

2023-24 AHEPA District 7 (Northeast)

Hellenic History Tournament

The Hellenic History Tournament is a knowledge competition for secondary school students about the 3500-year-long history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers). It is open to students in grades 8-12 at competition time. Participants have an opportunity to win a share of the \$4,500 in prizes. The 2023-24 HHT is the 14th such annual tournament to be sponsored by AHEPA Yankee District 7.

This is a FUN and challenging event! Contestants must form their own 3-member teams, elect a team captain, and find a chapter to sponsor them. They each fill out their personal registration form and mail it along with a \$25 registration fee by the registration deadline (**June 30, 2023**). In return, each contestant receives a copy of “Hellenika, Heritage and History” by T. Peter Limber, the book used as a basis for most of the competition questions. Contestants have the summer to study the book. If a student already has this book, the registration fee is only \$10.

Chapter sponsorship means that an AHEPA chapter (or an interested individual or organization) agrees to pay a fee ranging from \$350-\$450 towards the tournament expenses – mostly for the \$4,500 in student prizes. The specific amount will depend on the total number of teams participating. The more teams, the lower the fee.

The tournament takes place during a single Saturday in the fall (**November 18, 2023**). We start at 11:30 am with a lunch of pizza and salad, take a group photo, discuss the tournament mechanics and launch into the first round of matches. All contestants who physically make it to the tournament venue receive a certificate of participation before the competition starts. During a match, each question and four multiple choice answers are projected onto a screen from the computer monitor. Questions are read and answers recorded by adult moderators. The computer keeps a running log of the teams’ scores. The visual projection of questions, answers and scores simulates an exciting TV quiz show environment and keeps the audience aware and involved. The team that answers most of the 24 questions correctly is the winner of the match.

Teams compete in simultaneous matches in successive rounds. If the total number of teams is even, the first 3 rounds are used to allow each team to play 3 other teams chosen by lot. If the total number of teams is odd, the first 2 rounds allow each team but one to play 2 other teams, and the 3rd round is a single match that pits the 2 teams that played only one other team against each other. At the end of the 3rd round, the top 4 teams based on the cumulative scores are selected to play in the 4th round (the semifinals). In round 4, the 2 teams that lose their match are eliminated. The two winning teams go on to compete against each other in the 5th and final round. At the end of the final match, the three members of the winning team are each awarded a \$1,000 prize and a Hellenic History trophy. The three second place winners receive \$500 each.

The AHEPA chapter that sponsors the first-place team receives the Hellenic History Trophy cup, gets to inscribe the chapter number and name on it, and keeps the cup for a year, until it has to turn it over to the chapter that sponsors the following year’s winners.

In recent years, other AHEPA groups have started to hold their own regional HH Tournaments. This led AHEPA Headquarters to hold an International HHT during the Supreme Convention. Currently, the top 2 teams from each of 4 regional tournaments (Northeast (Orange, CT), Midwest (Chicago, IL), Mid-Atlantic (Cherry Hill, NJ), and Canada (Toronto, ON) are invited to compete. The national prizes are somewhat larger than the regional.

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