



presents

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION PACKET

18th Annual MSA Showdown

PAVING
THE
PATH TO

GREATNESS:

A COMMITMENT TO

EXCELLENCE

APRIL 11 - 13 | RICE UNIVERSITY

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SALAM!!

WELCOME TO HOUSTON!

Showdown brings together collegiate MSAs across Texas for friendly competitions, religious lectures, and other events.

Showdown is an amazing way to meet and create bonds with Muslim college students all across the state! Inshā'Allāh, this opportunity will allow you to have fun, gain knowledge, and create lifelong friendships — all while growing as Muslims. The MSA Lone Star Council and the Muslim Student Association at RICE are excited to welcome you to the 18th Annual MSA Showdown at RICE University in Houston.

OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the relationships between the MSA Lone Star Council & MSAs in Texas
- Develop brotherhood & sisterhood and facilitate unity among and within MSAs in Texas
- Create and foster an environment for spiritual growth
- Showcase creative talent and skills of Muslim students

LINKS

- [Registration Link](#)
- Registration Packet (this one)
- [LSC Website](#) (roster and submissions)



RICE

PAVING THE PATH TO GREATNESS: A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, 'Allah loves that when anyone of you does a job, he does it with excellence.'"

Sahih Al-Bukhari (468)

"Indeed, Allah commands justice, excellence (Ihsan), and giving to relatives, and forbids immorality, bad conduct, and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded."

Surah An-Nahl (16:90)

In the fast-paced modern life of a Muslim, it is easy to tolerate and accept mediocrity, so long as it gets us by. The relentless effort – from just getting through school, to just searching for a job, to just achieving a sense of safety – and for the fortunate – to starting a family – can make it easy to settle. We accept the bare minimum to move through life. However, Islam teaches us to strive far beyond this. Islam teaches us to be intentional in our actions toward our aspirations, to be leaders in our respective fields, and to highlight and empower our skills.

Ihsan translates to Excellence. It is our duty and obligation as servants of Allah (SWT) to practice excellence in our everyday lives. To strengthen our ummah is to strengthen ourselves. Just as the prophets had ambitions beyond themselves, just as the sahaba took pride in their skills, just as the Islamic Golden Age established the frameworks for modern-day mathematics, sciences, art, and medicine – we must usher in ihsan in this ever-changing world.

REGISTRATION

**Early
Registration** \$50

Friday March 7th by 11:59 PM

all competitors are REQUIRED to register by this deadline

**Regular
Registration** \$62

Thursday April 10th by 11:59 PM

BENEFITS

- All Access Pass to Showdown Competitions and Programs
- Four (4) Meals
- Custom Showdown Iswarah Wristband

EXCLUSIVE FOR EARLY REGISTRANTS

- Official Showdown 2025 Crewneck
- Competition Eligibility
- Discounted Rates

[Click Here to Register](#)



Registration is not complete until payment is received. Individual registration is required. No refunds will be issued to an individual or MSA that is unable to attend after registering and submitting a payment online.

A participant must be fully registered by the submission deadline for their respective competition. Fully registered means that the registration form was completed and payment was received. To verify payment, a Stripe receipt will be sent via email to the registrant. All competitors on rosters must also be registered by the rosters deadline.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

02/22

11:59PM CT

T SHIRT DESIGN SUBMISSIONS DUE

03/05

11:59PM CT

**ROSTERS FOR SPORTS AND
COMPETITIONS DUE**

03/07

11:59PM CT

EARLY REGISTRAION ENDS

***All competitors (including sports) must be registered by this deadline**

03/15

4:00PM CT

**MANDATORY CAPTAINS' MEETING
FOR ALL SPORTS**

03/21

11:59PM CT

**PRE-SUBMISSION COMPETITIONS
DUE**

04/10

11:59PM CT

**PROJECT SADAQA DONATIONS ENDS
#RACETOSHOWDOWN2025 ENDS
REGULAR REGISTRATION ENDS**

HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Here is a list of recommended hotel options in Houston! We highly recommend these hotels for their safety, affordability, and convenient location near the Rice campus. However, we understand they may not be the right fit for everyone. If you choose to explore other accommodations, please prioritize your safety. In addition to the hotels listed below, Airbnb and other home rental services are also great alternatives.

