

NEW JERSEY



TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2026 NJ TSA MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT



Learning to Lead IN A TECHNICAL WORLD

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Howell Middle School North
1st Place Promotional Marketing
2025 NJ TSA Middle School Conference

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The 2026 NJ Supplement

to the

TSA Middle School Competitive Events Guide

(for the 2026 and 2027 National TSA Conferences)

Foreword

The diverse competitive events that are listed within this booklet are open to TSA chapters affiliated with National TSA, and registered through the NJ TSA State Conference registration system. The Middle School State Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at The College of New Jersey.

How this booklet works

The NJ Supplement works in conjunction with the National TSA Competitive Events Guide, which you receive access to, online, after affiliation with the National TSA Office has taken place.

This booklet presents the competitive events offered at the NJ State Conference in alphabetical order as well as the maximum number of participants, or teams, permitted to compete in each event, from each chapter.

Each New Jersey competitive event in this booklet lists **ONLY** the modifications NJ makes to the National guidelines, for the NJ State Conference. Substitute the NJ modification in this booklet for the number or letter on the National guidelines to ensure that your chapter meets the guidelines for the NJ Competitive Events.

Competitive Event Categories

Competitive Events are organized according to the requirements for student participation in those competitions. There are three categories: On-Site, Pre-Conference and Static.

“ON-SITE EVENTS” require student participation on conference day. Some On-Site Events may even include components that must be completed and submitted prior to conference day. Because of the time commitment involved, **students may participate in only ONE (1) On-Site Event, and no more than SIX (6) total events.**

“PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS” require that entries be submitted prior to the conference, on a designated submission date established by NJ TSA. These entries are judged days prior to the conference and put on display the day of the conference. Some Pre-Conference events may have components or presentations that also take place the day of the conference.

“STATIC EVENTS” require students to submit entries on conference day, however, students are not required to remain with their entries or make presentations. Static Events usually consist of students creating a display or prototype. These entries are checked-in the morning of the conference in the designated event room listed in the conference program. Judging takes place behind closed doors. After judging is finished, all entries are put on display for the remainder of the conference day.

Please be sure to read all sections of the Supplement carefully! It is the hope of the NJ TSA Executive Committee that this guide will enable teachers, advisors, students and competitive event judges to be well-prepared for participation at the State Conference this spring.

Any questions may be directed to Mrs. Alison Goeke, NJ TSA State Advisor at (609)771-3244 or goeke2@tcnj.edu or Mrs. Melissa Parr, NJ TSA Competitive Event Coordinator, at melissaparr22@gmail.com, or Rebecca Turner, at turner25@tcnj.edu.

General Rules Governing Competitive Events

I. MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

The officially approved **Level I** New Jersey TSA Competitive Events are:

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS	ON-SITE EVENTS	STATIC EVENTS
Audio Podcasting- <i>NEW</i> 2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.	Challenging Technology Issues 2 teams of 2 members per chapter.	Off the Grid 1 team up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
Biotechnology 1 team of 3-6 members per chapter.	Chapter Team 2 teams of 6 members per chapter.	System Control Technology 2 teams of 3 members per chapter.
Career Prep 2 individuals per chapter.	Construction Challenge 2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.	
Children's Stories 2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.	Cybersecurity 3 individuals per chapter.	
Coding 2 teams of 2 members per chapter.	Drone Challenge (UAV)- <i>NEW</i> 2 teams of 2 members per chapter.	
Community Service Video 2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.	Electrical Applications 2 teams of 2 members per chapter.	
Computer Aided Design CAD Foundations 3 individuals per chapter.	Flight 2 individuals per chapter.	
Data Science & Analytics 2 teams of 2-3 members per chapter.	Forensic Technology 1 team of 2 members per chapter. <i>Test taken PRIOR to conference</i>	
Digital Photography 2 individuals per chapter.	Inventions and Innovations 1 team of 2-4 members per chapter.	
Dragster 2 individuals per chapter. <i>Cars raced on conference day</i>	Leadership Strategies 2 teams of 3 members per chapter.	
Mass Production 2 teams of 3-6 members per chapter.	Mechanical Engineering 1 team of 2 members per chapter.	
Medical Technology 1 team of 2-3 members per chapter.	Microcontroller Design 2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.	
Promotional Marketing 2 individuals per chapter.	Prepared Speech 2 individuals per chapter.	
STEM Animation 2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.	Problem Solving 2 teams of 2 members per chapter.	
Technical Design 1 team of 2 members per chapter. <i>Due early</i>	Robotics- <i>NEW</i> 2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.	
Video Game Design 1 team of 2-6 members per chapter.	Solar Racer- <i>NEW</i> 1 team of 2-4 members per chapter.	
Website Design 2 teams of 3-6 members per chapter.	Structural Engineering 1 team of 2 members per chapter.	
	Tech Bowl 1 team of 3 members per chapter. <i>Test taken PRIOR to conference</i>	

II. PROJECT SUBMISSION

- A. ON-SITE events require students to submit entries, make presentations and/or participate/compete in activities at the conference.
- B. STATIC events require students to submit a display or prototype the day of the conference, however, there is no presentation component along with the entry.
- C. PRE-CONFERENCE events require projects to be submitted and judged prior to the conference

- 1. **ONLINE SUBMISSIONS:** There are some Pre-Conference entries that require online submission to the NJ TSA online conference system by **11:59pm on April 1, 2026**. Check guidelines in this document to see how an item should be submitted. Online submission directions will be shared with advisors/students closer to the due date.
- 2. **IN-PERSON SUBMISSIONS:** There are some Pre-Conference entries that require in-person submissions to the NJ TSA Office by **April 1, 2026**. These may be mailed or delivered in person to:

NJ TSA/Alison Goeke
The College of New Jersey
2000 Pennington Rd.
103 Armstrong Hall
Ewing, NJ 08628

Please email goeke2@tcnj.edu to indicate description/quantity of items being mailed/delivered and expected delivery date.

