DC DataFest™ 2015

FAQs

• **How do I sign up?**
  Please fill out the form fully. We only need one application per team. If you'd like to compete but don't have a team, send us an email and we'll link you up with other students who are looking for teammates. Seats are limited, so register early!

• **Is this strictly a statistics activity? Or is the data likely to use other techniques outside of statistics techniques?**
  This is NOT just a statistics activity – it’s a data activity! The event is open to anyone with an interest in data – regardless of major. Political science teams and psychology teams took home prizes at DataFest Germany.

• **Who is eligible to compete?**
  All undergraduate students are eligible to compete.

• **How large are the teams?**
  Teams can be made up of 2-5 students, but we recommend that you have at least three team members wherever possible.

• **Do I have to compete in a team?**
  Yes, but let us know if we can help you find a team (see below).

• **What if I don't have a team in mind, or if we need more people in the team?**
  You can note this when you sign up and we'll put you in touch with others who are looking for teammates to fill out their teams.

• **Do students have to stay the entire time?**
  No. You may come and go as you please. However, you are not allowed to work on the project except while you are on DataFest™ grounds, and at least 3 members of your team must attend the introduction.

• **What do I need to compete?**
  All you need is a laptop with tools for data analysis (there is no limitation on which software you use) and enthusiasm for data.

• **What was DC DataFest 2014 like?**
  This is the first DC DataFest! But you should read more about past DataFests hosted by Duke University and UCLA.
• **What can I win?**
Fame, glory, and a chance for your team and school to win Best in Show, Best Visualization, or Best Use of Outside Data. And you get a t-shirt!

• **Where else is ASA DataFestTM happening?**
ASA DataFest™ is growing fast! This year the event is being held at 7 locations around the US with participation from 23 universities!
  - March 20-22—Duke University (Host), NCSU, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, North Carolina A&T State, University of Michigan
  - March 27-29—Purdue University
  - March 27-29—Five Colleges at the University of Massachusetts (host) with Smith College, Hampshire College, Amherst College and Mt. Holyoke College
  - April 10-12—Penn State University
  - April 10-12—Emory University
  - April 10-12—DC Summit: University of Maryland (host) with George Washington University and Georgetown University
  - April 24-26—UCLA (host) with the University of California, Riverside; University of Southern California; Pomona College; and Cal Poly Pomona

many more coming... If you are interested in holding ASA DataFest™ at your institution, learn how by visiting the official ASA DataFest™ website.

• **What are the rules of the competition?**
The rules are very simple:
  - No more than five undergraduate members per team.
  - Team members can come and go as they please but all work has to be done on-site. A steady supply of food, beverage, and candy make it more inviting to stay. Last year while most students went home by 1am on Friday night, by the same time on Saturday night, teams were still going full-steam.
  - It's a competition, but a friendly one, so collaboration between teams is not only allowed but highly encouraged. Official DataFest consultants (grad students, faculty, etc.) will also be around throughout the weekend to help with any questions you might have. However you can't have outside help.

• **Anything else I should know about DataFest?**
While DataFest (TM) is a competition, the main goal of the event is to promote collaboration. DataFest (TM) is also a great opportunity to gain experience that employers are looking for. Having worked on a data analysis problem at this scale will certainly help make you a good candidate for any position that involves analysis and critical thinking, and it will provide a concrete example to demonstrate your experience during interviews.