

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS
OF LOUISIANA

ACEL 
ARTS & ACADEMICS

Academics Handbook

2025-2026

General Information	p. 3
Bible and Geography Bowls	pp. 4-6
Spelling Bee	p. 7
Exhibit Fairs	pp. 8-10

1. Participants

- Must be enrolled in an ACEL organization,
- be in the 6th-12th grades,
- be 11-19 years of age,
- be academically eligible per ACEL guidelines (2.5 GPA)

2. Divisions

- middle school (6th-8th grades)
- high school (9th-12th grades)
- At this time, the arts and academics fairs do not have the participation rates to warrant using these divisions when adjudicating or choosing place awards. As participation grows, we may be able to implement these divisions.

3. Entry

- 1-2 months before the event, an online registration form will be added to the ACEL Arts and Academics web page.
- Teams will be registered as a group, not individually.
- An online payment system will be set up on the ACEL website; alternate instructions are posted for mail-in payments.
- Bowl teams may list a single alternate member in case of injury or illness.

4. Lunch

- Academics Festival: participants may pack lunch and eat in the school courtyard or cafeteria. Crossroads Country Store is a 6-minute drive away and serves burgers, chicken strips, and home-style plate meals.

5. Dress Code for Events

- Business casual/Sunday dress
- For bowls, teams may wish to wear a team t-shirt

ACEL Bible and Geography Bowls 2026

Contents:

1. Teams
2. Preliminary Schedule
3. Study Material for Bible Bowl
4. Study Material for Geography Bowl
5. Game Play
6. Adjudication

1. Teams

- Bible Bowl teams will have 4 team members, with at least one member representing each gender. You may include an alternate on your roster, but the alternate may not be a part of another team for the same event.
- At this time, ACEL does not recognize middle school or high school categories/brackets for this event. When designing the bracket for the event, however, the age ranges of the teams will be considered. This is subject to change if enough interest warrants having separate brackets, therefore separate awards.
- Each organization may enter up to two teams, however, if an organization enters two teams for the same event, there must be a marked division in age grouping. Schools should not enter two teams of high school students or two teams of middle school students. It is recommended that your organization hold its own competition to determine which group should be delegated to the event.
- Teams should be dressed in Sunday dress/business casual, or may wear a team tshirt.

2. Preliminary Schedule

- The Bible Bowl will be an auditorium event during the Academics Festival.
- It will take place as the first event and begin at 9am.
- A finalized bracket will be emailed to the team director after registration has closed.

3. Study Material for Bible Bowl

- We will be utilizing *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* by J. Stephen Lang published by Tyndale House Publishers
- This book is written in a question-answer format and is broken down into several "Parts."
- For the 2026 Bible Bowl, we will ONLY utilize Parts 7-10 (we will utilize different parts each year while keeping the book the same).

- It is fully noted that the author of the trivia book in use does not shy away from ANY topic in the Bible. The quiz master WILL OMIT questions dealing with the demonic, whoredom, circumcision, etc. You may use these as “fun” lessons during your study time, but we will not embarrass or traumatize your students by asking questions that deal with these topics during the event.
 - Some questions may be re-worded or “flipped” at the commissioner’s or quiz-master’s discretion, but the information will remain the same. For example, we may choose to say “woman” instead of “prostitute” for the sake of younger audience members; or we may ask “What did Jesus turn the water into at the wedding at Cana?” rather than asking “Who turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana?” The purpose of this would be to emphasize the learning of information over the learning of memorized facts. An alternate reason for this is that questions may have to be re-used during the event.
4. Study Material for Geography Bowl
- We will be utilizing TWO study books:
 - *The Mighty Geography Quiz Book: Over 1,000 Multiple-Choice Trivia Questions About The World Around Us!* by Megan Moran
 - *The US Geography Trivia: The Ultimate American Geography Quiz Book For Geography Lovers, 300 Multiple Choice Questions about Interesting Geography Facts, Monuments, Historical Sites, and Much More* by Sarita Hafit
 - The *Mighty Geography Quiz Book* is broken down into several “Sections.” For the 2025 Geography Bowl, we will ONLY utilize Sections 9-18 of the book (we will utilize different parts each year while keeping the book the same). If future capabilities permit, projected images of maps, country silhouettes, and flags may be added to the bowl.
 - Some questions may be re-worded or “flipped” at the commissioner’s or quiz-master’s discretion, but the information will remain the same. The purpose of this would be to emphasize the learning of information over the learning of memorized facts. An alternate reason for this is that questions may have to be re-used during the event.
5. Game Play
- There will be five regular rounds of ten questions each. Rounds will be from each “Part” or “Section” of the study book.
 - Bible: Part 7 will covered in two rounds.
 - Geography: There will be 5 regular rounds of 10 questions each.
 1. Round 1: Sections 9 and 11
 2. Round 2: Section 10
 3. Round 3: Sections 12-13
 4. Round 4: Sections 14-16
 5. Round 5: Sections 17-18
 - There will be a US round of twenty questions from the US geography study book.

