

2ND ANNUAL

TEXASMSA SHOWDOWN

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
MSA TEXAS LONE STAR COUNCIL**



DALLAS, TX

**REGISTER AT
WWW.MSA-TEXAS.ORG**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH
THRU
SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH**

Questions?
Email us at:
info@msa-texas.org



**3 ON 3 BASKETBALL
5 ON 5 BROTHERS' SOCCER
SISTERS' KICKBALL
TAJWEED
NASHEED
FILM FEST
POETRY
WRITING
TEAM BUILDING
NETWORKING
ENTERTAINMENT
HALO TOURNAMENT
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

**HOSTED AT:
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

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About the Showdown

What is the Showdown? The MSA Showdown was an idea conceived in the Fall of 2006 as a way to bring MSA's across the state of Texas together in the spirit of competition and unity. The 2nd Annual Showdown promises more competitions. The weekend will consist of sports and knowledge competitions, MSA workshops, entertainment, and other team building activities.

Objective: To improve the interaction and relationships among MSAs in Texas, and work toward future events that will benefit MSA's collectively.

How your MSA can benefit: The Showdown is a great opportunity for MSAs to work together as a team toward the common goal of winning the Showdown grand prize. It also gives students a chance to seek knowledge for the pleasure of our Lord.

This packet will serve as a guide to preparing for Showdown. The tentative program, registration information and rules and regulations for each competition will be included in this packet. Changes will be made as needed and can be viewed online at www.msa-texas.org.

Please note: Your MSA is responsible for checking the website for updates and changes.

Explanation of Theme

This Showdown brings together MSAs and Muslim students all across the state in the spirit of healthy competition and unity. This event is a manifestation of the MSA Lone Star Council's understanding: through cooperation we can achieve much more than we can accomplish individually, and as we continue to work at the local levels, we recognize that each MSA is part of a large national & global movement working to bring positive change among Muslims and the society at large. Simply by participating in this event, you are coming together in an act of khayr and joining this movement that will impact the masses through the will of Allah Ta'ala, and then your efforts.

The theme for this year's Texas MSA Showdown is the ayah:

"And hold fast, all together, to the rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves..." --Surah Al-Imran, Verse 103

Brothers and sisters, we urge you to be among those who will *live* this theme at the Showdown. Take this opportunity to not only bond with members of your own MSA, but also to create and develop new relationships with other Muslims who share your beliefs, passions and concerns. Over this weekend, network and share experiences with each other at both the individual level and organizational level.

When Allah grants us such opportunities to come together, we must use them to learn from each other and increase in our love for one another. We remind you of the profound words of our beloved Messenger SalAllahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam, *"You will not enter Jannah until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Shall I inform you of something which, if you do, you will love one another? Spread salaam amongst yourselves."* You will, inshaAllah Ta'ala, meet many new people throughout this weekend, and spreading salaam to those whom you know and also to those whom you don't know is among the highest of virtues and reflects the prophetic tradition. Let us fill the Showdown with our love, iman, and salaam!

We hope to see this theme expressed throughout the weekend in your participation in categories such as Art, Nasheed/Rap, Film, Sportsmanship, Writing and Poetry.

May Allah unite our hearts on the love of Allah and His Messenger. May He help us to take full advantage of this unique opportunity and come together as part of the honored Ummah of Muhammad SalAllahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam. May He give us the strength to live up to our potential and express our deep shukr to the many talents Allah has blessed us with by using them in His path.

Important Deadlines

Pre-Registration: March 1, 2008 (11:59pm CST)

Writing, Poetry and Art Submissions: March 5, 2008

Film Submission: March 11, 2008

Submissions will not be accepted after 11pm CST on the day of the deadline. If deadlines are extended, this information will be posted online at www.msa-texas.org. Participants are responsible for checking website for any deadline changes.

On-site registration is subject to be a higher fee than pre-registration cost.

If you plan on attending showdown, **individual registration is required.**

If your school is entering in any of the sports competitions, and you have your own team set up, **team registration is also recommended.**

If your school does not have enough attendees to put together a team, and you still wish to compete in the sports competitions, we will do our best to put a team together for you.

