



# **NATIONAL SCIENCE AND YOUTH CONGRESS 2024**

EVENT PRIMER



**2024**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

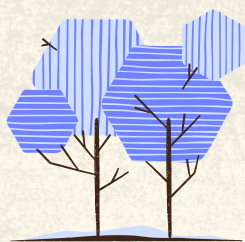
Greetings!

Following a five-year break, The Alliance announces the return of our nationwide quiz contest. We extend a warm invitation to high school students from all across the country to participate in the National Science Youth Congress: Mental Smackdown. For this year's event, we will be exploring the theme "Fortifying Roots for a Greener Future: The Filipino Youth in Urban Forestry".

Emerging with renewed strength from the challenges of the pandemic, the much-anticipated return of the NSYC: Mental Smackdown symbolizes our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of Urban Forestry, emphasizing the crucial role of trees in our urban landscapes. The event serves as an opportunity for students to reconnect, reignite their passion for learning, and collectively sow the seeds of knowledge for a more sustainable tomorrow.

The Mental Smackdown challenges students to their knowledge not only in mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics; but also in urban forestry. Our collective wish is for students, teachers, and young professionals alike to delve into the complexities of urban landscapes armed with a keen understanding of the issues at hand. We anticipate that they will not only identify problems but also become instrumental in crafting innovative and sustainable solutions.

Are you ready to embark on a journey into the heart of our cities, where concrete meets canopy?



**Brennan Jaevez Martin**

President, UP AChES 2023-2024

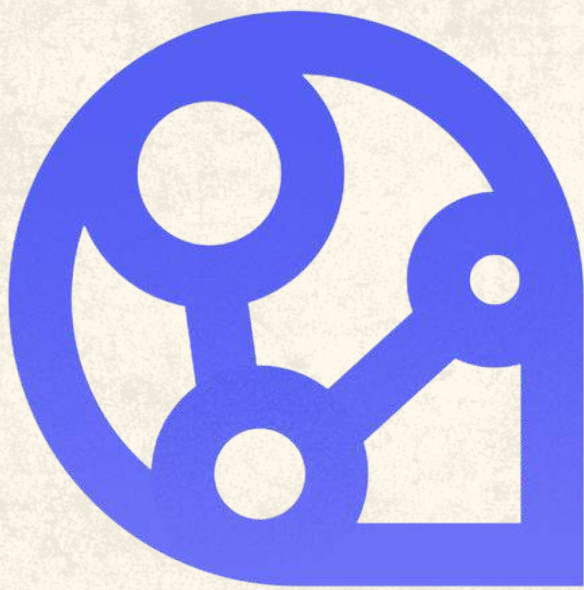


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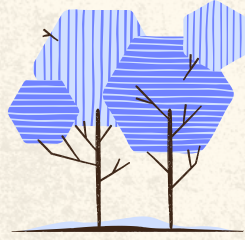
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Fortifying Roots  
for a Greener  
Future: The  
Filipino Youth  
in Urban Forestry

The National Science and Youth Congress (NSYC) is an inter-high school competition which aims to celebrate today's young and innovative minds through a quiz contest (Mental Smackdown), a symposium (Syntegrate) and a science fair (Youth Greenovation). NSYC serves as an avenue for junior and senior high school students to showcase their scientific knowledge and practice friendly competition among other junior and senior high school students from different parts of the country. This year, only Mental Smackdown will be held but our goal towards knowledge and innovation continues to thrive. Furthermore, this year's NSYC will deal with fortifying the future of Filipino youth through urban forestry and aid in attaining a seamless connection between science and nature.



# MENTAL SMACKDOWN



## MENTAL SMACKDOWN



### EVENT

### DETAILS

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Mental Smackdown is an annual quiz contest which not only promotes academic excellence but also encourages involvement in environmental issues in the country. Mental Smackdown aims to give its participants a healthy competition among teams from various schools and provide an avenue for academic growth not only in the fields of mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics but also in environmental issues which, for this year, is about urban forestry.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## General Mechanics

- Each school can be represented by a maximum of two (2) teams; wherein each team shall be composed of three (3) members.
- The members of each team shall be limited to (1) representative per grade level and may come from the 8th grade up to the 12th grade.
- One teacher-coach per team is required to accompany the student participants during the competition. They will be seated in a specific place designated for all the coaches to seat in during the event proper.
- Participants are required to wear their respective school uniforms and school IDs. Duly registered teacher-coaches are also required to wear their respective school IDs. If ID is unavailable, as long as the student's proof of enrollment is provided during registration, they can talk to the organizers for exemption to this rule.
- Participants must fill out the Mental Smackdown 2024 Application form uploaded at [www.nsyncph.weebly.com](http://www.nsyncph.weebly.com). Deadline of submission of forms registration will be on April 22, 2024.



# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## General Mechanics

- Registration fee is at Php 1000.00 (inclusive of food for the three members of the team and NSYC Kit) per team while walk-in registration is at Php 1200.00 (inclusive of food for the three members of the team and NSYC Kit) per team. Since in filling out the registration form, the proof of complete payment is required; the method and details of payment are included in the registration form.
- In case of a sudden substitution after submitting the registration form, the school or team is required to send an email with the subject " [NSYC 2024] Final Roster " with the substituting student's proof of enrollment to nsyncph@gmail.com for the final roster of participants two weeks before the event proper (April 27, 2024), or else, their initially registered students are expected to attend the event.
- Only the registered participants are allowed to participate in the event proper. Any teams with less than three (3) present registered participants are prohibited to participate in the quiz contest.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## General Mechanics

- Should there be any questions regarding the registration, reach us out at our Facebook page: National Science and Youth Congress, or through email [nsycph@gmail.com](mailto:nsycph@gmail.com) with the subject: MS 2024 Queries .
- For every registered team, there will be an allotted seat beforehand in the floor plan.
- Mental Smackdown 2024 will be divided into two (2) rounds, namely, the Elimination Round, and the Main Round.
- Questions in the contest will cover topics in junior high school science (biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science) and mathematics (algebra, business math, calculus, geometry, and trigonometry). In addition, questions about this year's theme of urban forestry will be included in the pool of questions.
- In order to prepare for the urban forestry questions, resources regarding the said topic are available at [www.nsycph.weebly.com](http://www.nsycph.weebly.com).
- The participant's phones will be surrendered to their coaches. For every bathroom break during the elimination round, there will be an inspection by the accompanying facilitator for cellphones and other foreign items.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## General Mechanics

- All the items that every team may use are provided and are placed on their allotted seat before their arrival. A folder (that houses the zip grade answer sheet and questionnaire), pencil, ballpen, calculator, and solution sheet are present.
- Foods are not allowed in the premises of the competition. The foods and other rations are available to the team's coaches, and are available for consumption during breaks and lunch. Water and snacks on the other hand are allowed to be consumed. In order to claim their snacks and water rations, the team should notify their facilitators during roll calls so that their coaches will be notified.
- Whenever there is protest in the main round:
  - Raised by the student participants: They have to raise their concern to their facilitator during the roll call.
  - Raised by the teacher-coach: The teacher-coach shall approach the facilitator stationed near the teacher-coach seats in order to raise their protests.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## Competition Proper ELIMINATION ROUND

- In the Elimination Round, all members of the team will take a written multiple-choice type exam. The exam consists of 100 questions from Sciences, Mathematics, and Urban Forestry which is good for two (2) hours.
- No calculators are allowed for the elimination round, and bond papers will be distributed for their solutions.
- During the two (2) hour elimination round, only one (1) participant at a time will be allowed to have a bathroom break. They must raise their hand for them to be acknowledged by a facilitator near their station. Once they are given the signal, they will be accompanied by a facilitator to the bathroom.
- The participants that raised their hands for the bathroom will be in queue, and the number one in the queue will be allowed to use the bathroom once the bathroom signal in front of the testing room is labeled as available.
- The number of teams that will proceed to the main round will be announced before the elimination round starts.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**ELIMINATION ROUND**

- If by chance that there are multiple teams tied to the last place and will make the teams that will proceed to the next round greater than the announced number of teams:
- When tied teams are less than or equal to three (3)
  - a. All of them will proceed to the next round.
- When tied teams are greater than three (3)
  - b. The team members' scores will be inspected, and a special tie breaker mechanic called head-to-head comparison will be implemented.
    1. In case of a tie after the head-to-head tie breaker, a ten (10) question quiz shall be given to the tied teams and will be answered for 30 minutes. The team with higher score shall proceed to the next round.
    2. In case of tie in the questioned quiz, all tied teams will proceed to the main round.