- A button-style buzzer system (Retekess TM102) will be used, and every member will be able to buzz for each question.
 - If a single member has answered four questions in a single round, that member will be “buzzed out” for the remainder of the round.
 - If a question is answered incorrectly, the first member of the other team that had hit his buzzer will be allowed to answer. If the second answer is also incorrect, neither team will receive the points for that question. If the second answer is correct, the team will receive half of the points.
- After the regular rounds of game play, a Final Question will be asked. Each team will discuss the answer and write it down along with a “wager” of points. If answered correctly, the team will be awarded the number of points wagered. If answered incorrectly, the team will lose the number of points wagered (as in Jeopardy!).

6. Adjudication

- The team with the most points at the end of a match will advance in the bowl bracket.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies will be awarded to each of the top-performing teams along with a medal for each member.
- If only three teams enter, a 3rd place award will not be awarded. If only two teams enter, a 2nd place award will not be awarded.

ACEL Spelling Bee 2026

The link to the spelling word list is on theacel.com/artsacademics.

Contest A is for middle school (6th-8th grades) only. Contests A and B are for high school (9th-12th grades). Champion lists are for the final words in each contest.

- When the student's name is called, he should quickly and quietly step forward.
- The student will be orally given a word to spell. The student should repeat the word, slowly and clearly spell it, then repeat the word again. (Dog, d-o-g, dog)
 - judges will write the letters down as he says them
- Before the student begins, he may ask for a
 - repeat of the word (up to 3 times),
 - definition,
 - origin,
 - or for the word to be used in a sentence.
- Once he begins spelling the word,
 - he may not make corrections. Once a wrong letter is pronounced, it cannot be changed.
 - he may restart a word using the same letters he has already pronounced. He should stop, say "I am going to start over," then begin pronouncing the letters again from the beginning of the word. (Spark, s-p-a, I am going to start over, s-p-a-r-k, spark)
 - If you start over and change the letters, the word will be considered incorrect.
 - You'll be given no more than 30 seconds to complete the spelling of the word.
- If he spelled the word incorrectly, he should return to his seat on the stage until the end of the round. At the end of the round, if enough students spelled their words correctly, he may step down from the stage and sit in the auditorium. Disqualified students and audience members are not to speak, make noise, or communicate with any other contestants or audience members.
- If all spellers in a round misspell their word, all will remain in the competition and a new round will begin.
- If only one speller in a round spells the word correctly, a new one-word round will begin, and the speller will be given another word. If he spells that word correctly, he will be the first-place winner. If it is spelled incorrectly, a new spelling round begins with all spellers that participated in the previous round.
- After the 1st place winner is decided, the previous 2 spellers (in order that they were eliminated) will become 2nd and 3rd place winners. If spellers went out at the same time, a tie-breaker round may need to be played to determine 2nd and 3rd place.
- There will be one practice round before the official "bee" begins.

ACEL Exhibit Fair 2026

1. Fair Divisions
2. Preliminary Schedule
3. Setup
4. Exhibit Guidelines
5. Resources
6. Adjudication

1. Fair Divisions

- The Exhibit Fair is divided into three subjects: History, Science, and Literature.
- Subdivisions (chemistry, biology, engineering/ancient, modern, Victorian/nonfiction, mystery, biography) may be indicated during registration, but these currently have no bearing on adjudication.
- Science Exhibits should focus on an answerable scientific question and demonstrate use of the scientific method to answer that question.
- History and Literature Exhibits may be either persuasive or informative. Persuasive Exhibits demonstrate a grasp of proper research methods. They begin with a question and end in a conclusion. Informative exhibits may simply present information about a historical topic or book. They should analyze the impact of the topic or book and display this information clearly.

