

ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST COMPETITION

Sponsored by the PETER SOLOMON Fund for Academic Excellence and the World Affairs Council of the Desert

The *World Affairs Council of the Desert* is joining with the *Peter Solomon Fund for Education Excellence* to sponsor an enhanced **Academic WorldQuest**, a team game testing competitors' knowledge of world affairs, geography, history, culture, countries, current events, and more. Please read carefully since there are important differences from previous years.



NEW THIS YEAR

- * Cash Prizes will be awarded to **each student** on the top three teams: 1st Place \$500; 2nd Place \$300; 3rd place \$200.
- * The competition will be held on a Thursday evening rather than a Saturday morning.
- * Each coach will receive a \$225 stipend and a one year free membership to the World Affairs Council of the Desert providing member prices to dinner/speaker meetings during the 2009-10 season.
- * Pending available funding, the winning team and coach will receive an expense-free trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the National Academic WorldQuest competition to be held in Spring 2010. For this trip, the coach of the winning team will receive an additional \$775 stipend.

WHAT MAKES UP A TEAM?

A team consists of 4 high school students. They can be freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. Also, each team must have a coach.

PLEDGING A TEAM

To pledge a team, submit the Entry Form on or before **October 15, 2009** to cwporter01@aol.com or fax it to 760 200-5199. The Entry Form and other pertinent information is available at http://pdc.csusb.edu/Porter_Room.htm. There is no fee for pledging a team. **Each high school may enter one team.** Pending available space, a 2nd team may be considered.

DATES AND LOCATION OF THE LOCAL COMPETITION

The Academic WorldQuest competition is scheduled for **Thursday, December 3, 2009** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Indian Wells Theater at the Palm Desert Campus of California State University San Bernardino located at 37-500 Cook Street in Palm Desert. Students and team coaches are expected to arrive by 4:30 p.m.

BRING YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Teams are encouraged to bring family members, friends and school administrators to cheer them on during the competition. **Spirit Awards** will be given to teams with the *Most Spirit*, *Most Appropriate International Dress*, and *Most Professional Dress*.

HOW TO PLAY

The competition is a contest between 4-person teams, each representing a high school. The competition is moderated by a prominent figure in the field of international affairs or journalism. Teams compete by answering rounds of PowerPoint questions. A full competition is 50 questions, with 10 questions per round. Each team has to submit a single answer to each question. The team with the highest number of correct answers wins. Trophies are awarded to the top three teams, plus other kinds of prizes and gifts are given.

CONTEST QUESTIONS

There will be 5 rounds with each round consisting of 10 questions. Most questions will have four multiple choice answers, a few will be “fill in the blank.” Questions will be projected on a screen by PowerPoint and will be read aloud by a Master of Ceremonies. Teams will have 45 seconds to discuss each question and write down their answer. Answer sheets will be collected at the end of each round.

The questions are grouped into 5 Subject Areas. These three categories include:

- 1) Great Decisions 2009** (based on the *Great Decisions 2009* publication - one provided per team) The 8 topics are: U.S. & Rising Global Powers; Afghanistan/Pakistan; Energy & the Global Economy; the Arctic; U.S. & Egypt; Global Food Supply; Cuba after Castro; and, Universal Human Rights.
- 2) Current Events:** September to December 2, 2009
- 3) People in the News:** September to December 2, 2009
- 4) Countries:** This topic includes facts on history, geography and/or governments of other countries of the world.
- 5) World History:** This topic focuses on turning points that shaped the modern world and the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to international relations. (Refer to the *History-Social Science Standards for California Public Schools* for Grade 10).

A STUDY GUIDE and sample questions from previous competitions are available at http://pdc.csusb.edu/Porter_Room.htm.

