

## 48th Annual National Collegiate Landscape Competition

March 13 - 16, 2024

Brigham Young University

### LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

**Description:** A two-person team (maximum of one team per school) will take an online pre-qualifying exam (individually), with the top scoring teams advancing to Friday's field exercise. The online exam will measure the participants' knowledge of surface area calculations, sprayer calibrations, fertilizer application rates, and chemical dilution rates and anything else covered in the Maintenance Manual. Both the inside and outside could be tested on mower operation, reduced downtime (maintenance), and safety.

**Pre-Event Qualifying Test:** There will be a proctor monitored online test held onsite at NCLC. The testing center will be open Tuesday, March 12 from 10 am – 10 pm and Wednesday, March 13 from 7 am – 7 pm. See the schedule for room assignments. Participants from the same school are to take the test individually but must come to the testing center at the same time. Results will be posted on Wednesday night at 9 pm.

Teams that advance to the field exercise on Friday will be required to demonstrate knowledge of maintaining a property. Students will present to the judge the following:

- Safety – Demonstrate knowledge of the safety features of a zero-turn mower as well as gas and battery string trimmers and backpack blowers. Knowledge of the proper Personal Protective Equipment to be used with each.
- Reduced Downtime (Maintenance) – A knowledge of the key components on the above-mentioned equipment that need preventative maintenance, what that maintenance is, and how often.
- Jobsite Assessment – Assess a jobsite and provide a description of how you would properly maintain the property with the above-mentioned equipment.
- Mower Operation – Demonstrate a working, hands-on knowledge of the operation of any commercial zero turn mower.

The following resources should be used for study:

***“Landscape Training Manual for Maintenance Technicians”*** from NALP

**Husqvarna Z500 & V500 Commercial Wheeled owner's manual:**

[Z500](#)

[V500](#)

#### **Handheld Product Manuals**

- 550iBTX backpack blower
- 580 backpack blower
- 525iLST string trimmer
- 525LST string trimmer

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**Time:** Students must complete the online pre-qualifying exam in the time allotted by NALP. Judges will time students during the online exam, but this time will only be used as a tie breaker. Teams participating in the field exercise will be allotted 30 minutes to complete the field portion of the event. Timeslots for Friday's field exercise will be assigned during Thursday's event briefing, with the selection order determined on a first come, first served basis.

**Limits:** There is no limit to the number of students that can participate in the online exam. There will be a limit of 32 teams that may participate in the field exercise. The number of teams participating in the field exercise is limited due to time constraints.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

**Points:** 100 possible points per team member; 200 possible points towards the team score. Each team member will receive his/her own points. Points will be combined between both team members to determine the team score for the competitive event. Each team member will choose two of the four outdoor events to be completed. No student can do the same event(s) as their teammate.

Points will be assigned based on the following criteria:

1. Safety Features & PPE knowledge (50 points)
2. Reduced Downtime/Preventative Maintenance (50 points)
3. Jobsite Assessment (50 points)
4. Hands On Zero Turn Mower Operation (50 points)

**Students are required to bring the following materials to the event:** Students are required to wear long pants and hard-soled shoes during the field exercise. All other materials will be provided.

**Sponsor is required to supply the following materials for the event:**

- All equipment and materials needed for the field exercise for competition stations: safety, RDT, assessment, landscape equipment.
- Marking paint
- Stopwatches
- Sufficient number of judges and event monitors
- Any other items deemed necessary for this event