General Guidelines:

The MSA Lone Star Council reserves the right to disqualify any Showdown participant for inappropriate behavior or suspicion of dishonest participation.

Any participants who enter a competition late are subject to disqualification to be determined by the judge.

Participants must be wearing their nametag at all times and will not be allowed to enter event area without proper ID.

Dress code for both brothers and sisters is business casual, should be loose fitting and not transparent. Feel free to wear your school's MSA shirt if available.

We highly recommend that you print out this WHOLE packet and bring it with you to the event.

Parking:

If arriving on **Friday**, enter on University Parkway and obtain a Visitor's Parking Pass at the Visitors Information Center. Driver's License must be presented. Each parking space is labeled with a color, visitors may park in any green parking space or in any white parking space that specifically says "visitor". On Friday we recommend parking in Lot J.

If arriving on **Saturday**, a Visitors pass is no longer necessary and visitors may park in Lot K or Lot F in the metered parking spaces or in Lot J in any gold or green parking space. Meters are free on Saturday and Sunday.

Campus Map



UTD Campus Map

BUILDING ABBREVIATIONS AND NAMES	
AP Academic Center	SE Carl F. Gable Hall
AD Administration	SH Karl Hall/Sabbath Hall
AI Student Activities	SO Ed. Justice/Archives Center
ATEC Arts and Teaching Building	MC English/Mechanics Library
BE Lloyd V. Berkner Hall	MP Mathematics Building
BK Bookstore	JSE Reed Center Building
CP Classroom Building	QTS Old Service Building
CPW Classroom Building West	RL Naval Lab
CM Communications Management	PC P&S/Geology/Geosci. Building
CI Conference Center	PP Facilities Management
CE Coffee Center/Estimote	EL National Institute of Engineering Research Lab
ECSE Engineering Computer Science North	SP Service Building
EESE Engineering Computer Science South	SOB School of Management
EP Energy Plaza	SE Student Union
FA Facilities Workshop	TH Theater
FA Facilities Shop	VC Vascular/Endovascular
SO Facilities Building	WTC Washington International Teaching Center
SC Carl and Lisa Green Center	
STUDENT SERVICE AREAS	
Karl Sabbath Hall (SH)	English Management Library (MC)
Engineering Services	Director
Administration (UT Dallas)	Financial Aid
	International Student Services
	Registrar
UNIVERSITY HOUSING	
Woodrow Wilson Apartments 2805 Woodrow Wilson, East 115 Dallas, TX 75205	Student Village 2805 Woodrow Wilson, Suite 111 Richardson, TX 75080
(972) 480-8888	① Building 1007
2805 Woodrow Wilson	② Building 1008
(972) 480-9111 Fax	③ Building 1009
	④ Building 1010
	⑤ Building 1011
	⑥ Building 1012
	⑦ Building 1013
	⑧ Building 1014

Visitors: Please obtain a parking pass from the Visitor's Center (VC). The University of Texas at Dallas
 2805 Woodrow Wilson East
 Richardson, TX 75080
 For more information call the main switchboard at 972.480-2111. www.utdallas.edu

Campus Directions

Address:

University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080

From Central Expressway (US 75)

Take the Campbell Road exit and go west to University Parkway (between Floyd Road and Waterview Parkway). Turn north on University Parkway.

From LBJ Freeway (I-635)

Take the Coit Road exit and go north to Campbell Road. Turn east on Campbell Road to University Parkway (between Waterview Parkway and Floyd Road). Turn north on University Parkway.

From DFW Airport

Drive toward the north airport exit. Once you are through the toll booths, take the I-635 east exit. Merge on to I-635 east. Take the Coit Road exit and go north to Campbell Road. Turn east on Campbell Road to University Parkway (between Floyd Road and Waterview Parkway). Turn north on University Parkway.

From Love Field Airport

Start going towards the Airport exit at Cedar Springs Road. Turn east (left) on Mockingbird Lane towards Mockingbird/Lemmon South. Continue east on Mockingbird Lane. Turn north on Inwood Road. Turn east at Northwest Highway/Loop 12. Take Central Expressway (US 75) north. Take the Campbell Road Exit and go west to University Parkway (between Floyd Road and Waterview Parkway). North on University Parkway.