- 3. All Pre-Conference submissions are due by **April 1, 2026**.
- 4. A **Northern NJ drop off site** for northern chapters will be available on **March 26, 2026** from 3:30- 5:00pm at the parking lot of Heritage Middle School, 20 Foxcroft Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039. Look for the TSA banner on a truck in the parking lot. Email goeke2@tcnj.edu to arrange your drop off time.
 - Items received after these dates may not be included in competitions.
 - Mailed deliveries should include provision for obtaining proof of delivery.
 - Packages should include a label or packing slip describing contents.

III. PARTICIPATION IN COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- A. TSA members may only register and participate in **ONE (1) On-site event**, and no more than **SIX (6) total events**.
- B. Students must be registered at the state conference in order to enter and become finalists/winners in a competition. **NO ON-SITE OR LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- C. No substitutions will be accepted after registration closes, or at the conference. Substitutions in team events will be accepted only from pre-registered applicants, and only under extenuating circumstances.
- D. **Official Rating Forms** included in the TSA Competitive Events Guide **are used to evaluate all entries**, unless otherwise noted in this document.
- E. No school or individual names labeled on projects except for events that require school information. Otherwise, only ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students online for the state conference, they are automatically assigned a state conference ID# (this ID# is different from their National TSA ID#). This state conference ID number needs to be labeled on every piece of a project/entry (i.e. portfolios, models, displays, copyright/release forms, etc.).

- F. **Projects/entries will be put on display after judging concludes. Students MUST pick up their entries prior to leaving the conference.** All entries not accounted for will be discarded the following day if no arrangements have been made with the NJ TSA office otherwise.
- G. Audio visual equipment will be provided for competitive events that require it, unless otherwise noted in this document.
- H. NJ TSA is not responsible for compatibility issues with electronic files. Judges will not be permitted to install programs to view files.
- I. Proper procedures for citing material taken from other sources must be followed as outlined in specific competitive event guidelines. Copyright procedures, checklist and forms must be completed and submitted with entries when necessary.
- J. No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competitions and will result in disqualification.
- K. No one will be permitted to leave a test event and return unless instructed by judges.
- L. In addition to the information found in the NJ Supplement, participants are responsible for knowing any updates, changes or clarifications that are made to competitive events prior to participation. This information is posted on both the National TSA and NJ TSA websites. It is crucial that students check the Competition Updates page of BOTH the NJ and National TSA websites. DIFFERENT information is posted on each site.

IV. **COMPETITIVE EVENTS ATTIRE**

ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE **MUST** wear either official TSA or business-like attire. Your cooperation with this policy will assist in providing a positive image for the organization and its members.

NOTE: All students participating at the 2026 National TSA Conference will be required to wear the Official TSA Shirt (royal blue). Students are strongly encouraged to wear the Official TSA Shirt to the 2025 NJ State Conference.

A. Official TSA Attire:

Blazer: navy blue with official TSA patch
 Tie: scarlet red imprinted with official TSA logo (for males only, optional for females)
 Shirt or blouse: Official TSA Shirt (royal blue) (A white button-down with turn down collar may be substituted for the Official TSA Shirt at the NJ State Conference)
 Pants or skirt: light gray
 Dark socks: males only (black or dark blue)
 Shoes: black dress shoes (unacceptable: athletic shoes, combat or work boots)
 Sandals: females only may wear black open toe shoes or sandals

B. Business-like attire is considered to minimally include:

collared shirt/blouse (polo shirt is acceptable)
 long pants (no shorts or jeans)
 dresses/skirts
 socks/hosiery
 appropriate footwear

Students NOT wearing official TSA or business-like attire will lose 20 points from total score of each event entered and will not be granted entry into the awards ceremony. A 20 point deduction will also result from the wearing of hats.

Anyone not in possession of their official State Conference ID Badge **will not** be admitted to the Awards Ceremony.

V. PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS

The College of New Jersey and NJ TSA are not responsible for damage to or loss of property brought to the conference. Students' personal belongings are their sole responsibility and they should not be left behind in any location on campus.

VI. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

NJ TSA Technology Honor Society

The NJ TSA Technology Honor Society recognizes NJ TSA members who excel in academics, leadership, and service to their school and community. The NJ TSA Technology Honor Society is (1) an opportunity for student members to be recognized for their efforts and (2) designed to recognize NJ TSA members who exemplify the high ideals of academics. Click [here](#) to view and print forms. Recipients will be recognized at the State Conference.

Please send completed forms to Rebecca Turner at turner25@tcnj.edu by 11:59pm on **April 1, 2026**.

TSA Achievement Program

The TSA Achievement Program, Pathways to Excellence, encourages TSA student members to engage in the areas/categories of service leadership, STEM immersion, and personal/professional development. Students participate in activities in these areas and have the opportunity to earn sequentially a bronze, silver, and gold award at the local, state, and national level, respectively.

Completion of one activity in each area/category – for a total of three completed activities per level – is required for bronze, silver, and gold award eligibility.

Members submit documentation of their activities for each level via the TSA Student Member Site.

Chapter advisors are responsible for verifying the successful completion of a member's activities for each level.

