

Technology Student Association (TSA)

Middle School Competitive Events Guide

for the 2018 and 2019
National TSA Conferences

With Correlations to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
(STEM) Standards



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Eleventh Edition

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For more information, please contact the
Technology Student Association
1914 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1540
phone 703.860.9000
toll free 888.860.9010
fax 703.758.4852
general@tsaweb.org
www.tsaweb.org



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Frank D. Calfee, Tennessee
Leigh Davis, Tennessee
Hal Harrison, South Carolina
Laura Hummell, Pennsylvania
Jeff Lathom, Pennsylvania
Emily McAdams, North Carolina
Valerie McCauley, Oklahoma
Dale Moll, Pennsylvania
Natalie Norman, North Carolina
Steve Price, Georgia
Sid Rader, Virginia
Kristin Rausch, Texas
Tony Raymond, Colorado
Tara Royal, Texas
Andy Stephenson, Kentucky
Wanda Walker, Tennessee
Matt Walton, Virginia
Bud Worley, Texas



TSA, THE ORGANIZATION

TSA MISSION

The Technology Student Association enhances personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in STEM, whereby members apply and integrate these concepts through intracurricular activities, competitions, and related programs.

WHO ARE TSA MEMBERS?

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is devoted exclusively to the needs of students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Open to those who are enrolled in or who have completed technology and engineering courses, TSA has 250,000 middle and high school student members, in over 2,000 schools, spanning 48 states. TSA is supported by educators, parents, and business leaders who believe in the need for a technologically literate society. Our members learn through exciting competitive events, leadership opportunities, and membership activities. It is the intent of TSA, Inc. to involve as many different TSA members as possible in competitive events and provide recognition in a setting of fair play practices using TSA event guidelines.

Explore what TSA has to offer by using this guide and by visiting www.tsaweb.org for information. With competitive events that range from video game design to structural engineering and much more, there is something to capture the imagination of and bring out the best in all students. We hope, that with teacher guidance, students will enjoy the challenge of TSA's competitive events at local, state, regional, and national TSA conferences.

The competitions in this guide support a broad spectrum of goals related to STEM curriculum. They also promote leadership skills and a focus on future career choices.

THE ROLE OF COMPETITIVE EVENTS

To follow its mission, TSA offers stimulating competitive events and recognition in both technology and leadership arenas. TSA believes that by participating in carefully designed competitions, students learn to do their best, thereby becoming "winners" whether or not they place in a competition. Many teachers find that TSA's competitive events provide an excellent motivational tool in the academic environment.

Every two years TSA's competitive events are reviewed and revised by the Competition Regulations Committee (CRC), a standing group of technology educators with hands-on classroom experience. The *Technology Student Association (TSA) Middle School Competitive Events Guide for the 2018 & 2019 National TSA Conferences* is the result of the work of the CRC managers, competitive event coordinators, teachers, proposals of numerous TSA state and chapter advisors, and students whose suggestions make TSA competitive events current and dynamic. The guide presents rules and regulations for all national TSA conference competitive events, a view of each event's connection to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) standards, and suggested careers. Relevant for all levels of competition (state delegations may choose to adopt the national guidelines for state-level competitions), the guide provides an excellent motivational tool for curricular study and activities in the classroom.



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

With the publication of the *TSA Middle School Competitive Events Guide*, comes the following changes:

1. The format of this guide has been streamlined to help competitors and advisors know and clearly understand the procedures, regulations, and evaluation criteria for each event.
2. General rules that apply to all participants across every competitive event are no longer identified in each competition's regulations. Therefore it is critical, and a personal responsibility of each competitive event participant and advisor, to read and know the TSA Conference General Rules and Regulations. For example, where a competitive event requires a written test to be taken, there is no longer a reminder for participants to bring their own pencil to the event.
3. Every event's guidelines have been revised in some form, whether in content or in format.
4. All advisors and participants must read the General Rules and Regulations, as well as, read each event as if this is a brand new guide.

Rosanne T. White, Ed.D.
TSA Executive Director



For more information about becoming a TSA member, visit

www.tsaweb.org

and click on: Join TSA, or call TSA's toll free number, 888/860-9010



COMPETITIVE EVENTS PROGRAM

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- A. The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate categories for competition entries. Each category level has its own unique competitive events guide.
- Middle School/Junior High School—Grades 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
 - High School—Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
 - Ninth graders must compete at the level in which the chapter affiliates.
 - If the ninth grade is housed in a high school, grades 9-12, the student must compete in high school events.
 - If the ninth grade is housed in a school of grades 6-9 or 7-9, ninth grade students must compete in middle school events.
- B. If the school has a K-12 configuration, or a configuration other than the examples above, contact national TSA for clarification and approval regarding the appropriate school designation.

CONFERENCE GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to *all* competitive events and are *in addition to each event's specific guidelines*.

- C. Affiliation and Membership:
1. TSA members, advisors, and chapters must be currently affiliated with TSA to enter any competitive event.
 2. TSA membership rights extend through the year of graduation.
 3. Students who graduate midyear may compete at the national conference that immediately follows their end-of-year graduation.
- D. Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events:
1. Anyone who wishes to attend the conference must complete conference registration.
 2. Students must be registered and be in attendance with an adult chaperone at the national TSA conference in order to enter and become a semifinalist or finalist in any event.
 3. All adult advisors, chaperones, and student participants must be in attendance for the entire conference.
 4. National TSA conference registrants must wear conference identification badges at all times.
 5. The TSA competitive event limit is six (6) events per conference participant, individual and team events combined.
 6. Team events:
 - a. All team members must be affiliated with the same chapter.
 - b. To enter a team event, the chapter designates only that it is participating; names of the individual team members are not necessary.
 - c. Unless otherwise designated in a competition's eligibility guideline, the maximum size of a team is six (6) members.
- E. Student Responsibilities for Competitions:
1. It is the individual responsibility of each participant to obtain all rules and guidelines for competitive events.