From George Bush Tollway (SH 190)

Turn south on Independence Parkway to Campbell Road. Turn east on Campbell Road to University Parkway (between Floyd Road and Waterview Parkway). North on University Parkway.

Via Dart Bus

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) bus route 362 (which travels between the Addison Transit Center and Arapaho Center Stations) makes stops on the UTD campus.



Program

Friday, March 14th

7:30 PM	Maghrib
7:45 PM	Halo Tournament- Brothers DDR- Sisters
9:30 PM	Isha Sisters' Bonfire

Saturday, March 15th

6:15 AM	Fajr
9:00 AM	Doors Open
10:00 AM	Registration Opens
11:00 AM	MSA/LSC Introductions Speech by Br. Marwan Ma'rouf
11:45 AM	Teambuilding Activity
12:15-2:30 PM	Basketball- Brothers Kickball- Sisters
1:30 PM	Lunch and Dhuhur
3:30 PM	Soccer- Brothers Basketball- Sisters
5:00 PM	Asr
6:30 PM	Delegate Meeting Dinner
7:30 PM	Maghrib
8:00 PM	Lecture by Imam Yaseen
9:00 PM	Nasheed- Brothers Nasheed- Sisters
9:30 PM	Isha
10:00 PM	Film Festival/Poetry Jam/ Entertainment
12:00 AM	Bonfire- Brothers

Sunday, March 16th

6:15 AM	Fajr
9:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	Tajweed
10:30 AM	Training Workshop by LSC Parallel Activity
11:30 AM	Award Ceremony
12:30 PM	Closing Remarks

Accommodations:

We have arranged free lodging for showdown attendees.

Brothers will be staying at the MAS Youth Center in Plano, TX
Sisters will be staying at the Richardson Masjid in Richardson, TX

Attendees do have the option to arrange for their own hotel lodgings, if that is preferred.

We suggest the following locations near campus.

Hampton Inn- Richardson: \$84/night (972-234-5400)

1577 GATEWAY BLVD Richardson, TX 75080

Econo Lodge Inn and Suites Richardson: \$70/night (972-470-9440)

2458 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY Richardson, TX 75080

Holiday Inn Select Richardson-: \$75.65/night (972-238-1900)

1655 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY (US 75) RICHARDSON, TX 75080

Courtyard by Marriott at Campbell: \$84/night (877-477-5817)

2191 N. Greenville Avenue Richardson, Texas 75082 USA

* Rates include a two-bed room

Feel free to contact the accommodation chairs, if you need any more information about travel and lodging.

Packing List

- Print out of THIS packet. It has directions and maps in it.
- Cash on hand
- Drivers License/School ID (for registration/check in), health insurance card, or copy of insurance. These are required to use gym and shower facilities.
- If staying at the Masjid – blanket, pillow(s), inflatable mattress if desired, sleeping bag.
- MSA T-shirt
- Tennis Shoes for sports. Required to play indoor basketball.
- Shower supplies/Personal items (towels, toothbrush, deodorant, floss)
- Cell phone/Laptop chargers
- First Aid/Medications
- Modest attire appropriate for sports, entertainment, awards ceremony, workshops, bonfire. Sweaters in case of cold weather.
- Salah necessities (hijabs, prayer rugs)
- Positive attitude and sabr (patience).

Competition Rules

Note: Violation of these rules may result in disqualification from that category.

Tajweed

Brothers and sisters competitions will be separate.

The purpose of the Tajweed competition is to encourage students to learn the recitation of classical Arabic in which the Quran was first revealed.

Those to whom We have given the Book read it as it ought to be read (Quran 2:121).

Each person will be asked to read with tajweed a random passage from ANY part of the Quran.

Judging will be based on proper pronunciation (and the way to recite with a rhythm, described in Surat 73. Al-Muzzammil, verse 4: "...recite the Qur'an calmly and distinctly, with thy mind attuned to its meaning")

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

1. **Reading Category:** Perfecting (mastering) the reading process without committing mistakes in reciting the words and/or verses.
2. **Performance Category:** Perfecting (mastering) the performance process.
3. **Recitation category:** Perfecting (mastering) the art of reciting the Quran and by respecting the correct outputs of the alphabets, phonetics, timing, and applying all the rules of Tajweed.
4. **Articulation category:** Perfecting the style of pronunciation of each Arabic letter and knowing where the sound of each letter comes from.