For forms and more information, go to: <https://tsaweb.org/programs/tsa-achievement-program>

VII. IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

January 12, 2026 NJ TSA Design Problems for the following events posted on the NJ TSA website: • Coding • Computer-Aided Design (CAD) Foundations • System Control Technology Note- all other design problems/themes for 2025 can be found within this document, and on the National TSA website January 2026 NJ State Conference Registration opens (date TBA) March 19, 2026- March 24, 2026– Technical Design • Design Problem for Technical Design will be posted at 5pm on March 19, 2026 on the NJ TSA website • Completed entries must be uploaded to the NJ online conference system by 5pm on March 24, 2026. • This competition allows a limited window of time for teams to create and submit their video. March 25, 2026- Online Testing Dates The following competitive events require online tests prior to conference day. Testing procedures will be shared with advisors • Forensic Tech – Wed, March 25, 2026, 6:00pm-7:00pm • Tech Bowl – Wed, March 25, 2026, 7:15pm-8:15pm April 1, 2026 – 11:59pm- Online Submissions Due The following competitive events have components that are due ONLINE ONLY and must be uploaded to the NJ online conference system by 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026: • Audio Podcasting • Career Prep • Coding • Community Service Video • CAD Foundations • Digital Photography • Promotional Marketing • STEM Animation • Video Game Design • Website Design	April 1, 2026 – All Other Pre-Conference Entries are Due IN-PERSON at the NJ TSA Office (please also see the Northern Area drop-off option below) The following competitive events are due IN-PERSON and must be mailed or delivered to the NJ TSA Office. Email goeke2@tcnj.edu to arrange a drop off time anytime on, or prior to, April 2: • Biotechnology • Children’s Stories • Data Science & Analytics • Dragster • Mass Production • Medical Technology • Solar Racer March 26, 2026 – 3:30-5:00pm Northern Area Drop-Off For northern NJ chapters! NJ TSA staff will be at the parking lot of Heritage Middle School, 20 Foxcroft Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039 to collect projects that are due In-Person. Look for the TSA banner on a truck in the parking lot. Email goeke2@tcnj.edu to arrange a drop off time. April 2, 2026 • NJ State Conference Registration CLOSES. • All award forms are due to the NJ TSA Office. Forms can be emailed to turner25@tcnj.edu April 29, 2026 NJ TSA State Conference The College of New Jersey June 22-26, 2026 National TSA Conference Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, Maryland/Washington DC Theme: “Unity Through Community”
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Level I – Middle School Events

Audio Podcasting

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Students create an audio podcast reviewing/promoting a vacation destination.

OVERVIEW:	No on-site challenge. Entries submitted Pre-Conference.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Entries must be submitted online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	Pre-Conference: D. Entries must be submitted online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.1.-A.2. Judges evaluate the Audio Podcast and Documentation Portfolio for each team. B. No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	Pre-Conference: No change. <i>The podcast may include the first names of the students in the podcast and is exempt from the general rule that no identifying information may be used. However, students will not be allowed to use last names, their school name, or the state they are from.</i> <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.) Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are</i>

	<i>multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. Judges evaluate the Audio Podcast and Documentation Portfolio for each team. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony. Evaluation is based on 120 points: • Audio Podcast (70) • Documentation Portfolio (50)

Biotechnology

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Students research and report on biotechnology that develops biofuels as an alternative to fossil fuels, helping to reduce pollution and combat climate change.

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No presentation. Entries submitted Pre-Conference. The documentation portfolio, and display, must be received by the NJ TSA office by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 3-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-C. No semifinalists. No presentation.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. The documentation portfolio, and display, must be received by the NJ TSA office by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. B.1.-B.2. Judges score the display criteria, and the documentation criteria for all teams. No preliminary teams, no semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. C. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Entries submitted Pre-Conference. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. Judges evaluate the Display and Documentation Portfolio for each team. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 150 points: • Display (90) • Documentation Portfolio (60)

Career Prep

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Choose a career from the Career Clusters Energy & Natural Resources category within one of the following subclusters:

- Resource Extraction
- Conservation & Land Management
- Ecological Research & Development
- Clean & Alternative Energy
- Environmental Protection
- Utilities

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No mock interview. The letter and resume are to be submitted in PDF form to NJ TSA's online conference system by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Change mid-May to 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No mock interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Change mid-May to 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No semifinalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No mock interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <i>Please be sure that submissions have fictitious home address and telephone number. Correct participant names must be used.</i> <i>No school names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No mock interview. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 80 points: • Cover Letter (40) • Job-Specific Resume (40)

Challenging Technology Issues

On-Site Event

2026 Topics:

- Artificial Intelligence and Automation in the Workplace
- Cloning to Generate Human Organs
- Utilizing Lab-Grown Meat as a Substantiative Agricultural Practice
- Banning Gas-Powered Cars by 2035
- Human Microchip Implants for Medical Records

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	No change.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> Delete E. No semifinalists. Winners are announced at the Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinal round. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinal round. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
EVALUATION:	No semifinal round. No semifinalists. Evaluation is based on 150 points: • Pro Side (70) • Con Side (70) • Participation (10)

Chapter Team On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	All teams take test and do oral presentation. No semifinalists.
ELIGIBILITY:	A. 2 teams of 6 members per chapter. C. No semifinalists. All teams take test and do oral presentation.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. All teams take test and do oral presentation.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code. There are no additional attire requirements for Chapter Team at the NJ State Conference.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> C. No semifinalists. All teams take test and do oral presentation. <u>Semifinal Round.</u> A.-B. No semifinalists. All teams do oral presentation. C. 5. No finalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> B. NJ TSA will provide paper tests, or computers as needed. C. NJ TSA will provide pencils. F. No semifinal round. All teams take test and do oral presentation. <u>Semifinal Round.</u> F.-H. No semifinalists. All teams do oral presentation. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. All teams do oral presentation. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 200 points: • Team test (10) • Business Meeting Demonstration (190)

Children's Stories

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Rhyming or Repetitive Text used to develop language development and memory in early readers.