ELIMINATION ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- Each question will be flashed on the screen and will be read by the quiz masters twice. After the second (2nd) reading, the quiz masters shall say “go”. Automatically, the time allotted per question will begin with the word “go” by the quiz master. Members can write their answers on the answer boards once the question is flashed on the screen. After the time limit and signaled by the buzzer sounds, the team must stop writing and raise their answer boards. The quiz masters will count up to five (5) out loud. When the teams haven’t been able to raise their board after the five (5) second count, the teams’ answer will be forfeit (no answer). The quiz master shall read and verify the teams’ answer. There will be another five (5) second count before proceeding to the next round; where teams can either raise a protest or use a plant survival item.

MAIN ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- The final answer should be written legibly and encircled, otherwise the answer will NOT be considered. Moreover, numeric final answers resulted from calculations should be rounded off into 2 decimal places \*UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED\* Also, abbreviated final answers will not be considered, otherwise stated in the question. The teams will be given calculators to use. However, for certain questions where the use of calculators is prohibited, the calculators shall be surrendered to the proctors and shall be returned only after the answer for that question is announced. Calculators to be used will be Casio fx-991ES plus and will be provided by the proctors.
- Each team will have their own urban tree, and in order to win, should survive and stay healthy until the end of the 5th weather cycle.
- In each team, the assigned facilitator will help the teams manage their progress and ease their navigation through the mechanics. Additionally, there will be two facilitators in front who will be taking note of each team's progress.

MAIN ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- For every end of a weather cycle, there will be a designated ten (10) minute bathroom break. The competition will continue after allotted ten (10) minutes regardless of the completeness of all participants and teams.
- After the third (3) weather cycle or after the first 90 minutes of the game, the game will be put to a halt for a 10 minute program break.
- Each urban tree has three (3) life bars in which at the start of the game is at 5 pts each. These three (3) life bars are named Water level, Phosphorus level, and Nitrogen level.
- The maximum points per life bar is 10 pts where 5 pts and 3 pts are called the unhealthy levels, while 2 to 0 pts is called the detrimental level.
- For every question correctly answered, the team will gain a weather pattern protection for that specific round. An incorrect answer will lead them vulnerable to the weather effects.
- For the Rainy Season, the water level and nitrogen levels are not lowering, however the phosphorus level is constantly getting a 1pt deduction unless they acquired protection.

MAIN ROUND



# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- For the Dry Season, the phosphorus level is not getting a deduction, however, the water level and nitrogen levels are constantly getting a 1pt deduction unless they acquired protection.
- Once every weather cycle, when one (1) of the life bars are depleted to a detrimental level, they will incur a tree complication which can be removed upon re-filling the said depleted life bar to unhealthy levels or at least 3pt. Surviving from the said challenge, they will be safe from gaining new complications, but are vulnerable again on the next weather cycle.
- If a team has not removed an incurred tree problem within one (1) weather cycle, they will be automatically removed from the game.
- When a team has zero (0) pts and is going to be deducted because of the weather effect, they will receive a debt bar in which they will need to remove by acquiring plant survival items. (1 debt bar = 1 life bar).
- When two (2) of the life bars are simultaneously depleted at the same time, they will be automatically removed from the game.

MAIN ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- Before the start of the 3rd and 6th question, the quiz masters will state the plant survival item that will be given to those teams that answered the question correctly.
- The plant survival items and their effects are of the following:
- Items that are available during the 3rd question of a weather cycle:
  - Fertilizer A - Phosphorus level is added by 3pts, while Water and Nitrogen levels are decreased by 1pt.
  - Fertilizer B - Nitrogen level is added by 3pts, while Water level is decreased by 1pt.
- Item that is available during the 6th question of a weather cycle:
  - Water - Water level increases by 3pts.
- Teams can only decide to use their plant survival items before the start of a question.
- Every team can strategize and keep up to four (4) survival items in their inventory and use them whenever needed. When they've won their 5th survival item, they should either discard the latest survival item or use one of the items kept in their inventory.

MAIN ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- The tree complications that the teams might incur upon reaching detrimental levels are of the following:

## 1. Infestation

- Will be Incurred when: the nitrogen level or phosphorus level is at a detrimental level.
- Effect: the team's phosphorus and nitrogen level will be deducted by 1pt every start of a question.
- To remove: the team must answer two (2) consecutive questions correctly.

## 2. Nutrient Deficiencies

- Will be Incurred when: the water level is at a detrimental level.
- Effect: the team's correct answer will not give them the weather protection bonus.
- To remove: the team must answer two (2) consecutive questions correctly.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper  
**MAIN ROUND**

- By the end of the 5th cycle, the surviving teams will tally their total points available, and the higher points one team accumulates, the higher their placement will be.

