



United States Academic Pentathlon®

2026 – 2027 Competition Year

The premier scholastic competition for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students!

OVERVIEW

- ◆ United States Academic Pentathlon is the newest program from the United States Academic Decathlon®. This premier national scholastic competition for middle school students was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual competition.
- ◆ The five-event academic program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome inter-school academic competition, and to further develop student communication skills.
- ◆ Academic Pentathlon is uniquely designed to include students with a wide variety of academic abilities.

GETTING STARTED

- ◆ Academic Pentathlon teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members. All students must be currently enrolled in grades 6–8. Each team must consist of at least two “A” students, at least two “B” students, and at least two “C or below” students. The team score will be determined by the sum of the top two student scores in each GPA category. The GPA Calculation Form can be found on the [USAP web page](#).
- ◆ Teams advance through local, regional, and state levels of competition. The state champions compete in the national finals. MOST Academic Pentathlon competitions take place online in a virtual testing environment, so there is no travel required for teams! The National Academic Pentathlon competition is held in a physical location.
- ◆ Academic Pentathlon teams are encouraged to partner with local high school Academic Decathlon teams, perhaps having Academic Decathlon students serve as mentors to Pentathlon students.

CURRICULUM

- ◆ Academic Pentathlon’s curriculum is an interdisciplinary curriculum in which a selected theme is integrated across five different subject areas: fine arts, literature, mathematics, science, and social science.
- ◆ The Academic Pentathlon theme parallels that of the high school Academic Decathlon program.
- ◆ The theme for the 2026-2027 will be *Journeys of Transformation: An Exploration of Travel and Transportation*. The themes are developed by our curriculum team with special attention to national content standards.
- ◆ The materials will be available for downloading in PDF format on August 1st each year. The site license fee allows you to download as many copies as needed. Novels may be purchased via online vendors such as Mrs. Nelsons Book Company or your regular school vendors.. The featured novel for 2026-2027 will be *The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)* by Rick Riordan, ISBN-13: 9781368051477.
- ◆ All test questions will be derived from the USAP curriculum.

For more information, please contact Tara Brown, U.S. Academic Pentathlon

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United States Academic Pentathlon®

2026–2027 School Registration Form

Important Dates

ALL Registration Documents Due (Forms found on USAP website)December 4, 2026
National Competition Registration DueApril 8, 2027

Important Competition Dates

Scrimmage – Subject Area Exams Only January 7, 2027
Essay for Regional Competition January 21, 2027
Regional Competition February 11, 2027
Essay for State Competition March 4, 2027
State Competition March 25, 2027
Essay for National Competition April 22, 2027
National Competition - TBA May 20-22, 2027

Available Products

AUGUST 2025

Registration & Curriculum Site License \$300.00
Online Testing Subscription (per student)\$10.00

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Practice Quiz Booklet\$45.00
Novel Chapter Quizzes\$45.00
Super Quiz Relay PowerPoint Tests.....\$45.00
Pentathlon Essay Guide\$40.00

Materials can be purchased at materials.usad.org.

2026-2027 Novel



The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1)

by Rick Riordan

Paperback – Unabridged, April 1, 2006

ISBN-13: 9781368051477

This can be ordered from Mrs. Nelson Book Company.

Their order form is found on pentathlon.org.

USAP® • P.O. Box 4351 • Mankato, MN 56002

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