OVERVIEW:	No change. The documentation portfolio and storybook, must be received by the NJ TSA Office by April 1, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site component. No reading or interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. The storybook and documentation portfolio must be received by the NJ TSA Office by April 1, 2026. B.1.-B.2. Judges score the Storybook criteria, and the Documentation criteria for all teams. No preliminary contestants. No semifinalists. C. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site component. No reading or interview. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. The storybook and documentation portfolio must be received by the NJ TSA Office by April 1, 2026. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> Judges score the Storybook criteria, and the Documentation criteria for all teams. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No reading. No interview. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 210 points: • Storybook (130) • Documentation Portfolio (80)

Coding Pre-Conference Event

The 2026 Design Problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website on January 12, 2026.

OVERVIEW:	No test. No onsite/live coding challenge. Teams create solution to the design problem on the NJ TSA website. The Design Problem will be posted on January 12, 2026. The solution to the design problem must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Delete Preliminary Round and Semifinal Round.</u> No test. No on-site challenge. No semifinalists. Teams create solution to the design problem on the NJ TSA website. Entries are submitted to the online NJ TSA conference system by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ATTIRE:	See Pages 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Delete Preliminary Round and Semifinal Round.</u> No test. No on-site challenge. No semifinalists. Teams create solution to the design problem on the NJ TSA website. Entries are submitted to the online NJ TSA conference system by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors. Top three winners are announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Delete Preliminary Round and Semifinal Round.</u> No test. No on-site challenge. No semifinalists. Teams create solution to the design problem on the NJ TSA website. Entries are submitted to the online NJ TSA conference system by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors. Top three winners are announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Delete Preliminary Round and Semifinal Round.</u> Evaluation criteria will be listed within the Design Problem.

Community Service Video Pre-Conference Event

OVERVIEW:	No change. The video and documentation portfolio must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> A. Change mid-May to 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Entries are due by 11:59pm EST on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. The URL of the video, and PDF of the documentation portfolio, must be submitted to NJ TSA's online conference system. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 190 points: ● Video Production (50) ● Video Effectiveness (100) ● Documentation Portfolio (40)

Computer-Aided Design (CAD) Foundations

Pre-Conference Event

The 2026: Design Problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website on January 12, 2026.

OVERVIEW:	No change. The 2026 Design Problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website on January 12, 2026. Students create a solution to the design problem posted on NJ TSA website. The solution must be finished, submitted, and accessible online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	3 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-C. Students create a solution to the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website. The solution (PDF) must be finished, submitted, and accessible online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Delete Preliminary Round.</u> No on site component. Students create a solution to the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website. The solution (PDF) must be finished, submitted, and accessible online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	Delete A.-F. No on site component. Students create a solution to the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website. The solution (PDF) must be finished, submitted, and accessible online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i>
EVALUATION:	A. PDF of the design solution must be submitted online. No USB submission. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors. Evaluation is based on 100 points: • Layout (70) • Software Utilization (30)

Construction Challenge

On-Site Event

2026 Theme: Your team has been tasked to design a playground appropriate for elementary school students (kindergarten through fifth grade). The playground should accommodate 50-60 students and be American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The playground should have a minimum of three (3) distinct zones for students. Describe the materials your team will use and how they complement distinct zones of the playground.

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. All teams give a presentation highlighting their model/display.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A.1. All teams give a presentation of up to five (5) minutes in length. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B.1.-B.2. Judges score the Model/Prototype, Display, and documentation criteria for all teams. No preliminary contestants, no semifinalists. C. No semifinalists. All teams give presentation. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. No semifinalists. All teams give a presentation up to five (5) minutes in length. B. All team members may participate in the presentation. D. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. No semifinalists. All teams give a presentation up to five (5) minutes in length. All team members may participate in the presentation. <i>No individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.) Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>

EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. All teams are evaluated on their involvement in a community project, model/prototype, display, and documentation portfolio. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. No semifinalists. All teams give presentation. Evaluation is based on 170 points: • Model/Prototype/Display (40) • Documentation Portfolio (80) • Presentation/Interview (50)
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Cybersecurity On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	One hour test only. No presentation.
ELIGIBILITY:	3 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete B. No presentation. Test only.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Delete Pre-Conference.</u> No presentation. Test only. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B. No semifinalists. Test only. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> B. NJ TSA will determine the test format (online or via scan-type answer sheet). <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 50 points: ● Test (50)

Data Science and Analytics

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Topic: Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (<https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/commuting.html>), explore how people travel to work across the country. Look at key characteristics provided in the data set. Based on your analysis, create a set of data-driven criteria that could help predict how someone might commute to work. Support your criteria with evidence from the data.

Data Set – [Transportation Details](#)

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Entries submitted Pre-Conference to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2-3 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No on-site presentation. Entries are submitted Pre-Conference.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.1.-A.2. Documentation portfolio and display are submitted to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. B.1.-B.2. Judges score the display and documentation criteria for all teams. No preliminary contestants, no semifinalists. C. No semifinalists. No on-site presentation/interview. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site presentation. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site presentation/interview. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. All teams are evaluated on their display, and documentation portfolio. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u>

	No semifinalists. No on-site presentation/interview. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 140 points: • Display (80) • Documentation Portfolio (60)
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Digital Photography

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: “Reflections”: Members will take four photos that fit the theme of “reflections,” such as water, mirrors, glass, etc.