Poetry

Sisters' competition will be separate.

The earliest Muslim poets can be dated back to the 6th century or before.

The purpose of this competition is to reflect on Islam through the recitation of poetry and provide insight into topics that are best understood and interpreted through poetic mediums.

1. All poetry submissions are due by **March 5th**. Submissions received beyond this deadline will not be considered, unless otherwise decided by the judging panel.
2. Competitors shall report at the appropriate time and place designated. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
3. Poems may be original or not. Poems which are not original must be cited before recitation.
4. Poems must adhere to Islamic beliefs and customs. Those which do not meet this criterion will be disqualified.
5. Obscene language will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification.
6. Participants may use any meter or style.
7. Participants will be given one minute to describe the poem before presenting.
8. Poem recitation may not exceed 5 minutes.
9. Bonus points will be awarded for poems related to the theme of unity and the following ayah: "And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves..." (Quran 3:103)

Nasheed/Rap

The brothers and sisters competition will be separate.

The purpose of this competition is to explore the teachings of Islam through one of society's most effective mediums, and inspire the quest for knowledge and self improvement.

1. Competitors shall report at the appropriate time and place designated. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Group must perform in front of an audience.
3. Groups can be a minimum of 1 member and a maximum of 6 members.
4. The performance should not exceed 7 minutes. Points will be deducted from the total score if the performance exceeds the allotted time.
5. Competitors have 1-2 minutes to briefly explain the meaning of their nasheed. (points are awarded for a good explanation)
6. The only instrument that can be used for the performance is a drum. Drums will not be supplied. Each group is responsible for bringing their own drums. Other methods for rhythm might be used such as Voice box, tapping..etc.
7. The performed nasheed can be a nasheed from another artist or using the tune from another nasheed/song.

Short Film

The purpose of the short film category is to allow MSA members to express their creative interests through film and audio visual mediums.

Theme:

"And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves..." (Quran 3:103)

1. Competitors shall report at the appropriate time and place designated. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. Films must be no more than 8 minutes in length including opening and closing credits. If the film exceeds this time limit, it will be judged based on the first 8 minutes of presentation.
3. All film submissions are due by **March 11th**. Films received beyond this deadline will not be considered, unless otherwise decided by the judging panel.
4. Films must be submitted along with its respective Entry Form explaining the inspiration for the film, stories of how the MSA achieved unity through making the film or any other relevant information. Films must adhere to the theme given above.
6. Films may be of any theatrical genre but must maintain Islamic Adhab. Any films containing inappropriate scenes or language will not be tolerated and will be disqualified.
6. Teams will be given 2 minutes before film is viewed to provide an introductory context.

The following ahadith may be considered for further inspiration:

"The believers, in their love, mutual kindness, and close ties, are like one body; when any part complains, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever."

[Muslim]

"The Faithful are to one another like [parts of] a building - each part strengthening the others" [Muslim]

Basketball

Brothers and sisters competition will be separate.

Bracket & Teams

1. Tournament play is a 3-on-3, 16-team single elimination bracket. The bracket will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Only the first 16 registered teams will play in the tournament.** Brothers' and sisters' competitions will occur separately.
2. Each MSA will have the opportunity to register 1 team by Saturday, March 1st. After this date, any remaining slots may be filled by new or previously registered MSAs. However, each MSA may only register a max of 2 teams.
3. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA.
4. Each player may play for only one team. If an MSA has 2 teams, players cannot be interchanged. Each team will consist of 3 players and a maximum of 2 substitutes.

Equipment & Attire

1. Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes.
2. Because of safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear necklaces, rings, jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. There are no exceptions to this rule.
3. Basketballs will be provided.

Behavior

1. If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of that team must meet with the Tournament Director to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
2. We reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers.

