10 pts) Are the garments creatively expressed in a modest manner?

_____ (10 pts) Do the designs inspire comfort, confidence and a sense of dignity?

_____ (10 pts) Are the selected fabrics for the garments such that college students wear them hassle free?

_____ (10 pts) Media and tools are effectively chosen and controlled to enhance the appearance of the design. Portfolio shows superior level of skills in the production and execution of each design

_____ (5 pts) Expression is unique & fully developed to present original concepts in imaginative and inventive ways.

_____ (35 pts) Overall

_____ (20 pts) Is the portfolio well organized, with necessary descriptions, and in theme? Is the idea/theme uniquely expressed? Do all elements come together? Is the concept fresh and intriguing?

_____ (10 pts) Is the theme expressed in a unique or skillful manner?

_____ (5 pts) Does the piece catch one's eye and portray a message?

_____ (15 pts) Presentation

_____ (5 pts) Was the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?

_____ (10 pts) Rate the entire presentation from 1 to 10.

Rules and ballot adapted with permission from Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST).

Physical Scrapbook

Each university may submit only one physical scrapbook.

Deadline for in-person submission: Saturday, March 2nd @ 10:00 AM CT

Maximum entries per school: 1 entry per school

Note: This competition is judged on-site but competitors must submit their entry on the LSC website.

Purpose

The purpose of the Scrapbook competition is to allow students to display the achievements of their MSA and help present ideas from which other MSAs may benefit. These scrapbooks will be put on display so that other students have a chance to see what your MSA has accomplished!

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. **Cover:** The name of the university must be clearly displayed on the cover, and the book must be constructed with durable materials.
2. **Content:** The creativity and organization of the content will be assessed, and there must be enough explanations provided (in the form of captions, short blurbs, or titles) for the judges to understand what each page is representing.
3. **Artistic Quality:** neat lettering, balance, style & design, and overall aesthetic appeal will be judged.
4. Points will be given for presenting a variety of events that demonstrate the activity of the MSA.
5. Scrapbook should include recent events from the past two full semesters.
6. The scrapbook cannot exceed \$250 in value. Anything above \$250 will be disqualified.
7. Each item (purchased or otherwise) must be included in an inventory with an estimated price and a grand total. Bring this document with your scrapbook on Showdown weekend. Scrapbooks will not be accepted without the inventory.

Make sure to seek permission from your MSA members before including their pictures in the scrapbook.

Scrapbook Ballot

_____ Cover (10 possible points)

_____ (2 pts) Does the name of the MSA appear on the cover page?

_____ (4 pts) Is the scrapbook attractively designed?

_____ (4 pts) Is the construction of the scrapbook sturdy?

_____ Content (35 possible points)

_____ (5 pts) Are visual materials appropriately used?

_____ (5 pts) Is there sufficient coverage of activities?

_____ (5 pts) Is there a variety in the content of the materials and events presented?

_____ (5 pts) Is the method or style of organization appropriate?

_____ (5 pts) Are there titles on appropriate pages?

_____ (10 pts) Is there sufficient journaling to understand what was going on?

_____ Artistic Quality (25 possible points)

_____ (8 pts) Is there an appropriate balance of artwork and lettering?

_____ (6 pts) Are the materials color coordinated?

_____ (6 pts) Are the style and design aesthetically pleasing?

_____ (5 pts) Are the pages creatively laid out?

_____ Overall Effect of Submission and Team (30 points)

_____ (20 pts) Activity level of the school's MSA

_____ (10 pts) Completeness and thoroughness of the scrapbook

T-Shirt Design

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, January 6th @ 1:00 PM CT

Maximum entries per school: ∞ entries/school

Note: This is a pre-judged competition. No on-site judging will be held for this competition at Showdown.

Members from MSAs across Texas are encouraged to submit t-shirt designs for the 17th Annual MSA Showdown, which are to be worn by all early registrants.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. The design must creatively pertain to this year's theme of "Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms".
2. The design must include the words "MSA Showdown".
3. The design should not be handwritten and must be done on the computer (so the printing of the t-shirts is as close to the design submitted as possible).
4. The submission should include the design for the front of the t-shirt only.
5. The design must be at most in two colors; the color of the shirt does not count as a color.
6. The font used should be easy to read.
7. The design and text must be Islamically appropriate.
8. Use of any artificial intelligence will be disqualified.
9. The designer's name cannot be on the design (to ensure no biases). Any identification information found on the design will be removed prior to judging.
10. Multiple submissions are accepted.
11. Please anticipate requests from LSC for certain changes to a design if it wins, such as color changes or additions of logos or other information.
12. The t-shirt should not contain Quranic ayahs (in English or Arabic) so people can wear the shirts anywhere without it being disrespectful to the Quran (i.e. the restroom or in a place of uncleanness).
13. Submissions **MUST** be received via the submission form on the [LSC website](#) by the deadline. Designs submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Have fun with this competition! It's meant to be an exchange of creative ideas.

#RaceToShowdown2024

Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to promote MSA engagement by encouraging MSA members to travel to cities other than their own & meet members from different MSAs across Texas.

#RaceToShowdown is one of the most competitive contests for MSA Showdown. RTS asks MSA members to “journey” from one city to the next, collecting pictures and memories as fast as they can. This year, we invite MSA members to partake in RTS with a deeper meaning and purpose.

Our Showdown theme is “Earthly Seeds to Heavenly Blossoms”, working towards our Akhirah by leaving our legacy in this Dunya. At LSC, our mission is to be “The Meeting Ground for Goodness”, wherein we act as facilitators for meetings full of blessings and mercy. And what better way to serve as the “Meeting Grounds for Goodness” than through the most beloved places to Allah SWT – the Masajid. Alongside accomplishing tasks that will improve our community, is a perfect balance.