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Digital portfolio submitted online Pre-Conference. The digital portfolio must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Change mid-May to 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Digital portfolio must be submitted to the NJ TSA online conference system, as a PDF by 11:59pm EST on April 1, 2026. E. Submission procedures will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. The digital portfolio must be submitted as a PDF online by 11:59pm EST on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Top three winners announced at award ceremony Evaluation is based on 70 points: Digital Photographic Portfolio (70)

Dragster Pre-Conference Event

For 2026, there is no theme. See official rules for specifications

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	A. The dragster, drawing, and materials list must be received by the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. Delete C. No interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round</u> A.1.-A.3. The dragster, drawing, and materials list must be received by the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. <u>Semifinal Round</u> Delete A. No interview. F. No finalists. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are announced at the Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round</u> A. There is no theme/problem for 2026. Follow the specifications in the official guidelines. <u>Semifinal Round</u> Delete A-B. No interview. C.4. All CO2 cartridges are provided by NJ TSA. • The top 16 dragsters meeting specifications will be raced in the double elimination bracket at the conference. • Cars not meeting specs WILL BE DISQUALIFIED from the competition. • A caliper will be used for all measurements • Place ID# on drawings and directly on dragster. It is recommended ID#'s are placed on bottom or back side of dragster with tape or label. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 2345678, the Team ID# would be 2345. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 2345-1, 2345-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> B. No interview. Evaluation is based on 115 points: • Dragster Construction (60) • Race (55)

Drone Challenge (UAV)

On-Site Event

2026: The topic of research is the use of drones for first responders, police or firefighters

You can access the theme [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site interview.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete D. No semifinalists. No interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> F. Judges will evaluate all teams' documentation portfolios. G. No semifinalists. No interview. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No interview. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. The documentation portfolio and drone testing will be evaluated for each team. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Evaluation is based on 190 points: ● Manual Drone Flight (120) ● Documentation Portfolio (70)

Electrical Applications

On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	Test only. No semifinalists. No on-site problem or interview.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No on-site problem or interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> D. No semifinalists. No semifinal round. Test only. F. No semifinalists. No semifinal round. Test only. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No on-site problem or interview. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> B. NJ TSA will determine the test format (online or scan-type answer sheet). F. No semifinal round. Test only. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No on-site problem or interview. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No on-site problem or interview. Test only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 50 points: • Written test (50 points)

Flight On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	No change. Participants bring completed documentation portfolio, and glider, on conference day.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site construction of glider.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
SAFETY	E.No on-site construction of glider. Students bring pre-built glider to test.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site construction of glider.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B.-C. Catapults at the NJ TSA State Conference are supplied by NJ TSA. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site construction of glider.
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary and Semifinalist Round:</u> No semifinalists. All participants submit documentation portfolio and test their glider. No on-site construction of glider. No semifinal round. Evaluation is based on 140 points: ● Documentation Portfolio (70) ● Flight Times (70)

Forensic Technology

On-Site Event

Be familiar with, and be able to demonstrate, the following forensic concepts:

1. Document Analysis: Forgery & Counterfeiting
2. Trace Evidence: Glass & Paint
3. Impression Analysis

OVERVIEW:	Test of forensic science theory will be taken online PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 6-7pm. Test procedures will be shared with advisors. No semifinalists. All teams analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. No skills demonstration/presentation.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. One (1) hour test of forensic science theory will be taken online PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 6-7pm. Test procedures will be shared with advisors. No semifinalists. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No skills demonstration/presentation. All teams will analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. Judges will determine the amount of time allowed to review the crime scene, based on the number of teams present on conference day. Teams will have 20 minutes to write their analysis. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Team members take a one (1) hour test of forensic science theory online PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 6-7pm. Team members take the test individually. Test procedures will be shared with advisors. Delete C.-D. No semifinalists. No skills demonstration/presentation. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No skills demonstration/presentation. All teams will analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. Judges will determine the amount of time allowed to review the crime scene, based on the number of teams present on conference day. Teams will have 20 minutes to write their analysis. No finalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.-D. One (1) hour test of forensic science theory will be taken online PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 6-7pm. Test procedures will be shared with advisors. F. No semifinalists. All teams analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u>

	No skills demonstration/presentation. All teams will analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. Judges will determine the amount of time allowed to review the crime scene, based on the number of teams present on conference day. Teams will have 20 minutes to write their analysis. No finalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No skills demonstration/presentation. All teams will analyze crime scene on conference day and write an analysis. Judges will determine the amount of time allowed to review the crime scene, based on the number of teams present on conference day. Teams will have 20 minutes to write their analysis. No finalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 90 points: • Online Test Score (50) • Survey/Investigation of Crime Scene (20) • Written Analysis of Crime Scene (20)

Inventions and Innovations

On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. All teams give “sales pitch” presentation.
ELIGIBILITY:	<u>Preliminary round:</u> 1 team of 2-4 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	No semifinalists. All teams give oral presentation.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B.-C. Judges evaluate the display and model/prototype for all teams. No semifinalists. All teams give oral presentation. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> B.-C. All teams give oral presentation. All team members are permitted to participate in the presentation. No semifinalists. G. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> C. No semifinalists. All teams give oral presentation. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. All team members are permitted to participate in the presentation. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. The display and model/prototype are evaluated for all teams. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. All teams give “sales pitch” presentation. Evaluation is based on 180 points: ● Static Display (60) ● Model/Prototype (60) ● Sales Pitch Presentation (60)