Gameplay

1. If teams are not ready to start at the scheduled time of the game, they will forfeit the game.
2. Starting ball possession will be determined by a coin toss.
3. The 3 on 3 game will be played half court.
4. Substitutes may be added during dead ball situations or after a made basket.
5. Games will be to 12 points and there will be a 15 minute time limit on each game. If neither team has reached 12 points by the time limit, the winner will be the team with the most points. To win the team must win by two points or more. (For example, a score of 12 to 11 does not constitute a win, but a score of 13 to 11 does). If a team cannot win by more than two points, the 15 minute time limit on the game will decide the winner. **If there is a tie when the clock expires, gameplay will continue and the NEXT point scored by either team wins the game.**
6. **Scoring:** Each basket will count for 1 point. Baskets made beyond the 3 point line will count for 2 points. On a converted basket, the team in possession of the ball behind the check line must check the ball with the opposing team before putting the ball in play.
7. Teams must pass the ball in.

8. **Change of Possession:** On ANY change of possession (from either a defensive rebound, steal, or airball), the ball must be cleared behind the three-point line (check line) before he/she may attempt a shot. Both feet must be clearly behind the line or a violation will result. If any deviation from this, the violating team must take it from up top.
9. **"Make-it, Take it":** Ball possession will NOT change teams after each basket.
10. **Timeouts:** Teams will be awarded 1 time out per game. The clock will be stopped during this time for 45 seconds.
11. **Fouling:**
 - Referees will call all fouls. Every attempt will be made to have a court monitor to assist in recording team fouls.
 - If a foul occurs, the ball will be checked behind the top of the key at the three-point line by the team that the foul was committed against. Fouls on the shot will be treated as fouls on the floor, however, if the shot is made the points will be awarded to the fouled team. The team that made the shot while being fouled will be given the next possession normally, and the fouling team will still be penalized a foul.
 - On and after the 7th team foul, teams will be awarded a 1 shot free throw and retain possession of the ball. The clock will continue to run

Soccer

Brothers Only Competition

Bracket & Teams

1. Tournament play is a 5-on-5. Depending on the number of teams registered by **March 1st**, this tournament will be either single or double elimination. The bracket will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.
2. Each team must consist of members from the same MSA, unless otherwise approved by showdown officials.
3. Each player may play for only one team. If an MSA has 2 teams, players cannot be interchanged. Each team will consist of 5 players and a maximum of 4 substitutes.

Equipment & Attire

1. Proper attire within the boundaries of the Islamic dress code must be worn along with athletic shoes. You may wear soccer cleats, if you have some. Soccer balls and scorekeepers will be provided.
2. Because of safety reasons, no players are allowed to wear necklaces, rings, jewelry, hats, etc. while participating. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Behavior

1. If any player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the captain of that team must meet with the Tournament Director to determine the player's eligibility for the remainder of the tournament.
2. We reserve the right to disqualify any individual or team for fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the organizers.
3. Protests/disputes concerning interpretations of the rules, fouls, or score, must be settled on the spot, at the time of the protest/dispute.

Gameplay

1. **Game will be played half field.** Substitutes may be added during dead ball situations or after a goal. Once a player has been substituted, he cannot be put back in the game.
2. **Games will be to 5 goals and there will be a 30 minute time limit on each game with 15 minute halves.** If neither team has reached 5 goals by the time limit, the winner will be the team with the most points. In the case of tie, the next goal wins.
3. In a half field game there will be **no goalies** and the goals will be made smaller to accommodate for the smaller field
4. **Starting ball possession** will be determined by a coin toss.
5. Teams must pass the ball in.
6. When the defense steals the ball, the ball must be cleared behind the half way line before he may attempt a shot. The ball must be clearly behind the line or a violation will result. On defensive rebounds or steals, the ball must be returned to the check line and the player in possession of the ball may retain it and attempt to score. Any deviation from this will result in a violation. After a goal, the team in possession of the ball may put the ball into play without involving the other team.
7. If the offense rebounds their own shot, they are not required to clear the ball.
8. **Ball possession** will change teams after each goal unless a foul is awarded.
9. When the ball goes out of bounds it must be thrown back into play
10. **Fouling:** The fouled player will call the foul.
11. If there is a dispute between opposing teams on a foul, the Head Officials/Supervisors will give the teams 1-MINUTE to settle the dispute. If it is not settled in the 1-MINUTE, **BOTH TEAMS WILL FORFEIT THE GAME.**
12. If a foul occurs, the ball will be reset at the half field line by the team that made the foul.