2. Lack of knowledge or understanding about a particular event is neither reason nor excuse for an individual to request an accommodating adjustment or change.
 3. **Students and advisors must routinely check the TSA website www.tsaweb.org for updated information about TSA general rules and competitive event guidelines.**
 4. Students who participate in any TSA competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.
- F. Competition Entries:
1. Entries must be started and completed during the current school year.
 2. Entries may be submitted for one (1) year, and one (1) competition only. An infraction of this rule results in disqualification.
 3. All entries requiring documentation materials (comprising a “portfolio”) must be secured in a clear front report cover, visit this [site](#) for a sample report cover.
 4. All entries must be in English.
 5. Students must check in and pick up their event entries at the times and places stated in the conference program, or as announced during the national TSA conference.
 6. For any competition that involves the use of a pencil (e.g., for taking a written test, for producing required sketches), participants must provide—and bring to the test site:
 - two (2) pencils, either
 - sharpened standard #2/HB grade with an eraser, or
 - #2 mechanical with an eraser.
 7. Entry Content:
 - a. National TSA provides guidelines for individual and team entry content but does not bear responsibility for content choices made by participants.
 - b. Entries are evaluated on the basis of the event's official rating form.
 8. Projects and/or Products:
 - a. Unless otherwise specified, no identifying information—other than a student or team ID#—is to be included on an entry.
 - i. Exceptions to this rule at the middle school level are:
 01. Career Prep, Children's Stories, Community Service Video and Construction Challenge
 02. Events that require submission of a Plan of Work Log, include indication of student initials only.
 - b. Unless otherwise noted, for all events that require a display, the size of the display may not exceed 15" deep x 3' wide x 4' high.
 9. TSA may choose to keep national TSA conference student entries.
 - a. Such entries may be used by national TSA for promotional purposes. Should that occur, credit for any such entry would be noted by TSA.
- G. Citations, References and Copyright:
1. For all applicable competitive events, citations or references must follow MLA (Modern Language Association) style.
 2. All entries must be the original work of the student participant or student team.
 3. All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources must be cited.



4. If copyrighted material is used, written permission must be included.
 - a. An Internet search about copyrighted material and copyright fair use is recommended if ideas, text, images, or sound from other sources is incorporated into an event entry.
 - b. For information about the use of the TSA logo, see the TSA website at www.tsaweb.org.
 5. Failure to follow any of the above procedures results in disqualification.
- H. Prohibited Materials, References, and Images:
1. Hazardous materials, chemicals, lighted or open flames, combustibles, wet cell batteries, and other similar substances are not allowed at the national TSA conference.
 2. Competition entries or presentations by participants must not include racial or ethnic slurs/symbols, reference to gang affiliation, or vulgar, violent, subversive, or sexually suggestive language or images.
 3. Entries or presentations may not promote products that students may not legally buy, such as tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
 4. Images of guns, knives, or other weapons are prohibited.
 5. Failure to follow any of the above procedures results in disqualification.
- I. TSA Liability:
1. TSA is not responsible or liable for any personal property, equipment, or materials brought to the national TSA conference for use by a participant or attendee.
- J. Event Scheduling Conflicts:
1. When an event scheduling conflict could prevent an individual from participating in an event, the individual has the right to decide if an event is eliminated.
- K. Emergencies:
1. Team member substitution may be allowed, if approved by the event manager and coordinator, should a documented emergency arise in team events that involves written and semifinalist segments.
 2. Change Requests:
 - a. Should a change be requested for any reason after the stated deadlines, a \$50 change fee will be charged per person per event, if the change is approved.
 - b. Only chapter members previously registered as competitors by the conference registration deadline will be eligible for change requests.
 - c. TSA reserves the right to approve or not approve a requested change.
 - d. Fees must be paid by credit card, check, or cash prior to any change being made.
 - e. No changes will be made once competitions start.
- L. Event Judging:
1. All events are judged in accordance with the stated event criteria as noted in this competitive events guide.
 2. The decisions of judges related to competitive events are final.
 3. Concern about any event during the national TSA conference should be submitted in writing to the Rules Interpretation Panel (RIP) at the conference.
 4. The RIP will render a decision at the conference.
 5. The decisions of the RIP at the national conference are final. (For more information, refer to the Rules Interpretation Panel section.)



M. Rules Violations and Disqualifications:

1. A rules violation that gives a contestant an unfair advantage will result in a twenty percent (20%) deduction of the total possible points in each preliminary and semifinalist round.
2. The coordinator or manager of an event also has the right to disqualify a contestant when this type of incident occurs.
3. The event coordinator and manager must sign off on both a twenty percent (20%) deduction and a disqualification.

N. Semifinalists:

1. All competitive events will have a minimum of twelve (12) semifinalists.
2. Semifinalists (individuals or teams, as applicable) will compete against one another to determine the top ten (10) finalists in an event.
3. All members of a semifinalist team will participate in the semifinalist portion of an event, unless otherwise noted in the event's regulations.

O. Electronic Devices:

1. Recording devices are not allowed in certain competitive events.
2. CRC manager and event coordinator approval is required before any event may be recorded.
3. All electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc., *must* be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
4. No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.