Leadership Strategies

On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 3 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	No change.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> J. No semifinalists. No semifinal round. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	No change.
EVALUATION:	No semifinal round. Preliminary round only. Evaluation is based on 100 points: • Presentation (100)

Mass Production
Pre-Conference Event
2026 Theme: Hobby Accessory

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No presentation. Entries submitted Pre-Conference to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 3-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-C. No presentation/interview. Entries submitted Pre-Conference.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.1.-A.2. Documentation portfolio, and prototype are submitted Pre-Conference. B.1.-B.2. Judges score the documentation portfolio and prototype for each team. C. No semifinalists. No presentation. Winners are announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.1.-A.2. Documentation portfolio, and prototype are submitted Pre-Conference. C. Entries submitted Pre-Conference. <u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. No finalists. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. Judges score documentation portfolio and prototype for each team. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Evaluation is based on 110 points: ● Prototype (40) ● Documentation Portfolio (70)

Mechanical Engineering

On-Site Event

2026 Catapult Design Challenge can be found [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinal round. Portfolios and Preliminary catapult testing will be judged for every team.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> C.Portfolios will be judged for all teams. No semifinal round. Preliminary round testing only.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinal round. Portfolios will be judged for all teams. Preliminary catapult testing only. Top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.) Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> A.-B. Portfolios are judged for all teams. No semifinal round. No head-to-head contest. Preliminary testing only. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. Evaluation is based on 100 points: • Preliminary Round Scoring (40) • Documentation Portfolio (60)

Medical Technology

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Musculoskeletal Conditions & Modern Technologies: Teams will select a musculoskeletal condition and outline it in the display. Then, teams will select modern medical technology that will be highlighted in an informational pamphlet and multimedia video.

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site interview. Static display and informational pamphlet (containing the QR code for the multimedia video) are submitted to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2-3 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-B. No semifinalists. No semifinal interview. Pre-Conference event.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Display and pamphlet/multimedia video are submitted to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. B.1.-B.2. Judges score the display and pamphlet/multimedia video for each team. No semifinalists. Winners announced at the Awards Ceremony. C. No semifinalists. No interview. <u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No interview. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Pre-Conference event. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. The display and pamphlet/multimedia video are judged for each team. <u>Delete Semifinal Round:</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Pre-Conference event. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.

	Evaluations will be based on 160 points: • Display (80) • Informational Pamphlet (40) • Multimedia Video (40)
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Microcontroller Design

On-Site Event

2026 Theme: Musical Instrument

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
TIME LIMITS:	No change.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>On-Site Challenge:</u> C. All team members may participate in the oral presentation. F. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>On-Site Challenge:</u> B. Teams should pick up their portfolio and device prior to leaving the conference. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	No change. Evaluation is based on 150 points: ● Documentation Portfolio (30) ● Device (80) ● Presentation (40)

Off the Grid

Static Event

2026 Design Brief can be found [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Teams submit their display, model, and documentation portfolio on conference day for evaluation.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of up to 6 members per chapter. Teams of 1 individual are permitted.
TIME LIMITS:	No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Static event.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> Delete E. No presentation. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B.1.-B.2. Judges score the Display and Model criteria, and Documentation Portfolio criteria, for all teams. No preliminary contestants, no semifinalists. C. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No tiered judging. All teams are evaluated on their display, model, and documentation portfolio. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation/interview. Evaluations will be based on 170 points: • Display (50) • Model Design (40) • Documentation Portfolio (80)

Prepared Speech

On-Site Event

2026 National Conference Theme: "Unity Through Community"

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	No change.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No Change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> D. No semifinalists. No semifinal round. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. Preliminary round only. No finalists. Top three winners announced at award ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> H. NJ TSA will provide a podium. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. Students make one speech. Top three winners announced at award ceremony.
EVALUATION:	No change. Evaluation is based on 100 points: • Content (30) • Stage Presence (30) • Organization (40)

Problem Solving

On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Teams will have 1.5 hours for design and construction of the solution.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>On-Site Challenge:</u> A. Teams do not need to bring a tool box or safety glasses. NJ TSA will provide all materials and tools. C. Teams are allowed 1.5 hours to design and construct a solution. F. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	B. NJ TSA will provide all materials. Delete D.-H. Teams do not need to bring a tool box or glasses. NJ TSA will provide all materials and tools.
EVALUATION:	A.-C. Scoring will be outlined on the design brief, which teams will receive on conference day.

Promotional Marketing

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme can be found [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site challenge. Entries submitted Pre-Conference. All components of the chapter's entry must be submitted to NJ TSA's online conference system by 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 individuals per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> A. Change mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site challenge.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> E. Change mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. F. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No semifinalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site problem. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference</u> H. Change mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site problem. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No on-site design challenge. No semifinalists. Evaluation is based on 180 points: • Print Design (60) • Wearable Design (60) • Digital Signage (60)

Robotics
On-Site Event
 2026 Theme can be found [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No change.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	C. The judge(s) may modify the testing time based on the number of participating teams. Delete D. No semifinalist interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> Delete F.-G. No semifinalists. No interview. The top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinalist interview. The top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No semifinalist interview. Evaluation is based on 60 points: • Preliminary Testing of Robot (60)

Solar Racer

On-Site Event (entries submitted Pre-Conference)