Kickball

Sisters Only Competition

Current ASA Softball Rules will govern Kickball with the following emphases and modifications.

A. POINTS OF INTEREST

1. A team consists of up to ten players. A minimum of 6 is needed to start and continue a game.
2. Games are 4 innings or a total 20 minutes.
3. Everyone bats each inning. When the last batter of an inning puts the ball in play, the inning will end either when the batter has been put out, or when the defense is in possession of the ball while touching home plate. No tag is necessary at home plate.
4. The batter is out in situations similar to softball (force outs, pop outs, etc.). In addition, a runner is out when he/she is hit by a thrown ball below the waist.
5. The ball is put in play when the pitcher (a player on the defensive team) rolls the ball toward home plate and the batter attempts to kick the ball. The batter must wait for the ball to be within three feet of home plate before kicking the ball. If the batter does not like the pitch, he/she should not attempt to kick it, and another pitch will be thrown. There are no strikeouts or walks. A batter gets only one attempt at kicking the ball. A missed attempt or foul ball is an out.
6. A runner who leaves the base before the pitch reaches home plate or is hit, is out and the ball is dead. Leading off and stealing bases between pitches is not allowed.
7. In order to prevent injury and protect the defensive player attempting to make a play on a base runner, the base runner must be called out, if he/she remains on his/her feet, and deliberately, with great force crashes into a defensive player holding the ball, waiting to apply a tag. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall also be ejected.
8. Bunting will not be permitted and is a dead ball and an automatic out.

B. GENERAL

1. A coin flip will determine the choice of home and visiting teams. Be ready to bat/kick in proper order. Teams should hustle in and out between innings as there is a time limit in effect).
2. A game will consist of 4 innings; however, no new inning may begin after 20 minutes has elapsed from the time the game began, unless the score is tied.
3. Injured Runner: If an accident to a batter-runner or base runner prevents him/her from proceeding in the game, a substitute runner of the same sex will be permitted. If no substitutes are available, the player of the same sex who made the last out will run.
4. Any player can play any position defensively.

Forfeit Policy:

1. If a team does not have the minimum number of players to start a contest at the scheduled time, they will be given 1 minutes to secure the correct number before the game is declared a forfeit and a "win" awarded to the team that was ready. If neither team is ready to play with the minimum number of players after the 1-minute forfeit period then both teams will receive a forfeit.
2. A team will receive a forfeit if a game cannot be continued due to misconduct.

Forfeit Penalties:

1. Lose right to protest the game
2. All possession in a jump ball situation go to the opposing team
3. Start the game with a 10-point deficit

Art

The purpose of this category is to encourage artistic expressions of Islamic concepts, teachings and thoughts.

1. Be as creative as possible, but please ensure your art conforms to Islamic guidelines. Except for photographs, artwork may not take the form of humans or animals. Plants, landscapes, and inanimate objects are allowed. If in doubt, please contact organizers. Abstract is definitely encouraged. Have fun with it!
2. This may be a collaborative or individual piece. Please indicate the names of all the individuals who created the piece, if it was done collaboratively.
3. You may bring art that you have already made in the past, or make art just for this competition.
4. Please limit your art to 1 piece a person. If the pieces are small (ex: tiny sculptures, small painting that are 8 in by 4 in.), then you can bring up to 3.
5. Please fill out art entry form completely in order for your art to be submitted. (Please see the website to download entry form) Art entry forms are due **March 5th**.
6. All artists must submit a picture of their artwork so it can be approved by the officials. (We promise to be very open-minded, so don't worry :))
7. **Judging:** Art work will be judged by participating MSAs through their appointed Lone Star Council delegate. Each delegate may vote only once and may not vote for artwork submitted by their MSA.

Important Note: Art may be left without supervision at times.

Writing

The purpose of this competition is to encourage Muslim students to express their beliefs and opinions through words.

Prompt A: The Quran says "The Mu'minoon are but a single Brotherhood." (49:10). Describe the difference in unity between your life at work, home, school, and in the Muslim community. Use specific examples to illustrate how the concept of unity differs and agrees among different groups of individuals.

Prompt B: Compare and contrast the state of brotherhood describing our Ummah with that of the Prophet's time. What factors have contributed to the change? What has contributed to the similarities?