HOTEL NAME	ADDRESS	BOOKING LINK
Crown Plaza Houston Med - Galleria Area	2712 Southwest Fwy, Houston, TX 77098	www.ihg.com/crownplaza/hotels/
Extended Stay America Suites Houston Med Ctr	1301 S Braeswood Blvd, Houston, TX 77030	www.extendedstayamerica.com/hotels/
Hampton Inn & Suites Houston Medical Center NRG Park	1715 Old Spanish Trl, Houston, TX 77054	https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/

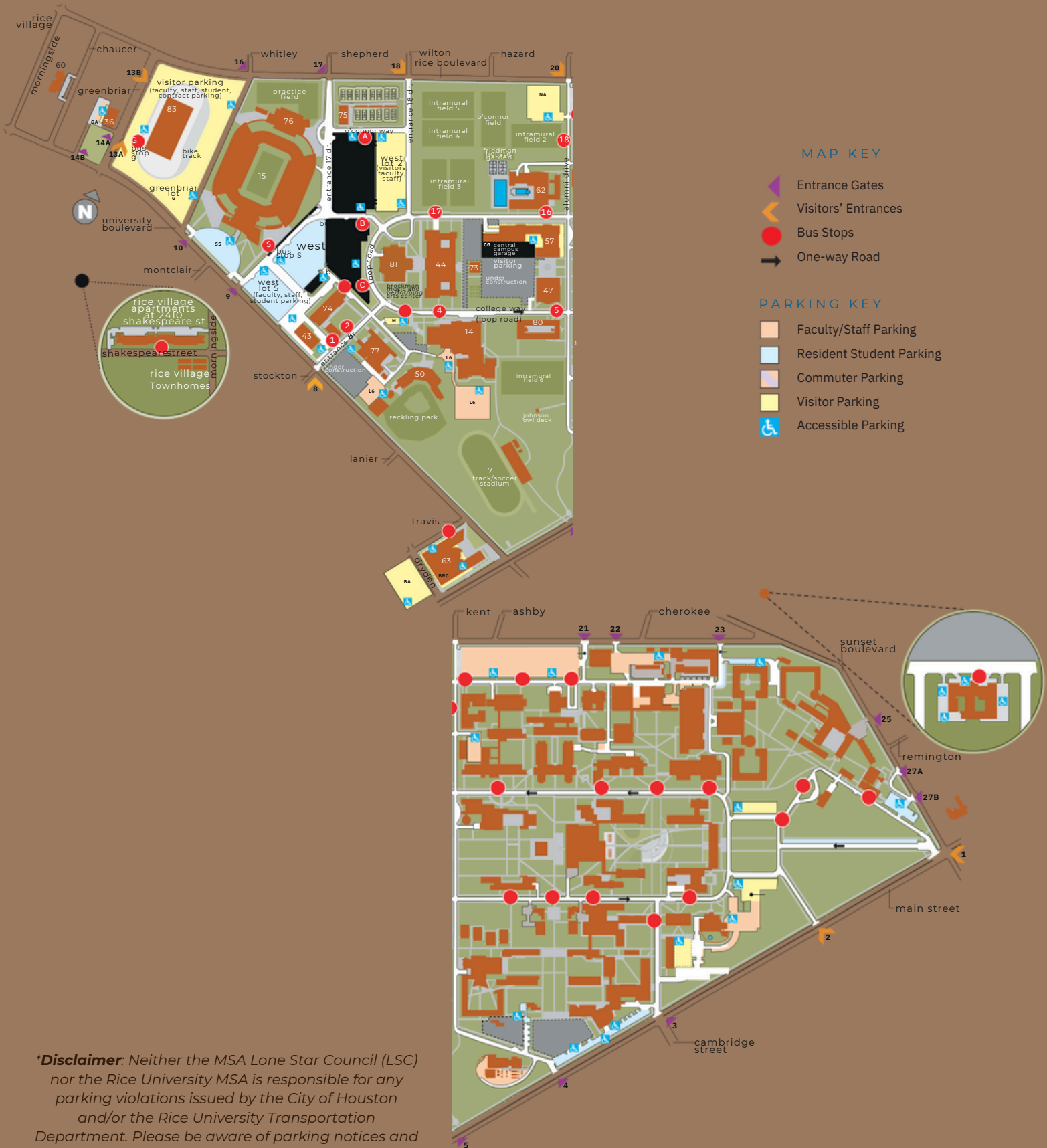
NEED ADDITIONAL HELP?

If you have questions regarding accommodations/booking rooms, or would like to see if a brother/sister would be willing to host you, please contact the Accommodations Chair listed below. Please let us know if you are unable to cover for a hotel, and need a place to stay.

