



OCAD Mission Statement

To inspire academic excellence and build 21st century skills that prepare students for college and careers.

Alumni Words of Wisdom

Academic Decathlon taught me how to read more critically, write more clearly, and think more rigorously about a wide range of disciplines. It taught me the value of grit, as my team and I fought together to achieve our common goals despite the different challenges that each event threw at us. But most important, it taught me to always love learning and to be open to new experiences - no matter how scary or difficult they seem.

**Kevin Li, UC San Diego,
Woodbridge HS class of 2016**

For more information about the Orange County Academic Decathlon, please visit:
www.ocde.us/decathlon

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OCAD Decathlete Spotlight: The Canyon Big Three

After two years of participation in the Academic Decathlon program, Canyon High School has staked claim to first place in the regional competition and has made waves at the state competition with a ninth place overall. The Canyon team has built its success on discipline, countless hours of studying, dedication to having fun as a team, and the leadership of three seniors who are all the embodiment of champion decathletes. These stellar decathletes represented Orange County at the national level by competing as individuals during the United States Academic Decathlon, held in Alaska this past April. Meet Akif Khan, Arian Kazerani, and Josh Shlegel.



From left to right: Arian Kazerani, Akif Khan, Josh Shlegel, Khoa Dao (coach)

After a very successful first year as coach for the Canyon team, AP Physics teacher, Khoa Dao, had to completely rebuild his team for the 2015-16 school year. Dao recruited three exceptional seniors who helped lead his team to the top spot in the OCAD rankings. Akif, Arian, and Josh joined Academic Decathlon because of their love of learning, the opportunity to better their study skills and work ethic, their chance to work as a team, and of course, because of their competitive spirits. Their team was on a rigorous preparation schedule, studying an average of 40-hours a week, individually and as a team – yet doing so with both focus and fun. The success of the Canyon team, both at regionals and state, is indicative of their

commitment to each other and the leadership of Akif, Arian, and Josh. As individuals, these three senior classmates saw much success as well, earning medals at regional, state, and national levels. Akif earned a total of 20 medals in the Honor category, including a 1st place overall individual at regionals, four medals at state, and five medals at nationals. Arian earned a total of 13 medals in the Varsity category, including a 1st place overall individual at regionals and two medals at nationals. Josh earned a total of 8 medals in the Honor category, including a 6th place overall individual at regionals and two medals at nationals.

Beyond Academic Decathlon, the Canyon "Big Three" have kept busy with extra-curricular activities, have since graduated, and are now awarded with summer vacation, as they await their college careers. In the Fall, Akif will be attending U.C. Irvine, Arian will be at Irvine Valley College with plans to transfer to U.C. Berkeley, and Josh will be headed to U.C.L.A. Congratulations to these stellar decathletes and best of luck with all your future endeavors!



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OCAD Wants to Thank its Generous Corporate Sponsors!

Corporate Sponsors are the bedrock of financial support for the OCAD program! Each financial contribution has gone a long way to directly award student achievement in the OCAD program. Sponsorships, along with numerous individual community member contributions, support program enrichment and college scholarships for students, as well as registration fees and travel costs for the winning teams to compete at the California Academic Decathlon (CAD) competition. With the support of its corporate sponsors and individual donors, the OCAD Association was able to send its top three teams to the state competition and to award \$13,800 in college scholarships to 32 hard-working student decathletes.

Platinum Sponsors \$1,500



Gold Sponsors \$1,000



Silver Sponsors \$500



*Corporate sponsorship opportunities, which include various levels of recognition for your organization, are available for the 2016-2017 OCAD program.

If you are interested in sponsoring the OCAD program please contact Kristin Rigby, Program Specialist, for more information at 714.966.4435 or kriqby@ocde.us.

9th/10th Grade “JV” Competition Results

On May 21, 2016, 19 Orange County high schools participated in the 9th/10th grade “JV” Academic Decathlon, hosted on the campus of Aliso Niguel High School. Also known as “baby OCAD” to many coaches and student decathletes, the “JV” competition is a modified version the main Orange County Academic Decathlon program. Ninth and tenth grade students study an abridged version of the Academic Decathlon curriculum and participate in seven out of ten main events. These events include objective testing in art, literature, math, music, science, and social science; as well as an essay portion and a shortened speech component. In addition, teams participate in the live-audience Super Quiz Relay. Participants also compete for medals and top team honors, in addition to getting a flavor of the main Decathlon competition. The awards ceremony was held on June 3, at the OC Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy. Let’s take a look at our top teams for the 2016 “JV” Academic Decathlon!

“JV” Overall Team Awards

Division 1

1. Trabuco Hills (SVUSD)
2. Woodbridge Gold (IUSD)
3. *Valencia (PYLUSD) / Woodbridge Red (IUSD)
4. El Dorado (PYLUSD)
5. Mission Viejo (SVUSD)

Division 2

1. Esperanza (PYLUSD)
2. Garden Grove (GGUSD)
3. El Toro (SVUSD)
4. Brea Olinda (BOUSD)
5. Tesoro (CUSD)

“JV” Super Quiz Team Awards

Division 1

1. Trabuco Hills (SVUSD)
2. Valencia (PYLUSD)
3. Woodbridge Gold (IUSD)
4. *La Quinta (GGUSD) / Woodbridge Red (IUSD)
5. Mission Viejo (SVUSD)

Division 2

1. Esperanza (PYLUSD)
2. Garden Grove (GGUSD)
3. El Toro (SVUSD)
4. *Estancia (NMUSD) / Esperanza Aztecs (PYLUSD)
5. *Tesoro (CUSD) / Pacifica (GGUSD)

*Tie awarded

Volunteer Save the Dates

Speech & Interview Day
January 28, 2017

Test & Super Quiz Day
February 4, 2017

The Top 3 Reasons to Volunteer with OCAD!

- #3 You will help strengthen our community.** As you volunteer for OCAD, you help to provide 40+ high schools and 500+ students the support needed to explore learning opportunities beyond the classroom, to build communication and collaboration skills, and champion academic excellence in our community.
- #2 You will learn a lot.** Volunteers will not only learn about a program that has served our Orange County students since 1968, they will learn the stories behind the students participating in the program.
- #1 You make all the difference!** OCAD utilizes 200 volunteers throughout two days of competition – and we cannot host this program without your time and talent! Our volunteer community is active and diverse, and one of the greatest strengths of our program.

We hope to see you in 2017!