



General

1. What opportunities will our yearbook staff have at the National School Spirit Championship?

Your staff will receive front-row access to capture photos and content of your school's band, cheer or dance team during the competition. This is a rare chance to document your school's spirit from a prime location and at the highest level of competition they face. For those attending without a competing program, your yearbook staff will be assigned a school to ensure you have the opportunity for creating content.

2. Is there training before the competition starts?

Yes. Before competition days, your staff will have one-day exclusive access to the venue for a private tour. They will receive professional training from media experts and hear presentations from industry leaders in yearbook, event planning and marketing.

3. What happens during the competition weekend?

Your staff will participate in hands-on working sessions focused on real-life journalism and media skills. These sessions will be scheduled around your school's performance times so students can both cover the event and support their team. A morning and afternoon session of the same topics will be offered to accommodate different school schedules.

4. What if our school is not competing in the championship?

If your program is not participating as a competitor, your yearbook staff will be paired with another school. This ensures they still have opportunities to capture engaging content and practice their journalism skills during the event. In many cases, your content can be shared with the school and/or with Varsity's staff for potential use.

5. Will there be any special behind-the-scenes experiences?

Depending on the production team's schedule, your staff may have the opportunity to witness the live production of the championship for ESPN. They could meet the lead producer and tour the backstage production trailer to see how a major sports broadcast is created. As credentialed media, your staffers will have access to specific press-only areas to capture photos and video footage of your school's performance.

6. Are there fun activities outside the competition?

Yes. Your registration includes *Walt Disney World*® Park Hopper tickets — giving your staff the chance to explore multiple Disney parks. This offers a fun way to bond as a staff while enjoying one of the world's top destinations.



7. When does this take place?

The championship takes place over two weekends, divided by school size.

- If your yearbook staff is attending with a competing cheer, dance or band program, make sure you register for the same weekend as your team's competition.
- If your school is not competing, choose the weekend that matches your school's size to align with the similar performances.

Division	School Size	Travel	Media Prep Day	Competition Days
Division II	1–1,399 students	Wed. Jan. 28	Thurs. Jan. 29	Jan. 30 – Feb. 1
Division I	1,400+ students	Wed. Feb. 4	Thurs. Feb. 5	Feb. 6 – 8

8. How many students can attend? Is there a required ratio of chaperones to students?

There's no limit to how many students can attend. However, only four photographers are permitted on the floor during your school's performance. We recommend bringing one chaperone for every four students.

9. Do I have to be a current Varsity Yearbook customer to attend?

Press Pass Academy is an experience available exclusively to Varsity Yearbook customers with a signed intent to print. Interested in printing with Varsity Yearbook and attending Press Pass Academy? Connect with a local rep here to learn more.

Registration and Payment

1. How much does it cost to attend?

Pricing depends on your yearbook staff's Travel Package selection:

- Value Hotel Travel Package: Disney's All-Star Resorts or Disney's Pop Century Resort
- Moderate Hotel Travel Package: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort or Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort
- Deluxe Hotel Travel Package: Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge
- Commuter Travel Package: Accommodations booked separately by your staff; transportation to theme parks and venue not included

All Travel Packages include:

- *Walt Disney World*® Theme Parks Park Hopper ticket for access to all four theme parks in one day
- Five-day admission to the ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex

2. What extra benefits come with Hotel Travel Packages?

- Hotel accommodations at *Walt Disney World*® resorts. *Same hotel coordination with your school's band, cheer or dance team is not guaranteed.*



- Bus transportation between Walt Disney World® resorts, theme parks and the ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex
- Extended evening hours at a selected *Walt Disney World*® theme park on Thursday night
- NSSC Celebration Party on Sunday night (included with select hotel packages; tickets available for purchase on-site — limited availability)

3. What is the registration process?

Registration dates are dependent on your school size.

- Complete the pre-registration roster form to include your full yearbook attendee roster list and expected travel package selection.
 - **Division II (1-1,399 students):** Form opens on Oct. 7
 - **Division I (1,400 students):** Form opens on Oct. 14
- Wait in pending status for registration approval and housing reservation to open.
- Once approved, you'll receive a team registration number and registration instructions via email from PressPassAcademy@varsity.com.
- Using your team number, go to MyVarsity to select housing packages and pay a \$100 non-refundable deposit per attendee.
 - **Division II**
 - **Moderate/Deluxe Hotel Package:** Housing Registration opens on Oct. 21
 - **Value Hotel Package:** Housing Registration opens on Oct. 23
 - **Commuter Travel Package:** Registration opens on Oct. 14
 - **Division I**
 - **Moderate/Deluxe Hotel Package:** Housing Registration opens on Oct. 28
 - **Value Hotel Package:** Housing Registration opens on Oct. 30
 - **Commuter Travel Package:** Registration opens on Oct. 16

4. What if I have to add or remove an attendee?

Any and all registration changes must be requested through the link on your MyVarsity account. Changes will be processed in the order they are received. We cannot take change requests via email. Please contact PressPassAcademy@varsity.com for questions only.

5. How do I pay the deposit or full payment amount?

We do not accept personal checks — payment must be made by credit card through MyVarsity or by money order. School checks may be mailed directly to our office; please ensure the registration number and event name are included on the check.

For example:

NSSC DI REG-00000000

711 N Front Street, Suite 100

Memphis, TN 38107



6. What are the payment deadlines?

- **Attendee Deposit:** In order for you to have your individual registration approved and confirmed, you will need submit a \$100 non-refundable deposit for each attendee when selecting your housing registration on MyVarsity.
- **Final payment:** Final payment must be made by December 30, 2025 (Division II) and January 6, 2025 (Division I). Once your account balance is paid in full, Varsity Spirit will email Ticket Confirmation Numbers to the contact person listed on the invoice.

