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Crack the Code in KVSC's 50-Hour Trivia Weekend

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – The 39th annual Trivia Weekend presented by KVSC 88.1FM at St. Cloud State University will commandeer the airwaves February 16-18. Each year, a different theme is selected to pay homage to popular cultural phenomena. This year's trivia theme is **Codename Trivia: Strategies, Secrets and Spies**. Codename Trivia will test teams' knowledge on all things clandestine and spy related.

The campus radio station at St. Cloud State organizes the annual 50-hour marathon featuring more than 450 trivia questions quizzing teams listening on the radio and internet. Aside from a wealth of theme-based questions, there is a broad range of additional questions on pop culture, science, sports, visual trivia, audio trivia, history and more. Approximately 2,000 trivia buffs will play on about 60 teams.

"Trivia Weekend has impacted the radio station, students, competitors and the community in such a creative and positive way. From a student perspective, it's a working laboratory for radio and marketing students to organize, promote, market and work with the community on a major event. For competitors, I believe it brings out the best in friendships, team unity, the power of organization and loving the laugh at one another through the rough patches of a 50-hour event. Finally, Trivia Weekend is an extension of the university into the community. It's alumni engagement, it's inviting the community to volunteer and participate in a campus event, and a highlight of winter festivities organized by SCSU," said Jo McMullen-Boyer, KVSC Station Manager.

Throughout the years, KVSC has relied on hundreds of volunteers to staff the 32 trivia telephone hotlines. In 2017, nearly 60 teams played in the three-day contest. With the growth of Trivia Weekend, volunteers have become very important in making the event possible. Approximately 40-45 volunteers are needed each hour to operate the contest—for 50 consecutive hours. Volunteers work on the phone hotlines where teams call in their guesses, co-host the radio shows, work in scoring and point dispute roles, produce audio segments, host UTVS Television productions, run for food and coffee, and many other jobs.

"I like to think the crowd that competes during Trivia Weekend is mirrored by the volunteers that make the magic of 50-hours of fun nonsense happen. Our teams are comprised of students, lawyers, beer brewers, IT professionals, teachers and librarians...

and far, far more eclectic folks who enjoy the treasure hunt for information. Dually, our volunteers are comprised of alumni, professors, teachers, servers, grandparents and students that reflect a love for competition and the quiriness that is Trivia Weekend,” McMullen-Boyer said.

Trivia contest rules require teams to register by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 16, the Friday of Trivia Weekend. The contest begins at 5:00 p.m. and will conclude at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18. Teams create a name, and from a team headquarters, spymasters prepare to decipher questions of Codename Trivia.

Wrapping up the 50-hour contest is an awards ceremony in Ritsche Auditorium in SCSU’s Stewart Hall beginning at 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 18. The winning team receives the coveted **Minnesota Masters of Trivia Traveling Trophy**. The golden urn (trophy) shows the names of the winning teams over the past 39 years.

Following the awards ceremony, exhausted players and volunteers head to the Red Carpet Nightclub in downtown St. Cloud to celebrate conquering another Trivia Weekend. The Shake a Hamster Band takes the stage and performs their new theme-based numbers as well as some of the favorites from previous years.

KVSC encourages trivia enthusiasts from all over to pull together friends and family members to create a team or to consider becoming a phone bank volunteer for the weekend. The entire contest is also streamed live online. Use **#TriviaWeekend** to stay connected all weekend long.

For information on registration and volunteering, visit http://www.kvsc.org/trivia_news.php.

KVSC 88.1FM, the Voice of St. Cloud since 1967, offers listeners an alternative format without commercials. KVSC features a diverse variety of music as well as news coverage and community events. The staff of KVSC 88.1FM is comprised of students and community volunteers.

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