

# A Parent's Guide to Nationals

Bible Quiz Nationals is a single event but Nationals season spans from Minicamp 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 quizzier does at minicamp. Quizzers are then placed on teams with others who scored similarly. There are no leagues this year so some quizzers may have a further travel time than others.

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 matchups 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 usually 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. For Nationals, teams usually buy groceries to cook with the people in their room. Quizzers should plan to bring money for any meals they will have while traveling to and from Nationals (1-2 meals each way).

Quizzers must travel to Nationals with their team. This will be in vehicles assigned by TFC. We will be getting a charter bus this year, but sometimes the number of quizzers requires 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.