7. How will we receive our *Walt Disney World*® theme park tickets?

Once you are paid in full, you will receive an email from Varsity Spirit with your theme park ticket number for each person on your invoice. You will then need to complete the provided steps in the confirmation email to connect your tickets digitally to the MyDisney Experience app.

Travel and Accommodations

1. Is travel to Orlando, FL included?

No. Airfare and ground transportation are not included in registration costs. Airfare or ground transportation discounts may be available through Varsity Yearbook.

2. When should my staff travel to Orlando, FL?

Yearbook staffs are encouraged to arrive on Wednesday, the day before Media Prep Day or take the first flight in on Thursday. On-site check-in will include lanyards, name tags and ESPN Wide World of Sports credential cards. This must be completed by 11:45 a.m. All yearbook attendees should then be at the ESPN Wide World of Sports by 1:00 p.m. for the official start.

3. Will our yearbook staff stay in the same hotel as our school's band, cheer or dance team?

Not necessarily. While efforts are made to coordinate accommodations, staying at the same hotel as your school's team is not guaranteed.

4. Are meal vouchers available?

Yes. Meal vouchers can be pre-purchased for \$20 each. Each voucher is valid for lunch or dinner at select on-property locations but not for breakfast.

5. What food options are available at ESPN Wide World of Sports?

Several food options will be available throughout the complex. Field 20, located between the State Farm Field House and the Athletic Center, will host food trucks during the weekend. Additional food choices can be found inside the State Farm Field House and the Athletic Center. Concession stands will also be open in the AdventHealth Arena and inside the Stadium. About a



week before the Championship, we will share the exact hours and confirm which food locations will be open.

6. Is transportation provided to or from MCO airport and *Walt Disney World*® resorts or other hotel accommodations (Commuter Travel Package)?

Transportation to and from the airport **is not provided**. The trip from Orlando International Airport (MCO) to Disney takes about 30 minutes. There are several transportation options available — more details on airfare and ground transportation discounts will be shared at a later time.

7. Is transportation provided to or from ESPN Wide World of Sports and *Walt Disney World*® theme parks?

For those with a Hotel Travel Package, transportation to and from all Varsity events is included, as well as service to and from *Walt Disney World*® resort property and theme parks. You must wear your name tag to board the championship buses. Your name tag and lanyard serve as your ticket for this transportation. Those with Commuter Travel Packages are not permitted to use Varsity buses to the Championships, theme parks and resort property. More information on bus schedule will be provided.

8. Is parking available at *Walt Disney World*® resorts and ESPN Wide World of Sports?

There is free parking available at ESPN Wide World of Sports. There are additional priority levels of parking available for purchase. This is first come, first served and has limited availability and links to purchase this will be sent out closer to the event.

During NSSC

1. Where do we check in for the event? What should we bring?

Advisers will receive an email with on-site registration instructions specific to Orlando. Please bring signed release waivers for each staffer and adviser.

At registration, advisers will receive:

- Name tags and lanyards
- ESPN Wide World of Sports credentials for all rostered attendees
- Celebration Party wristbands (for those on the hotel travel package)
- Thursday night Extended Hours wristbands (for those on the hotel travel package)
- Any additional meal vouchers or Celebration Party tickets purchased outside the standard hotel package

2. How do we enter ESPN Wide World of Sports?

All staff and attendees must enter through credential gates. You will need to show your name tag and credential card. Security procedures, including bag checks, may cause delays, so allow extra time.



3. How will we receive event updates?

Updates will be sent through push notifications in the BAND app. Links to join the event group will be provided closer to the event.

4. What does a Competition Day look like?

Schedules are based on your school's (or assigned school's) performance times. They are released about five weeks before the Championship and may change on the day of the event.

Sample timeline for 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. performances:

- 8:00 a.m. — Arrive at ESPN Wide World of Sports
- 8:30 a.m. — Pre-performance activities on the open fields
- 8:50 a.m. — Venue entry for Performance #1
- 9:00–9:30 a.m. — Performance #1 and post-performance coverage
- 10:00 a.m. — PPA Breakout Session #1
- 11:30 a.m. — Pre-performance coverage for Performance #2
- 11:50 a.m. — Venue entry for Performance #2
- 12:00–12:30 p.m. — Performance #2 and post-performance coverage
- 1:00 p.m. — Finals announcement
- 1:50 p.m. — Pre-performance coverage for Performance #3
- 2:00–2:30 p.m. — Performance #3 and post-performance coverage
- 2:00 p.m. — PPA Breakout Session #2 (concurrent with Performance #3)
- 3:15 p.m. — Depart venue for hotel
- 4:00 p.m. — Visit *Walt Disney World* theme park

5. What if my school's band, cheer or dance team isn't competing?

If your program is not participating, your yearbook staff will be paired with another school to ensure they still gain experience capturing content and practicing journalism.

6. When will we know performance and finals schedules?

Performance orders are released about five weeks before the Championship for planning. Finals announcements will be made during breaks in the schedule. This is a single-elimination competition, so only the initial performance is guaranteed.

7. When can my staff attend *Walt Disney World*® theme parks?

Staff may visit when their competition schedule allows. Advisers decide the best times for their groups.

8. How early should we arrive before a performance?

Plan to arrive at least 45 minutes before your scheduled time. This allows for transportation, security, warm-up and any unexpected delays.



9. How many photographers are allowed on the floor?

Each school may have up to three photographers on the performance floor. Additional photo areas are available in spectator zones. Photographers must wear lanyards and the Press Pass Academy black t-shirt while on the floor.