

Team camp FAQ:

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Q: What is a team camp?

A: Every team should identify a meeting place – where people go when they aren't competing. It is a long day, so give some thought on how to keep your bored students entertained. You might want to bring some games or activities.

Q. Do I need to let tournament headquarters know where our camp is?

A. Yes. You will get a very short form asking for this information in the packet of papers we give you at registration; please bring that to us at headquarters no later than 9:00am on tournament day. You may send a student or parent with this information. Tournament headquarters uses this information to find you in the case of an emergency or arbitration, and it helps us direct lost parents and guests to your camp.

Q: How have team camps been assigned in the past?

A: In short, they haven't. We have always operated on what we call first come first serve. This gives teams the flexibility to choose the space that suits their needs. Teams that have a history of competing at the state tournament will often camp in the same spot year after year. We (the tournament coordinators) have reserved many of the large lecture halls on campus for your use. Teams are expected to share these resources, and so far as we know the system has worked pretty well in the past.

Q: What does 'first come first serve' mean when it comes to camps?

A: Pretty much what it sounds like. You identify a spot from the team camp locations list (all fairly large auditoriums) and show up sometime at or after 6:30am on Saturday morning. Most auditoriums are large enough for several team camps, and you are encouraged to share if there is sufficient space. It is a great way to meet new people and make new friends. If somebody got there first, pick another spot.

Q: Will you assign our team a camp location?

A: Not unless you ask me to. The classrooms I have available to me are modestly sized, if you are bringing a lot of people this will not be the best option for you.

Q: If you do assign us a camp location, where will it be and when will I know?

A: Honestly I can't tell you until I make the assignments. There are many classrooms available on campus, and a web based reservation system that is provided to MSU faculty and staff. I have to make the reservations for you, based on availability in the system. It is far easier to do this as a single batch than as a bunch of individual requests, so I will wait until I think all the requests are in to make the reservation. You will know before tournament day.

Q: What if my camp is going to have 50+ people (parents, kids, siblings, etc), can you reserve me a larger room?

A: No. I have to work with the rooms available to me, and all of the larger rooms have been assigned to either the old system of first come first serve team camps or competition space. You can find a camp in one of the lecture halls (see [first come first serve](#)).

Q: Can you reserve the lecture hall 105 S Kedzie for me?

A: Absolutely not. The lecture halls (all of the rooms on the team camp map are lecture halls) are [first come, first serve](#).

Q: Can I claim a spot Friday night before the tournament?

A: No. You must wait until 6:30am on tournament day to reserve your spot. If you attempt to claim a spot on Friday night by leaving items, signs, etc, these items may vanish before the next morning. Please follow the rules. Yes, we are aware that in years past some teams have not followed the rules. Don't be that team. And don't complain if you lose items by not following the rules - you were warned.

Q: There is a classroom down the hall and the door is unlocked, may I use it?

A: No. We are contracted with MSU to use only the rooms we have arranged for in advance. MSU classes are still in session, with students taking final exams starting Monday. Rooms that are open in the morning may have been reserved for MSU student use later in the day.

Q: Can we camp outside?

A: Yes, but please limit yourselves to the outdoor spaces indicated on the map. Note that this map might change due to any number of factors (flooding seems to be an issue this week). Make sure to check for an updated map on the website before you set up your camp.

Q: I'm afraid I won't be able to find a spot, should I be?

A: No. There is plenty of space. You may not get your first choice, but you will find space.

Q: Can we bring food?

A: Please bring food. Your competitors need energy to compete.

Q: Where can my team find food, and more importantly, coffee?

A: There are numerous coffee shops and dining options within minutes of campus, as you might suspect. You may not realize that most campus dining halls allow guests to purchase meals. It is a very cost effective option, and the food has improved remarkably in the decades since I ate in the dining halls. See this website for hours, prices, and menus. <https://eatatstate.com/diningoncampus>

Q: Speaking of food, can I plug in a crockpot?

A: If there is an outlet in the room, feel free to use it. Be aware that some rooms may share a circuit and try to avoid overloading the system.

Q: Do we need to clean up after ourselves?

A: There is a kid in every class who ruins it for everybody. Don't be that kid. Please try to leave rooms and outdoor areas in the condition that you found them. Science Olympiad will be charged for cleaning rooms that are not left in good condition, and those costs can be considerable.

Q: Where do we park, and where does our bus park?

A: In general, you can park pretty much anywhere on the weekend (and after 6pm during the week). Spots that you cannot park in will be distinctly marked. Read the signs and there will be no surprises. Avoid 'University Vehicle Only' and 'leased' spots for example. Because it is the weekend before finals and early on a Saturday morning (our students are not known to be early risers), you should expect parking to be quite easy. Buses are welcome on campus to drop your team off, but are asked to park in the commuter lot – which is located south of campus at the corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope. Do not under any circumstances drive on sidewalks or lawn areas, even if it is just for a few minutes to set up your camp.