CORRECT ANSWER	+3
WRONG ANSWER	-2
NO ANSWER	0

## Tie Breaker Mechanics

- In case of a tie, the tie-breaking mechanics shall be in effect. The team who accumulates the highest points based on correct answers shall be declared the winner. The pointing system is as follows:
- In case of another tie in the tiebreaker point system, a clincher round shall be done.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

Competition Proper

## CLINCHER ROUND

- The tied teams will be answering ten (10) questions with multiple choices, where each question will be read once by the quiz masters, and will be answered for ten (10) seconds each.
- Every end of a question, the answers of the tied teams will be evaluated by the quiz masters.
- The first team to answer incorrectly or has no answer at all while the other team(s) answered correctly will lose the chance to win the round. The last remaining team will get the podium finish where the teams involved had tied.
- In the instance of no team correctly answering the question, no elimination will take place and will proceed to the next question.
- When there are multiple tied teams, the last team standing will win the podium finish they are tied in. If applicable, the 2nd to last team that is eliminated will claim the next podium finish available.

CLINCHER ROUND

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## Awarding and Protests

- After the Main Round, the team who gets the highest score will be automatically declared the Champion; and the second (2nd) and third (3rd) highest will be declared First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up, respectively.
- The top 3 teams will receive the following prizes:

CHAMPION	TROPHY, MEDALS, CERTIFICATES AND 20,000 PHP
FIRST RUNNER-UP	MEDALS, CERTIFICATES AND 12,000 PHP
SECOND RUNNER-UP	MEDALS, CERTIFICATES AND 9,000 PHP

- Highest Scorer/s during the elimination round will receive a distinction certificate.

# MENTAL SMACKDOWN

## Awarding and Protests

- Protests can be made only by any member or the duly registered teacher-coach of the team. These should be referred to the Board of Judges immediately, before the quiz masters read the next question, failure to do so shall nullify the protest and the contest proper shall proceed.
- The decision of the Board of Judges is final and irrevocable in all questions/protests.



# ELEVATE

MAY 11, 2024



CEAT LECTURE HALL, UPLB

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND YOUTH CONGRESS 2024



# IMPORTANT DATES

**START OF REGISTRATION**

MARCH 15, 2024

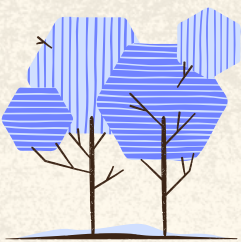
**END OF REGISTRATION**

APRIL 22, 2024

**NSYC 2024**

MAY 11, 2024

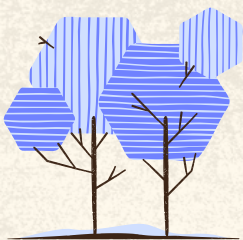
**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND YOUTH CONGRESS 2024**



# PAYMENT DETAILS

Payments are to be deposited to the following bank accounts:

BANK	ACCOUNT NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER
Landbank	Leandre Emile Apostol	2616248696
GCash	Mark Joseph Macaraeg	09667787679





## NATIONAL SCIENCE AND YOUTH CONGRESS 2024

### **Overall Head:**

Carmella Janelli Ojos

### **Mental Smackdown:**

Heads: Alan Rodas, MJ Macaraeg

Members: Abi Arjona, Sydnie Siyhian, Lanoline Toring, Gemma Lagrimas, Max Macorol, Runcel Arenque, Nikko Salomon, Dave Baral, Jeff Tajon, Nathan Romana, Zen Granado, Liya Vergara, Kristine Palmado, Pao Tan, Chyyia Acosta, Emile Apostol, Joseph Almoite, Jenny Lawas, Almina Deazeta, Cosco Bangolan, Sey Fronda, Maria De Guzman, Arianne Paas, Jim Dioneda, Jess Ramos, Genzy Malapajo, Kyla Mediana, Joyce Ebor, JV Dizon, Gill Araneta, Kaye Camacho, Johnathan Cortez, Kurt Beronilla, Sellie Defeo, Raf Aranda, Ina Magno

**For inquiries and more  
details, you may contact:**

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Lanoline Toring  
09055689666

**Or visit us at:**

[nsycph.weebly.com](http://nsycph.weebly.com) 

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