

2018 Hellenic History Tournament

The Hellenic History Tournament is a competition for high school students about the 3500-year-long history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers). It is open to students in grades 8-12 at competition time. There is only one other eligibility requirement: If a participant has been a first place winner in two previous tournaments, he or she cannot participate again. Participants have an opportunity to win a share of the \$4,500 in prizes. Joe Keane, Chairman, AHEPA Hellenic Cultural Commission and Ex-Chairman, AHEPA Educational Foundation, has called the tournament “the best use of our chapters' education dollars”.

Contestants must form their own 3-member teams, elect a team captain, and invent their team names. After they contact their local AHEPA chapter and receive confirmation that the chapter will sponsor them, they each fill out their personal registration form along with a \$25 registration fee and mail it by the registration deadline, which June 30. In return, each contestant receives a copy of “Hellenika, Heritage and History” by T. Peter Limber, the book used as a basis for most of the competition questions. Contestants have the summer to study the book. If a student already has this book, the registration fee is only \$10.

Chapter sponsorship means that an AHEPA chapter (or a Hellenic organization in an area where there is no AHEPA chapter) agrees to pay a fee ranging from \$300-\$400 towards the tournament expenses – mostly for the \$4,500 in student prizes. The specific amount will depend on the total number of teams participating. The more teams, the lower the fee.

The tournament takes place during a single Saturday in the fall (November 3 in 2018). All contestants who physically make it to the tournament venue receive a certificate of participation before the competition starts. During a match, each question and four multiple choice answers are projected onto a big screen from the computer monitor. Questions are read and answers recorded by adult moderators. The computer keeps a running log of the teams' scores. The visual projection of questions, answers and scores simulates an exciting TV quiz show environment and keeps the audience aware and involved. The team that answers most of the 24 questions correctly is the winner of the match.

Teams compete in simultaneous matches in successive rounds. If the total number of teams is even, the first 3 rounds are used to allow each team to play 3 other teams chosen by lot. If the total number of teams is odd, the first 2 rounds allow each team but one to play 2 other teams, and the 3rd round is a single match that pits the 2 teams that played only one other team against each other. At the end of the 3rd round, the top 4 teams based on the cumulative scores are selected to play in the 4th round (the semifinals). In round 4, the 2 teams that lose their match are eliminated. The two winning teams go on to compete against each other in the 5th and final round. At the end of the final match, the three members of the winning team are awarded a \$1,000 prize and a Hellenic History Trophy each. The three second place winners receive \$500 each.

The AHEPA chapter that sponsors the first-place team receives the Hellenic History Trophy cup, gets to inscribe the chapter number and name on it, and keeps the cup for a year, until it has to turn it over to the chapter that sponsors the following year's winners.

For additional information, look at <http://www.ahepad7.org/> (in the Hellenic History section)

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