For a complete explanation and breakdown of the rules, view the full length document [here](#).

Project Sadaqa, Supporting our Brothers' & Sisters' in Palestine

Baitulmaal x Islamic Relief USA

Purpose

Created by MSA Lone Star Council (LSC), Project Sadaqa is an annual collaborative effort from all MSAs to give back to those in need. This initiative started in 2013 when Texas MSAs came together at the state capitol to volunteer. Project Sadaqa aims to build relations with our community by volunteering our time and efforts to help those in need. From now until Showdown 2024, MSA members will raise as many funds as possible with their respective schools. At the end of the given time frame, the funds will be collected from all the schools by LSC and donated to the cause chosen for this year.

Who is Baitulmaal & Islamic Relief USA?

Baitulmaal was established in Dallas, Texas with supplemental offices internationally to provide life-saving, life-sustaining and life-enriching humanitarian aid to underserved populations around the world. Since then, Baitulmaal has helped those across the world, including Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and many more. More specifically in Gaza, Baitulmaal is blessed to have direct field workers supporting healthcare in the West Bank and currently operating 400 water tanks. In addition they have provided winter aid, emergency aid, medications & supplied, food assistance, orphan sponsorship and more.

In coalition with Islamic Relief USA, since 1993, they have operated in the United States providing relief and development assistance to individuals & communities in need, regardless of their race, religion or nationality - ultimately making them one of the world's largest independent Muslim charities. More specific to Palestine, IRUSA have been on the ground in Gaza for the past 25 years and receive immediate updates of needs, ready to act. With governments not providing assistance, it is crucial that humanitarian needs are supported as 80% of their basic needs are met through this.

May Allah SWT free Palestine, from the River to the Sea, ameen.

What are we funding?

Since 1967, Palestine has been under occupation under Israel in which families are being killed and displaced, with their basic rights and needs stripped away from them. Through a long-standing genocide resulting in poverty, food insecurity and lack of healthcare, countless Palestinians are in urgent need of assistance. Under a united ummah, we must support our brothers' & sisters' in every way we can. It doesn't stop at donation, but rather a supplement to protests and education.

Rules:

1. Schools will be competing to fundraise the most amount of money for Project Sadaqa. MSA's will be competing against the schools in their respective bracket (Tier 1-3) to ensure fairness of having similar resources.
2. The first place school *in each bracket* will win 35 Showdown points. The second place will win 30 Showdown points and third place school will win 25 Showdown points.
 - ADDITIONALLY, any school may receive 15 Showdown points if they are able to fundraise a certain minimum amount. This minimum amount will be different for each MSA Tier. The specific amount set for each tier will be released at a later time before the competition begins.
3. Competition ranking is determined by the total money raised through an MSA's respective Launchgood campaign (including online & offline donations).
4. The total amount of funds collected per MSA will be determined through the Launchgood Page total by Friday, March 1st @ 11:45 PM CT. Please be sure the MSA LaunchGood page reflects the funds that have been collected (online & offline).
5. All MSAs participating in Showdown are encouraged to create a Project Sadaqa campaign through Launchgood by Monday, January 1st @ 11:45 PM CT. Details on this process will be released at a later date.
6. ONLY the MSA President or Showdown Chair creates the Launchgood page.
7. All offline donations (cash & checks) will need to be turned in by Friday, March 1st @ 11:45 PM to any LSC officer or via Venmo (@msalsc) or Zelle (treasurer@msa-texas.org). Please be sure the MSA LaunchGood page reflects the funds that have been collected offline as well.
 - If using Venmo or Zelle, include the following in the description: *MSA name + Project Sadaqa offline donations*.
 - Do not send us a donation every time an offline donation is collected. Only send us your total offline donations collected.
8. Use #ProjectSadaqa2024 to be featured on LSC's social media platforms!

Project Sadaqa Brackets

Because some MSAs may have more resources and members than others, the LSC has divided schools into three groups depending on the number of members in each MSA and the MSA’s activities. You will only be competing with schools in your group. These brackets will ONLY be used for Project Sadaqa and not for all of Showdown.

Bracket 1
University of Houston Texas A&M University University of Texas University of Texas at Dallas University of Texas at Arlington University of North Texas
Bracket 2
Texas Tech University Collin College University of Texas at San Antonio Texas Christian University University of Houston - Clear Lake Rice University Texas State University Austin College Southern Methodist University
Bracket 3
University of Texas at El Paso St. Edward’s University University of Texas at Tyler Prairie View A&M University Richland College TWU Denton TWU Dallas Trinity University Southwestern University University of Oklahoma

Team Spirit

Purpose

The purpose of this category is to promote unity and brotherhood/sisterhood among MSA chapters. When MSAs exhibit teamwork, anything can be accomplished.

Team Spirit is split into three categories. Each category will have one school as its winner, and the winning school will receive 5 Showdown points. LSC will be the ultimate judge of this.

- Best Chant (10 points)
Schools will be judged based on chants performed during Roll Call. Schools should aim to exhibit creativity and uniqueness. Schools who chant out of turn at Roll Call **WILL** receive negative points based on LSC's discretion.
- Best School Drip (10 points)
Schools will be closely monitored throughout the Showdown weekend and judged based on their school uniformity in terms of merch/outfit coordination.
- Most School Hype (10 points)
This category will be evaluated on the student's representation of their school by their spirit gear, participation, and other school related paraphernalia. Schools utilizing prohibited material (as outlined in General Guidelines) will receive negative points.

Any derogatory remarks or actions made toward other teams or any other sort of unacceptable behavior will result in teams **LOSING POINTS OFF OF THEIR OVERALL SCORE**. MSA officers from each school will be notified if there is an issue before disqualification.