OVERVIEW:	No change. The car and showcase display must be submitted Pre-Conference to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. Teams race cars on conference day.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2-4 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Entries must be submitted to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. No semifinal interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> E. The preliminary round will take place outdoors. In the event of inclement weather, the race will take place indoors. Teams must provide their own battery pack and batteries. Batteries used must be two (2) AA 1.5 V batteries. It is recommended that teams test their vehicle with their battery pack prior to the conference. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Car and showcase display must be submitted Pre-Conference to the NJ TSA office by April 1, 2026. Cars raced on conference day. E.1.-E.2. Judges score the car and showcase display for every team. F.-G. No semifinalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A.-D. No semifinalist interview. The top three winners will be announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> E.11.A. Racing will be completed outdoors, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, the race will take place indoors. Teams must provide their own battery pack and batteries. Batteries used must be two (2) AA 1.5 V batteries. It is recommended that teams test their vehicle with their battery pack prior to the conference D.14. Teams must provide their own battery pack and batteries. Batteries used must be two (2) AA 1.5 V batteries. It is recommended that teams test their vehicle with their battery pack prior to the conference. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> B. The track for the NJ TSA State Conference will be a smooth rubber surface. C. Racing will be conducted outdoors with solar power, weather permitting. Teams must provide their own battery pack and batteries. Batteries used must be two (2) AA 1.5 V batteries. It is recommended that teams test their vehicle with their battery pack prior to the conference <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A.-C. No semifinal interview. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned</i>

	<i>a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Semifinal Round:</u> A. No interview. Evaluation is based on 210 points: • Showcase Display and Model (130) • Race (80)

STEM Animation

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Theme: Smart Cities: Technology in Urban Design

OVERVIEW:	Documentation portfolio, and animation video, must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 2-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Change mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Change mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. URL of animation video, and PDF of documentation portfolio must be submitted online by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No presentation. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No presentation. No semifinalists. Evaluation is based on 90 points: ● Documentation Portfolio (40) ● Animation (50)

Structural Engineering

On-Site Event

2026 Problem Statement and Verification Form can be found [here](#)

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site construction problem. Teams bring their documentation portfolio, and pre-built structure for destructive testing on conference day.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2 members per chapter.
SAFETY EYEWEAR:	No change.
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-B. No on-site construction. Teams bring their documentation portfolio, and pre-built structure for destructive testing on conference day. No semifinalists.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round</u> A.3. Storage box can be made of any material. Delete. E. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round</u> No semifinalists. No on-site construction. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-Conference</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round</u> B. It is at the judge's discretion if spectators are allowed during destructive testing. <u>Delete Semifinal Round</u> No semifinalists. No on-site construction. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.) Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 2345678, the Team ID# would be 2345. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 2345-1, 2345-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	All structures meeting requirements will be tested. Rank will be determined by the efficiency rating. Evaluation is based on the Pre-Built Structure and Documentation Portfolio

System Control Technology

Static Event

The 2026 Design Problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website on January 12, 2026.

OVERVIEW:	No change Teams solve the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website. Model is constructed off-site. No on-site portion. Teams bring completed model for evaluation on conference day, and leave instructions for evaluators to operate the device.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 3 members per chapter
TIME LIMITS:	Delete A.-D. Teams solve the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website. Model is constructed off-site. No on-site portion. No interview. There will be a 15 minute set up time (students set up completed model and leave instructions for evaluators to operate the device).
ATTIRE:	See Page 6-7 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> Delete A.-I. All components of the team's project (Inventor's Log and Solution to Problem) are constructed off-site. There is no on-site portion. All teams solve the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website and bring their completed device on conference day for evaluation. Teams will set up their device, and leave instructions for evaluators to operate it. No interview. No finalists. Top three winners are announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.-I. All components of the team's project (Inventor's Log and Solution to Problem) are constructed off-site. There is no on-site portion. All teams solve the design problem posted on the NJ TSA website and bring their completed device on conference day for evaluation. Teams will set up their device, and leave instructions for evaluators to operate it. No interview. No finalists. Top three winners are announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 2345678, the Team ID# would be 2345. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 2345-1, 2345-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	Delete D. No interview. Evaluation is based on 100 points: ● Inventor's Log (20) ● Solution to Problem (60) ● Programming Structure (20)

Tech Bowl

On-Site Event

OVERVIEW:	All participants will complete an online, objective test PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 7:15pm-8:15pm. Testing procedures will be shared with advisors. All teams will compete in a head-to-head competition on conference day.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 3 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Preliminary Round</u> A. The (1) hour test is taken by all team members, individually, online, PRIOR to the State Conference, on March 25, 2026 from 7:15pm-8:15pm. Testing procedures will be shared with advisors. <u>Semifinal Round</u> No semifinalists. All teams participate in the oral competition on conference day.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	Delete ALL. Follow the procedures listed below: 1. All participants will take the test online, prior to conference day. Testing procedures will be shared with advisors. 2. On conference day, team members will report to the oral event area holding room for briefing at the designated time. After briefing, advisors must leave and the team will remain in the holding room until called for competition. Teams may visit with other teams; however, no advisors or visitors may enter the holding room. 3. No audience members are permitted into the oral event area. 4. When instructed to do so, two (2) teams will enter the event area 5. and be seated according to instructions. 6. When a team has been defeated in any round of the oral event, the team is out of the competition. 7. Questions will be drawn, as needed, from a card file resource bank. 8. A team's total score is derived from the correct answers to the questions asked. For each correct answer, a team will receive ten (10) points. When a question has been completely read and a team is recognized to answer, if the team does not answer or answers incorrectly, five (5) points will be deducted from the team's score. In this instance, the other team does not have the opportunity to respond to this question, and the next question is read for both teams. If a question is being read and a team member presses the button before the question is finished, the member must answer completely as stated on the answer card. If the answer given is incorrect, the entire question will be read for the other team. 9. A total of twelve (12) questions will be asked per round. No questions will be repeated in another round. In the case of the tie, five (5) additional questions will be asked. This procedure will continue until the tie is broken. The questions will be picked at random from the basic areas tested. 10. Bonus Question There will be one additional question (bonus question). The bonus question will be announced, and the team that answers it correctly will have the opportunity to answer one additional question. This is the only time when team members may consult with each other before giving an answer. The team will have ten (10) seconds to give its answer. If a team gives an incorrect answer to the bonus question, then the question will be read to the other team.