Prompt C: Discuss how following the Prophetic example of unity could help solve specific political crises in war afflicted territories across the world. Also explain how straying from the Quran and Sunnah's lessons of unity have led to such international calamity.

1. This competition is **NOT** a team effort. Each competitor must turn in a separate piece of work via e-mail in MS Word by **March 6th**.
2. The written composition must be word-processed and double-spaced in 12 point Arial or Times New Roman font.
3. The composition **MUST** have a cover page that includes the title, prompt selected, school represented, and first and last name. Your name can only be mentioned on the cover page.
4. The written composition will be a maximum of 2000 words. All abbreviations, acronyms (excluding a, an, the) will be counted. Only the first 2000 countable words will be read.
5. Submissions should pertain to the theme and related ahadith. Refer back to the theme page.
6. Compositions can be editorial/opinion pieces, fictional stories, autobiographical account or personal narrative. If you choose to compose an essay, please choose to answer one of the prompts above.

Team Spirit

The purpose of this category is to promote unity and brotherhood/sisterhood among MSA chapters. When MSAs exhibit teamwork, anything can be accomplished bi 'idhnillah.

1. Team spirit will be judged based on the team's attitude and overall expressions of camaraderie throughout the weekend.
2. Team t-shirts, color coordination, and number of participants, decorating transportation used to attend Showdown (i.e. painting your car/van) will contribute to the score.
3. Any derogatory remarks made toward other teams will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification from this category.

Scoring

Note: Enclosed ballots are tentative, and the MSA Lone Star Council reserves the right to update them as needed. Participants are responsible for checking the website (www.msa-texas.org) for relevant updates.

Participants may use these ballots as a guideline as to what the judges will be looking for in regards to each competition

Team/School Name:

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Tajweed Ballot

	Total Possible Points	Points Awarded	Comments
Tajweed (Recitation)	(80)	-----	
Al-Waqf Wal-Ibtidaa'	9		
Stopping and Initialization			
Al Mudood	9		
Sifat-Ul-Huroof	9		
Ikhfa	9		
Idgham Assimilation	9		
Tafkhim& tarqeeq al ra'	9		
Iqlab	9		
Ithhar	8		
Qalqala	9		
Reading/ Fluency	5		
Performance	10		
Articulation	5		
TOTAL SCORE:			

Team/School Name:

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Poetry Ballot

The poem delivery should not exceed 5 minutes. Participant will be given 1 minute to describe poem before beginning.

Pts Rcvd

_____ Overall Student Performance: (10 points)

_____ Did the performance exceed 5 minutes? (5 points)

_____ Was the overall effect of the poem pleasing? (5 points)

_____ Poem Selection (40 points)

_____ Was the poem audience appropriate? (15 pts)

_____ Did the speaker's tone match that of the poem? (15 pts)

_____ Did the competitors adequately explain the meaning and background behind the poem? (10 pts)

_____ Delivery (50 points)

_____ Could the audience's attention be kept? (10 pts)

_____ Does the participant have a grasp on the meaning of the poem?(10 pts)

_____ Pronunciation, enunciation, understandability (10 pts)

_____ Body Language (10 pts)

_____ Confidence (10 pts)

_____ Intangibles (**bonus** points for other non-judgable factors in performance) (10 pts)

Team/School Name:

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Nasheed/Rap Ballot

The song performance should not exceed more than 10 minutes. Judges should ask the leader of the group to explain the song's background and meaning.

Pts Rcvd

Overall Student Performance: (10 points)

_____ Did the performance exceed 7 minutes? (5 points)

Elapsed Time: _____:

_____ Did the overall performance exceed and excel beyond average? Was their performance unforgettable? (5 points)

Song Criteria (40 points)

_____ Various structures (verses, chorus, bridge, etc)? (15 pts)

_____ Is the song concept original and creative? (15 pts)

_____ Did the competitors adequately explain the meaning and background behind the song? (10 pts)

Performance Criteria (50 points)

Do the competitors show any of the following criteria and to what extent?

