

2017 ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian Report of the National Co-Chairs

HIGH/MIDDLE/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL							
STATE/REGION	SCHOOLS/ PROGRAMS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	HONOR	NO AWARD	TOTAL
ALASKA*	7	20	9	8	7	13	57
DELAWARE VALLEY	4	37	27	6	3	8	81
ILLINOIS	6	56	17	3	0	12	88
MARYLAND	6	23	24	24	41	2	114
MINNESOTA	4	21	12	1	0	0	34
NEW JERSEY	6	95	48	8	0	8	159
NEW ENGLAND	3	11	6	6	12	0	35
NY /STATE	3	28	20	10	2	0	60
NYC/HERITAGE**	---	32	24	6	0	0	62
NORTH CAROLINA	2	6	4	4	3	3	20
OHIO	4	7	10	2	2	1	22
TENNESSEE/ MISSISSIPPI	3	13	6	1	0	1	21
TEXAS	4	25	16	18	16	10	85
VIRGINIA	10	64	55	35	27	30	211
Total	62	438	278	132	113	76	1049

* Includes elementary school students (Alaska is only competition where elementary school contestants received traditional medals and certificates).

** Students from multiple, unidentified schools participated

ELEMENTARY LEVEL		
STATE/REGION	SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS	TOTAL
MARYLAND	1*	69

*Participating school also fielded students in the regular competition. In addition to certificates of participation, elementary level participants received certificates denoting outstanding performance in various ad hoc categories.

GRAND TOTALS	
SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS
62+	1118*

* 961 contestants received traditional Olympiada awards (medals and/or categorized certificates).

Notes:

1. For the first time in a number of years, all regional competitions included at least two schools/programs.
2. In 2017, participant numbers fell off slightly (36 fewer participants than in 2016); the decline in participant numbers reflects to a large extent a notable drop in numbers in Alaska (from 172 in 2016 to 57 in 2017) occasioned by cutbacks in Russian language offerings across the state. However, the number of schools/programs rose from 58+ to 62+. Nonetheless, total participant numbers for 2017 were the second highest recorded over the last six years.

YEAR	PARTICIPANTS
2010	1291
2011	1136
2012	984
2013	1096
2014	1111
2015	1095
2016	1154
2017	1118

2. Number of participating schools/programs rose slightly from 58+ in 2016 to 62+ in 2017.
3. The states and regions with the highest number of participants (aggregated across all types of competitions) were Virginia (211), Maryland (181), and New Jersey (159).
4. The lowest number of participants per traditional state/region was in North Carolina (20), followed by Ohio (20), and Tennessee/Mississippi (21).
5. Of recently active Olympiada regions (dating back to 2010) no competitions were held in the following regions: Indiana, Oklahoma, and Washington.
6. Traditional Olympiada medals/certificates were awarded to students as follows: Gold (45.6%), Silver (28.9%), Bronze (13.7%), Honorable Mention (11.8%).
7. Each region (with exception of Ohio) selected at least one regular-category and, where feasible, heritage-category participant to be recognized with the ACTR/SLAVA Award for Outstanding Achievement in the study of Russian. Regular awardees received a book prize in the form of *The Russian's World: Life and Language* by Genevra Gerhart with Eloise M. Boyle (4th Edition, Slavica: 2012), while heritage awardees received as their book prize a copy of *The Russian Context: The Culture Behind the Language*, edited by Genevra Gerhart and Eloise M. Boyle (Slavica: 2002). Both books were provided by Slavica at a substantial discount and paid for by SLAVA. List of awardees, along with teachers and schools:

NAME	REGION	SCHOOL	TEACHER
1. Taylor Holman	ALASKA	Unalaska City School	Galena Roraback
2. Halle O'Neil	DELAWARE VALLEY	Abington Heights HS	Amy Wojcik Marianne Ruane
3. Jonathan Shochat	DELAWARE VALLEY	Eastern Regional HS	
4. Nadia Segura	ILLINOIS	Pritzker College Prep	Phillip Stosberg Lauren Nelson
5. Daria Chudnovsky	ILLINOIS	By the Onion Sea	Julia Denne
6. Grace Apencha	MARYLAND	Friends School of Baltimore	Elizabeth Lee Roby
7. Anthony Rabinovich	MARYLAND	Walt Whitman HS	Michelle Quackenbush
8. Jasper Zarkower	MINNESOTA	St. Paul Central HS	Oksana Cox
9. Christopher Lang	NEW ENGLAND	Buckingham, Brown & Nichols	Joshua Walker
10. Paulina Chumakov	NEW ENGLAND	MAC Medway	Elena Fomitcheva
11. Henry Silberstein	NEW JERSEY	Sparta HS	William Brennan
12. Andrew Conner	NY STATE	Tamarac HS	Ms. Wright
13. Alyson Brandis	NY STATE	Staten Island Technical HS	Natalia Levina
14. Haley Hsu	TENNESSEE/ MISSISSIPPI	Mississippi School for Math and Science	Ms. Margaret Mary Henry
15. Sasha Spiegel	TEXAS	Pushkin School of Houston	Katia Pronina
16. Paola Martinez	TEXAS	Furr HS	Anna Levina
17. Miriam Velasquez	TEXAS	Furr HS	Anna Levina
18. Hannah Folks	VIRGINIA	C.D. Hylton HS	Paul Rischard
19. Emma Ross	VIRGINIA	C.D. Hylton HS	Paul Rischard
20. Aleksey Didenkov	VIRGINIA	Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology	Betsy Sandstrom
21. Elizaveta Brover	VIRGINIA	Russian School Olympus	Lidia Krasnov

8. An International Olympiada took place in Moscow in early December. A delegation of six US candidates was selected from eligible students nominated by chairs of the various Olympiada regions. MAPRIAL and American Councils for International Education, the principal funders for delegation travel, collaborated on the selection of the delegation. Funding for delegation travel was also provided by SLAVA. The Russian and East European Institute of Indiana University also provided support for travel of the delegation chaperone, Natalia Ushakova.

9. An annual videoconference for Olympiada state/regional chairs was held on December 14, 2017 with nine chairs in attendance.

10. In Spring 2018, we expect the debut of a new regional Olympiada in Western Pennsylvania.

Mark Trotter and Ruth Edelman
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