



**EDUCATION FOUNDATION
of Sarasota County, Inc.**

[Sarasota County Schools Education Foundation Academic Olympics Website](#)

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

The Academic Olympics Program is a college-bowl type competition between teams of students from nine Sarasota County high schools. It provides students the opportunity to participate in a competitive team effort comparable to the experience of students who take part in sports activities.

If the athletic Olympic games can motivate our youth to excel on the courts and playing fields, then Academic Olympics can engender equally as much encouragement for young people to pursue learning in their homes and schools. This positive sanction to learning demonstrates that achievements of the mind are worthwhile – even exciting.

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc. funds and produces Academic Olympics each year with generous financial and volunteer support from our community. A number of individuals, organizations and businesses sponsor the program. Members of the Sarasota and Venice branches of the American Association of University Women serve as moderators, judges, and score-keepers. The Military Officers Association of Sarasota presents the winning teams with gifts. The program demonstrates to students, in a highly visible manner, that achievement in learning is advocated and applauded by their peers and adults alike. The students acquire a wealth of knowledge in a broad range of interests, finely hone their critical thinking and problem solving skills, and learn much about good sportsmanship and team work. This program's main focus of highlighting the scholastic achievements of area students is the only such event in the high schools which is academic in nature and which provides competitive team effort comparable to that offered in athletic events.

Training consists of extensive review in a wide range of subjects that include Mathematics, English, French, Spanish, Science, Social Science, Arts, Computer Science, Current Events, and Problem Solving. Teams then participate in

interscholastic matches from January through March. Students must have a wealth of knowledge, critical problem-solving skills, and a high degree of manual dexterity to win. After final elimination matches, an All-Star Team consisting of the top-scoring students from the high school teams represents Sarasota County at the Florida State Academic Competition for Excellence (ACE) held each spring at Disney World in Orlando. Past All-Star Academic Olympics teams have won scholarships and twice a Sarasota County member was chosen to join Team Florida for national competition.



Academic Olympics continues to grow in numbers of participants, volunteers, and public visibility. This outstanding program celebrates academic achievement and continues to be a point of pride for the Education Foundation of Sarasota County and the Sarasota County school district.