_____ Harmony (10 pts)

_____ Vocal style (10 pts)

_____ Pronunciation, enunciation, understandability (10 pts)

_____ Body Language (10 pts)

_____ Confidence (10 pts)

_____ Intangibles (bonus points for other non-judgable factors in performance) (10 pts)

Team/School Name

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Film Competition Ballot

Films must be no longer than 8 minutes in length. Judges will only score the first 8 minutes of the video submitted.

Points Received

_____ Overall Performance (20 possible points)

_____ Was the film within the given time limit? (4 pts)

_____ Was Islamic etiquette observed throughout the film? (6 pts)

_____ Was the theme portrayed in the film? (10 points)

_____ Story (15 possible pts)

_____ Was the video inspiring? (5 points)

_____ Dialogue/Narration/Script (5 points)

_____ Does the story flow and make sense? Continuity? (5 points)

_____ Acting (15 possible pts)

_____ Did the actors know their lines? (3 pts)

_____ Are the actors believable? (3 pts)

_____ Do facial expressions match context of the scene? (3pts)

_____ Quality (25 points)

_____ Lighting (7 pts)

_____ Clarity of picture (9 pts)

_____ Do the camera angles correlate to the story? (4 pts)

_____ Is camera held steady? (5 pts)

_____ Sound (25 points)

_____ Was the sound audible and clear? (6 pts)

_____ Was the background music too loud? (6 pts)

_____ Did the music match the tone of the film? (7 pts)

_____ Was the music appropriate? (6 pts)

Team/School Name

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Writing Competition Ballot

Points Received

_____ **Ideas and Development** (25 possible points)

- _____ Writer addressed one of the above prompts with sufficient detail (5 points)
- _____ Writer used a balance of showing and telling to paint a picture in the reader's mind (5 points)
- _____ Writer took a unique approach when addressing the topic (5 points)
- _____ Writer stayed on topic throughout the entire essay (5 points)
- _____ The theme or message was clear (5 points)

_____ **Organization** (30 possible points)

- _____ The introduction grabbed the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls (5 points)
- _____ Writer used transition words to move from one idea to another and from one paragraph to another (5 points)
- _____ There was adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control
- _____ Supporting details reflected the thesis statement (5 points)
- _____ The title stood for the entire essay and not just a part of it (5 points)
- _____ The conclusion linked back to the introduction and left a lasting impression on the reader (5 points)
- _____ Writer tied the essay together in his/her conclusion and there was a note of finality (5 points)

_____ **Word Choice** (12 possible pts)

- _____ Writer used thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the reader's mind (3 points)
- _____ Writer used strong action verbs that help support the essay's message (3 points)
- _____ Writer used precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message (3 points)

points)

_____ The overall usage of words created color and texture in the description. Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

_____ **Sentence Fluency (12 points)**

_____ Writer varied sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences

(3 points)

_____ Most sentences begin with different words (3 points)

_____ When read aloud, it flows smoothly and has a rhythm to it (3 points)

_____ There was a logical progression of ideas (3 points)

_____ **Voice (9 points)**

_____ The reader displayed passion about his/her topic (3 points)

_____ The tone was natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression (3 points)

_____ Writer captured a tone or mode with his/her words (3 points)

_____ **Conventions (8 points)**

_____ Free of spelling mistakes (2 points)

_____ Free of punctuation mistakes (2 points)

_____ Free of capitalization mistakes (2 points)

_____ Free of grammatical mistakes (2 points)

_____ **Presentation (4 points)**

_____ Essay is typed (1 point)

_____ Essay is double spaced (1 point)

_____ Essay has a cover page (1 point)

_____ Essay is 2000 words or less (1 point)

Team/School Name:

Judge's Name:

Total Score:

Team Spirit

_____ Team Participation: (100 points)

_____ Did the team have participants in a wide array of categories? (25pts)

_____ Did team members wear shirts, school colors, matching hijabs or any
other distinctive attire? (25 pts)

_____ Did teammates get along well with each other and other teams? (25pts)

_____ Other evidences of team spirit. (25 pts)

Pts Rcvd

Final Scores

Final scores will be determined by the sum of points received by each team.

The team with the most number of points will receive the 1st place grand prize. Second and third places overall will also be recognized.

Each category will award a first, second and third place with the exception of the sports tournaments. Sports Tournaments will recognize 1st and 2nd places.

Contact Information

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