



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where is the national TEAMS competition taking place?

A: The national competition is taking place at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD.

Q: What supplies will my team(s) need to compete?

- A:
- **Design/Build Challenge:** Teams complete a hands-on design challenge using designated materials provided on-site. Students are not permitted to use any other materials or tools.
 - **Multiple-Choice Exam:** Each team member may use an approved four-function, scientific or graphing calculator (refer to the Coach Guide for acceptable calculators); any reference books, periodic charts, special equations, lab notes, class notes, or other written materials. The exam will be written. No cell phones or laptops may be used during the exam.
 - **Presentation:** Each team must have one laptop or tablet with Wi-Fi capability. The device must also be able to access presentation software (such as Google Slides, PowerPoint, or Canva) and be able to record a video. A cell phone may also be used for video recording.
 - **Mathematical Modeling:** Each team member may use an approved four-function, scientific or graphic calculator (refer to the Coach Guide for acceptable calculators). The exam will be written. No cell phones or laptops may be used during the exam.

Q: Does my team need to prepare anything ahead of time for the presentation portion of the competition?

A: No prior preparation is necessary. The presentation instructions will be distributed at the orientation meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd. Teams will be given time to complete the presentation that day.

Q: Is internet access needed for the TEAMS competitions?

A: Internet access is needed only for the development and submission of the presentation portion of the competition. The presentations will be judged virtually. Check with your host hotel or internet provider on how the internet can best be accessed. National TSA does not provide access to the internet.

Q: Four team members competed at the state level, but only three of the team members are available to compete at the national competitions. Does a substitution have to be made for one team member?

A: No, the team may compete with three team members. All teams must consist of 2-4 team members.

Q: Some of my team members are unable to attend the national competitions. May I substitute another student for that team member?

A: Substitution of team members is allowed. The student(s) must have competed in the state level competitions.

Q: Can one team member compete in part of the competition and another team member substitute in for a different part of the competition?

A: No, the same competitors must participate in all four competition components.

Q: A team member is competing in a TSA competitive event at the same time as a TEAMS competition. Can special accommodations be made?

A: No. Special accommodations will not be made for conflicts between TEAMS competitions and TSA competitive events. By registering for the national TEAMS competition you are committing to participate in each of the four competitions at their assigned times.



Frequently Asked Questions

(continued)

Q: What is the TEAMS dress code? Are TEAMS participants required to wear blue TSA shirts?

A: Required competition attire consists of a collared button-down shirt or blouse or an official red TEAMS shirt; dress pants or skirt/dress at least knee length, dress shoes worn with dark socks or hosiery. TEAMS participants are not required to wear blue TSA shirts. Dress code details are posted on the [TEAMS website](#).

Q: Does TSA/TEAMS provide food and drinks? What dining options are available?

A: TSA/TEAMS does not provide food or drinks. A list of dining options is posted on the [TEAMS website](#).

Q: What events can TEAMS participants take part in at the National TSA Conference?

A: TEAMS participants are welcome to attend the TSA Pin Exchange, General Sessions, Meet & Greet, and Special Interest Sessions. Event details, times, and locations are posted on the [2026 National TSA Conference page](#).

Q: What is the TSA Pin Exchange?

A: TSA members have an annual tradition of exchanging pins during designated times at the National TSA Conference. TEAMS competitors are encouraged to attend and will each receive complimentary pins to trade. This is an optional networking activity.

Q: What forms do I need to fill out? Where should the forms be submitted?

A: All persons attending the National TEAMS Competition must complete and sign the Authorization, Waiver, and Release form as well as the Code of Conduct form. Copies of the completed and signed forms are to be retained and brought to the national competition by the team's coach. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure there is a completed form for each participant. National TSA reserves the right to request these forms at any time from the coach. Forms must **not** be submitted to the national TSA office. Fillable forms are posted on the [TEAMS website](#).

Q: Are coaches and guests permitted to view the competitions while they are taking place?

A: Only contestants are permitted access to the competition room. Others (including coaches, parents/guardians, guests or students who are not competing) are not permitted to enter the competition room or view the competition. Opening the competition room door after the competition has begun is strictly prohibited and penalties (including disqualification of contestants) will apply.

Q: If I register for both the National TSA Conference and the National TEAMS Competition, am I required to pay both registration fees?

A: No. Registration fees for advisors/coaches and student participants will be removed from the TEAMS invoice once registration for both the National TSA Conference and the National TEAMS Competition has been completed.

Q: Can I register my teams now and add students and coaches later?

A: Yes. Students and coaches may be added to registered teams until May 6.

Q: If three out of four team members are unable to compete, can the remaining student join a team from another school?

A: No. All team members must attend the same school as the team with which they are registered.

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