2. Preliminary Schedule

- Setup January 30th 8-10pm; January 31st 8-9am
- Exhibit open for general viewing and adjudication 9am-2pm
- Ratings and place awards announced in auditorium at the end of the next auditorium event.
- Exhibits may not be taken down until after the awards are announced. Any exhibits left on campus will be thrown away.

3. Setup

- Find your project number on the posted list at the check-in table.
- Set your project up on the assigned space. Judges should be able to see your project number. If electricity is required, indicate this during registration.

4. Exhibit Guidelines

- There are no theme, subject, or topic restrictions (within reason). Consider that ACEL is a Christian organization when choosing the subject of the exhibits.
- All exhibits should be constructed on a tri-fold exhibit board. Computer-only and research paper-only presentations are not allowed.
- Max project size: W 48" x D 30" x H *108" (Height includes table, so board/project cannot exceed 72")
- No school affiliation student name is to be displayed on your board.

- All science and persuasive history or literature exhibits should include a completed abstract report displayed. A corresponding research paper may be placed on the table with the exhibit, but the abstract should be a summary of this.
- All exhibits should be safe for general viewing and not display decomposing or preserved organisms. For a full list of display and safety guidelines, consult <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules/>.
- Science and Persuasive History and Literature Exhibits should include the following:
 - RATIONALE: Include a brief synopsis of the background that supports your research problem and explain why this research is important and if applicable, explain any societal impact of your research.
 - RESEARCH QUESTION(S), HYPOTHESIS(ES), GOAL(S), EXPECTED OUTCOMES: How is this based on the rationale described above?
 - METHOD (SCIENCE ONLY)
 - List of materials
 - Procedures: Detail all procedures and experimental design including list of materials, methods for data collection, and when applicable, the source of data used. Describe only your project. Do not include work done by mentor or others.
 - Data Analysis: Describe procedures used to analyze results.
 - Concluding data
 - BIBLIOGRAPHY: List major references (e.g. journal articles, books, internet sites) from your research.
 - CONCLUSION STATEMENT
- Ethics Statement: Fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. This includes plagiarism, forgery, use of presentation of other researcher's work as one's own, and fabrication of data. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition, and the ACEL reserves the right to revoke recognition of a project subsequently found to have been fraudulent.

5. Resources

- Links below are meant to be helpful resources as sponsors guide students in planning and constructing their exhibits. They do not necessarily reflect the rules for the ACEL Exhibit Fair. Science and history fair participants also may wish to explore the opportunities with these nation-wide organizations.
- Science Fair: <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>
- History Fair: <https://nhd.org/en/contest/theme/>
- Literature Fair: [https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OAE/OEER/Reading%20Fair/18-19%20MS%20Reading%20Fair%20Student%20Guide%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.mdek12.org/sites/default/files/Offices/MDE/OAE/OEER/Reading%20Fair/18-19%20MS%20Reading%20Fair%20Student%20Guide%20(1).pdf)

6. Adjudication

- Criteria
 - 15% Research Question/Topic: clear and focused
 - 25% Design and Methodology: well-planned research, approach to topic, and/or experimentation methods
 - 25% Execution: Sufficient data collected to support interpretation, analyses, and conclusions.
 - 25% Exhibit information: Logical organization of material, clarity of graphics and legends, supporting documentation displayed. Displays an overall understanding of the topic.
 - 10% Exhibit execution: Displays neatness, attention to detail, and creativity. Easy to read and understand.
- Ratings
 - Superior - Rating I (Division 1) This rating reflects an outstanding exhibit.
 - Excellent - Rating II (Division 2). This rating reflects an outstanding exhibit in many respects, but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects
 - Good - Rating III (Division 3). This rating is awarded for a good exhibit, but one that is not outstanding. The exhibit shows accomplishment and a marked promise, but it is lacking in one or more essential qualities.
 - Fair - Rating IV (Division 4). This rating describes an exhibit that shows some quite a few weaknesses. This classification represents a performance which is generally weak and unorganized.
 - Poor - Rating V (Division 5). This rating indicates an exhibit which reveals a great lack of preparation, understanding, or skills. This division is rarely used even by the most critical of judges.
- Certificates
 - Exhibits earning a I-III rating will receive a certificate.
- Contest Awards
 - All entrants will receive a rating and be able to take home adjudicator sheets, but only the top entries will receive a contest award.
 - 1st-3rd place contest awards will be presented ONLY IF a quality size group of performance entries have been submitted.
 - If there are too few entries within a category and division, no place awards will be presented, but the entrants will still be eligible to receive honorable mentions.