

June 23, 2023

Dear Parent,

We are pleased to announce the invitee list for the 2023 NSF Finals to be held at **Ohlone College, Fremont, CA during August 19-20, 2023.**

Please read the entire document below carefully and thoroughly. It is packed with a lot of important information to help with your decisions, planning and attending the finals. The 2023 Finals team is working hard to make your experience a positive and enjoyable event.

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1. Finals Invitees:

This email is addressed to the below contestants:

- Contestants who participated in the **2023 regionals** (Spelling, Vocabulary, Math, Geography, Science and Computer Science).
- **Senior Essay Writing** and **Senior Public Speaking** at the finals is open to all NSF children grades 9 to 12
- **Brain Bee:** Brain bee is open to contestants who went through the Learning Journey course. This is open to both IBB (Intermediate Brain Bee) grades 6, 7 and 8 and SBB (Senior brain

2. Priority & Wait List:

- The registration for the 2023 National Finals will be conducted in two phases – We first open registrations for invitees on the Priority List first.
- This will be followed by registration for Wait List invitees, until capacities for each contest is reached.

Please check the links below for the eligibility for finals:

- Priority list: <https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/finalists>.
- Waitlist: https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/finalists_total

3. Rules for priority list contestants:

- The contestants in the Priority List will have the opportunity to register first. You will be assured a seat if you register before the deadline for the Priority List. We encourage you to register early, as you make the decision.
- Once we open up registrations to the Total List, you will no longer hold the “Priority List” status. At that point we will have registrations open till we reach a pre-determined capacity for each contest.
- Please note that your registration is not complete until you pay
- Please read both lists. It is possible that a child may be on the priority list for one contest and may be on the wait list for a second contest. It is also possible one child is on the priority list and the other child is on the wait list. Because these lists are made based on scores, no other accommodation is possible. If you want to be on the safe side, you should register first the child who is in the priority list and then the other child when wait list becomes available.
- NorthSouth will not entertain requests to move one child from the wait list to Priority list since the other child is on the priority list.

4. Rules for wait list contestants:

- “Wait List” invitees will be given an opportunity to register after the deadline for the Priority List expires. Available seats will depend on how many “Priority List” invitees will have registered and paid.
- We will follow the first come first serve rule until the capacity is reached. **Note:** Wait List invitees are those who are on the Total List, but not on the Priority List. If your child is not in the priority list, but in the Total List, your child is wait listed.
- Please avoid waiting till the deadline date to register. Once we reach capacity for contests, we will close registrations for that contest, even if it is before the registration deadline.
- Senior Essay Writing (EW3), and Senior Public Speaking (PS3), at the 2023 National Finals are open to any contestant meeting the grade criteria (maximum allowed is 30 contestants.)

5. The selection criteria used in preparing the lists:

- Criteria for the priority list: <https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/SelectCriteria>
- Criteria for the combined list: <https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/SelectCriteriaTotal>

6. The registration schedule is as follows:

- Priority List: June 23, 2023
- Wait List: June 29, 2023

NOTE: Registration deadline for Priority list is at 10pm EST on June 28, 2023. Registration opens up for Wait list at 12 am EST on June 29.

7. Finals Contest Schedule:

- Here is the link to the schedule:
<https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/schedule>
- Please note that the organizers may make minor modifications to address any logistical issues that might occur beyond their control

8. Important Registration Information:

Photos & Profile Info:

- Please be ready with photos and profile info of your child(ren) for the Bee Book to be uploaded right after registration. **Without the uploaded photos, you will not be able to download practice words or sample questions.** Please follow the instructions for photos uploads: <https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/beebook-photo-instructions>

9. Lunch Payments:

- **Lunch payments are mandatory for the contestant and one parent / guardian on the days when the contestant is attending a contest. There is no exception to this guideline.**
- You can buy **additional lunch tickets** for your family online.
- Please note that due to tight schedule timelines, there is insufficient time to venture out to buy food. So please plan accordingly.
- We strive to start all contests on time and will not hold for late-comers.

10. Payments and refunds:

- Registration is not complete until payment is made. Thus a seat is not guaranteed until a payment is made.
- **Once a payment is made, no refund is available for any reason. This applies to all fees including meal charges.**

11. Capacity for each contest:

- Since the capacity is limited, registration will be closed as soon as the capacity is reached. So please register early.
- If you are leaving on vacation during the registration period, please make arrangements to register without fail.
- You will not be able register or participate in the Finals, once registration closes due to deadline or capacity limitations. NorthSouth will not entertain requests after registrations are closed.

12. Hotel Accommodation:

- Our organizers are actively pursuing multiple options with multiple hotel chains to get discounted prices. Please keep checking often to see the latest updates: <http://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/airlines-cars-hotels>

13. Detailed Emails including Past Communications:

All emails sent to parents regarding the Finals can also be found here:
<https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/parentcommunications>

Please visit the Finals page frequently for updates:

<https://www.northsouth.org/public/USContests/Finals/nationalfinals>

We look forward to welcoming you to Fremont in August.

Thank you. With regards

On behalf of the National Finals Team