

South Pasadena is back-to-back-to-back Decathlon champ



The South Pasadena High School team poses with LACOE Chief Human Resources Officer Darren McDuffie (right) and California Credit Union Assistant Vice President of Business Development Gloria Rogers (left).

South Pasadena High School has won the 2017 Los Angeles County Academic Decathlon for the third consecutive year.

The team bested all others with a tally of 56,462.10 points, improving their score for the third time. Last year's score was 55,373.90 points, higher than the previous year's 52,572.50 points (out of a possible 60,000).

South Pasadena automatically advanced to the California Academic Decathlon, set for March 23-26 in Sacramento. But because their scores were high enough to qualify, an additional seven teams were invited to compete in the state Decathlon as "wild-card" entrants.

The 2017 results were announced Feb. 9 by LACOE Communications Director Frank Kwan in award ceremonies at the Quiet Cannon Country Club in Montebello.

More than 500 students from 60 teams, which included 17 practice squads, participated in the decathlon that is annually presented by LACOE.

The top-scoring individual decathlete was Benjamin Lin of Edgewood High School, with a score of 9,497.50 (out of a possible 10,000). He was followed by Nathaniel Lyons, also of Edgewood High School, with 9,140.20 points. Third place went to Anthony Chen from South Pasadena High School, who tallied 9,041.60 points.

The competition, which this year focused on the study theme of World War II, took place Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera. The contest is open to public high schools in the county that are outside of the Los Angeles Unified School District. LAUSD holds a separate competition and awards ceremony.

The Academic Decathlon is a local-county/state/national honors program designed to promote self-assurance, academic enrichment and teamwork among students from a diversity of academic backgrounds.

Decathlon teams are comprised of students from all grade-point averages. Decathletes are challenged to use analytical skills, performance abilities and test-taking and writing aptitude in 10 subjects: Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language & Literature, Math, Music, Social Science, Speech and Super Quiz.

The winning team, along with top-scoring squads that qualified as "wild-card" entrants, will participate in the California Academic Decathlon. The winning team at state advances to the U.S. Academic Decathlon scheduled for April 20-22 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Watch highlights of the 2016 L.A. County Academic Decathlon [here](#).

Key team and individual results follow:

Overall Team Scores (out of a possible 60,000 points):

1. South Pasadena High School -- South Pasadena Unified School District -- 56,462.10
2. Edgewood High School -- West Covina Unified School District-- 55,981.90
3. West High School -- Torrance Unified School District -- 52,889.00
4. Mark Keppel High School -- Alhambra Unified School District -- 51,034.60
5. Redondo Union High School -- Redondo Beach Unified School District -- 46,988.20
6. Beverly Hills High School -- Beverly Hills Unified School District- 45,473.90
7. Alhambra High School -- Alhambra Unified School District -- 44,934.60
8. El Rancho High School -- El Rancho Unified School District -- 44,046.40
9. Rosemead High School -- El Monte Union High School District -- 43,405.50
10. Burbank High School -- Burbank Unified School District -- 43,372.70

Top 3 Overall Individual Scorers (out of a possible 10,000 points):

1. Benjamin Lin, Edgewood High School -- 9,497.50 points
2. Nathaniel Lyons, Edgewood High School -- 9,140.20 points
3. Anthony Chen, South Pasadena High School -- 9,041.60 points

Schools With Most Improved Scores (compared to last year):

La Cañada High School -- La Cañada Unified School District -- 20,195.60 point improvement
Gladstone High School -- Azusa Unified School District -- 17,320.50 point improvement
Lakewood High School -- Long Beach Unified School District -- 11,932.40 point improvement

Rookie School of the Year:

Schurr High School -- Montebello Unified School District -- 32,038.40 points

Roberta Kordich Coach Award (for commitment & dedication):

Coach Annie VanDyke -- Monrovia High School -- Monrovia Unified School District