

Motivation for a Successful UIL Accounting Program

From Texas High School Accounting Coaches

(Listed in Random Order)

1. TILF Scholarships
2. Surprises
3. Brownies and drinks for each practice meet
4. We meet...I feed...candy, popcorn, pizza
5. Recognition at School Board Meetings, school newsletter or newspaper
6. UIL Accounting Scrapbook
7. Binders with study materials for each level of contest and flash cards
8. Extensive use of bulletin boards with photos and announcements of medals won
9. Experience one tiny success...the motivation takes care of itself
10. Prepare students...have them far enough along in the textbook so that they experience winning at their first invitational meet. Strong performance in their first invitation will have them hooked, and they will work their hearts out
11. At the beginning of the year paint a picture of the fun things...traveling to meets, meeting new friends, enhancing competing skills
12. Participation (and medals) looks good on college applications
13. Give extra points on grades for participation
14. Seat students on UIL team together in Accounting class to form team bond. They will motivate each other
15. Having a relaxed attitude about practice and make practices "different" from classroom atmosphere
16. Wall of Fame pictures
17. Host a practice meet
18. Provide donuts for the entire accounting class if team places at a practice meet the previous weekend
19. Once you experience success...build on it...advertise it...brag about it...make it a tradition...then kids are SELF-motivated...they compete for a place on the team!
20. We meet at 7am and I bring breakfast
21. We start early in the year with 2-hour study sessions on Tuesday nights
22. The best motivation is previous success
23. Bring your alternates to state for a taste of state competition
24. Provide snacks for after-school practice
25. Each Monday after a successful practice meet, we "celebrate" with the rest of the Accounting class...enjoy good food and free time (the non-UIL students REALLY encourage the team!)
26. Encourage...make sure they BELIEVE they can WIN...be available to work with them...love what you are doing...love the kids
27. We have "Pep-Rallies-In-A-Bag" (confetti, bubbles, etc.) before we leave for state
28. Success breeds success...when our students see the success of our Accounting Team, they want to be a part of the team
29. We meet one day a week in my room during lunch, then add after school and evening meetings during February through May
30. Students have so many activities it's hard to meet before or after school, so we have practice during lunch twice a week
31. If you are a first-year student and you go to State and win, you don't have to do the end-of-year practice set
32. A former student who placed first at state and is now a CPA tutors our Accounting team
33. Extra credit on grades and six week averages

34. We keep track of timed test scores and enjoy watching our scores go up.
35. We give candy for each "table" in a test. They dread tables so we reward them for getting through a table.
36. I bring homemade desserts to almost every practice. Food is a great bribe!
37. Pick students who are very self-motivated and show academic interests. Give extra credit and count UIL packets as grades if they get out of district.
38. Compete in class by taking tests. Take top students to invitationals. Students have to compete against each other for a place on the team.
39. Put posters, bulletin boards & pictures in showcase of Accounting winners, trophies, & medals. Have lots of school announcements.
40. I have "UIL Lock-ins" at my house for my 3-4 team members.