

A parent's guide to Nationals

Bible Quiz Nationals is a single event but Nationals season spans from Mini-camp in February to the actual tournament near the end of April. During this time, it is a significant commitment to join a team, due to practices, regional tournaments and more. It will involve extra driving, and some costs. This sheet is a basic primer to get you started!

WHAT CHANGES? For Nationals season, teens leave their regular season teams and are put on new teams. Team selection is based off of the combination of points scored during regular season and how well the quizzers does at mini camp. Quizzers are then placed on teams with others who scored similarly. One team of the top quizzers is drawn from both leagues mixed together. The other teams are formed from one league (east or west) to make practices scheduled by the team closer for the quizzers.

At Iowa and Regionals, quizzers will be sleeping on the floor of churches. They should plan to bring any bedding they need. At Nationals, each quizzer will be assigned a room with two other quizzers and an adult. Usually the other quizzers are from their team.

Most tournaments have two components: round robin quizzing and bracket quizzing. Round robin quizzing is a series of randomly assigned match-ups that happen in the early part of the tournament (Thursday and Friday for Nationals). The last part of the tournament is bracket quizzing. Teams are assigned a starting place based on their record from the round robin quizzing. Throughout the day the teams move up with wins and down with losses, until three teams remain for a championship quiz or round of quizzes. If you know in advance that a quizzer will miss one or more tournaments, please let the quiz director know when you register, as this may affect what team the quizzer is placed on.

Between tournaments, practices are scheduled at the TFC ministry center on most Saturdays. These practices are not optional, quizzers should plan to attend most or all of the practices. The coach of a team may elect to schedule additional practices on different days of the week. These "extra" practices are a little more flexible.

Expenses outside the initial cost to attend Nationals are minimal, mostly for food since that is not included. For Iowa, quizzers should bring money or food for lunch and dinner on the road. They should either bring or buy breakfast for Saturday because there are no food options at the church. Lunch is then on the road back. Depending on the time, the vehicles may stop for dinner before arriving back. At regionals, quizzers are fully responsible for their food. At Nationals, quizzers will need to plan and shop with the other people in their room for their food. Rooms go grocery shopping together once they have arrived at Nationals. Sometimes there is an option to go out to eat in the evenings.

Quizzers must travel to Nationals with their team. This will be in vehicles assigned by TFC. Often these are charter buses or school buses, but sometimes the numbers require us to put one or more teams in a TFC van. We will make every effort to be fair, but we can't guarantee a particular quizzer will get to ride in a particular form of transportation.

Aside from food, many teams choose to buy team shirts in addition to the ones provided by Teens For Christ. Teens may also wish to bring money to Nationals to purchase a quiz book for the next year's material.

The "*National's fact sheet*" is a great resource for detailed rules and specifics on each year's tournament.