Accommodations Chair

Muhammad Shekhani - shekhani2001@gmail.com

CAMPUS & PARKING MAP:



***Disclaimer:** Neither the MSA Lone Star Council (LSC) nor the Rice University MSA is responsible for any parking violations issued by the City of Houston and/or the Rice University Transportation Department. Please be aware of parking notices and signs!*

PACKING LIST

- THIS packet. We recommend saving it on your phone!
- Cash and/or credit/debit cards
- Driver's license and school ID (for check-in)
- Health insurance card (in case of an emergency)
- Blanket, pillow(s), inflatable mattress, and/or sleeping bag
- Your MSA T-shirt(s)
- Tennis shoes
- Toiletries & personal items (towels, toothbrush, etc)
- Cell phone & laptop chargers
- First aid supplies & medications
- Reusable water bottle
- Snacks
- Modest attire
- Umbrella
- Salah necessities (hijabs, prayer rugs)

REGULATIONS

- All Showdown competitors must meet the following requirements: be a member of a university/collegiate MSA registered with LSC and 18 years or older. Only current students or alumni who graduated in Fall 2023 or onwards can compete. Alumni that have graduated before Fall 2023 can attend, but not compete, at Showdown.
- LSC reserves the right to disqualify or eject any Showdown attendee for inappropriate behavior or suspicion of dishonesty.
- LSC reserves the right to make any changes to the stated rules and regulations, as deemed necessary.
- Plagiarized and/or AI-generated submissions for competitions will result in an automatic disqualification. Each competition entry/submission must be unique.
- Any participant who enters a competition late is subject to disqualification at the discretion of the competition's judge(s).
- Participants must be wearing their Showdown wristbands at all times and will not be allowed to enter event areas without their wristband.
- Dress code for both brothers and sisters should be loose fitting and not transparent. Feel free to wear your school's MSA shirt if available.
- Schools may under NO circumstances use or bring any of the following materials:
 - Decorative items or spirit gear that will leave a mess behind (i.e. glitter, smoke bombs, etc.)
 - Instruments of any kind (cow bells, drums, etc.)

We strongly recommend that your school print and bring at least one copy of this packet. It is your responsibility to check the LSC website for the most up to date versions of this packet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STEERING COMMITTEE

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I register through my MSA or do I register myself?

- Registration is done individually. Some MSAs may have a form that you're required to fill out so that they can plan lodging & transportation; however, you must still register yourself with us in order to be considered fully registered for Showdown.

Q: My school doesn't have an MSA but I still want to compete/attend Showdown. Is this possible?

- ABSOLUTELY! On the registration form, be sure to specify your school under "Other". If your school doesn't have an MSA and you'd like to compete in something, contact bod@msa-texas.org, so that we can try to accommodate your request(s).

Q: How can my MSA afford hotel & transportation costs for our members?

- We recommend asking your university's student government for funding, doing fundraisers on campus (bake sales, profit shares, etc.), and asking for donations at the masjid. Additionally, LSC does provide MSAs with grant funding, with certain requirements in place.

Q: I can't come to Friday of Showdown. Is there a way I can still check-in and attend?

- Yes! Email bod@msa-texas.org with any concerns and we'll try to figure out a way you can attend showdown.

Q: I have a lot of questions about Showdown. Who can I talk to?

- Email bod@msa-texas.org or on social media (@msalsc).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: This is the first time our MSA is going to Showdown. Can someone help us keep track of what to do?

- Absolutely! Please check page 5 of this document for a list of all the documents and forms needed to be done before attending Showdown. Also, please reach out to us via email (bod@msa-texas.org) and our Community Directors will follow up with you.

Q: I have an exam that weekend so I can't go. Can I leave Showdown early?

- Yes, you don't have to stay for the entire weekend! While we recommend staying for the entirety of Showdown to gain the full experience, we understand that everyone's circumstances are different. If you need to leave early, let your MSA President/Showdown Coordinator know.
 - If you're participating in a prejudged competition like Written Poetry or Short Film, and aren't able to physically attend Showdown, that's okay! You'll still need to register in order for your piece to be entered and judged in the competition.

Q: What is required for sports jerseys?

- All jerseys must be the same color as their team. Numbers must be printed on the back. Names are not required but are encouraged. Jerseys do not need to be fancy or expensive; simple jerseys available at Academy or Walmart suffice. Additionally, jersey designs can be handmade, with the numbers printed on the back of each jersey in bold/fabric paint. Tape is not allowed.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AT THE RICE UNIVERSITY
FOR SHOWDOWN 2025!

JAZĀKALLĀHU KHAYRAN



x