	Bonus point scoring: If a team answers the bonus correctly, that team receives fifteen (15) points; if a team answers the bonus incorrectly, that team loses five (5) points from its score. 11. A panel of evaluators will be available to respond to questions concerning acceptable answers. 1. Rulings on acceptable answers will be made only during the round in question. 2. Rulings will be made immediately, to do one of the following: a. Accept only the answers listed on the card. b. Accept the student's answer and renew points, or remove the question and read another in its place. c. The rulings of the panel will be final.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	Delete ALL. Follow regulations listed below: 1. No transmitting or recording devices, including cell phones, will be permitted in the event area. No prompting will be permitted. 2. The team member who "buzzes in" will have five (5) seconds to answer the question, without discussion. 3. The team that answers the bonus question will be allowed ten (10) seconds to discuss the extra question and give an answer. 4. After a question is read, the competing teams will have ten (10) seconds to answer. If neither team can answer the question, then another question will be read. 5. If a team member "buzzes in" before a question is finished being read, that member must give the exact answer as printed on the card.
EVALUATION:	Delete ALL. Follow evaluation listed below: Evaluation is based on the total points from the three written tests plus the total points from the oral competition. Awards will be given to the top three (3) teams.

Technical Design

Pre-Conference Event

The 2026 design problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website at 5pm on March 19, 2026. Teams submit their solution online by 5pm on March 24, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.

Please note—this event has an **earlier due date** than other events. Teams have a limited amount of time to solve the problem and submit their solution.

OVERVIEW:	Problem is solved off-site. Students have a limited amount of time to solve the problem. The design problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website at 5pm on March 19, 2026. Entries must be submitted online by 5pm on March 24, 2026.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	Problem is solved off-site. Students have a limited amount of time to solve the problem. The design problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website at 5pm on March 19, 2026. Entries must be submitted online by 5pm on March 24, 2026.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> No Change. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> A.-E. Problem is solved off-site. Students have a limited amount of time to solve the problem. The design problem will be posted on the NJ TSA website at 5pm on March 19, 2026. Entries must be submitted online by 5pm on March 24, 2026. Submission procedures will be provided by NJ TSA. G. No finalists. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> D.1. The documentation portfolio must be submitted online as a PDF document. Submission procedures will be provided by NJ TSA. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	No change. Evaluation is based on 100 points: ● Solution (100)

Video Game Design

Pre-Conference Event

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No on-site interview. The video game, and documentation portfolio, must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	1 team of 2-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Pre-Conference/Preliminary Round:</u> A. Change submission date from mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. E. Change National TSA Conference to NJ State Conference. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No on-site interview.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	D. Change submission date from mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> A. Entries must be accessible online until the NJ State Conference. G. No semifinalists. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the <u>State Conference</u> online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>
EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalist presentation. No interview. Evaluation is based on 130 points: ● Video Game Design (60) ● Documentation Portfolio (70)

Website Design

Pre-Conference Event

2026 Design Brief: Community Story

Challenge: Develop a website that captures the essence of a local community and shares stories, history, or significant events that have shaped the community. The website should include an interactive element (e.g., timeline, map, etc.) that the user can interact with to understand the history or stories of the community. Your entry for this event is an exception to the general rules for the 2026 National TSA Conference regarding identifying information and you may include school or chapter name if it is the same name as the community used.

OVERVIEW:	No semifinalists. No interview. The website, and any required documentation, must be finished, submitted, and accessible via the Internet by 11:59pm on April 1, 2026. Submission procedures will be shared with advisors.
ELIGIBILITY:	2 teams of 3-6 members per chapter.
TIME LIMITS:	<u>Pre-Conference/Preliminary Round:</u> A. Change date from mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. URL must be submitted online. Any required forms must be submitted online in PDF format. Submission procedures will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
ATTIRE:	See Page 6 of this guide for required dress code.
PROCEDURE:	<u>Pre-Conference:</u> D. Change date from mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. E. Submission information will be provided by NJ TSA. <u>Preliminary Round:</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony.
REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:	<u>Pre-conference/Preliminary Round:</u> I. Change date from mid-May to 11:59 pm on April 1, 2026. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalists. No interview. Top three winners announced at Awards Ceremony. <i>No school or individual names labeled on projects; only State Conference ID#'s are to be used. Upon registering students for the State Conference online, they are automatically assigned a State Conference ID#. This number needs to be on all parts of student projects (i.e. portfolio, display, model, etc.)</i> <i>Team ID#'s may be used for team events. A Team ID# is the first four numbers of students' individual ID#'s (e.g. if a student ID# is 1234567, the Team ID# would be 1234. If there are multiple teams from one chapter for the same competition, include which team they are on (e.g. 1234-1, 1234-2, etc.).</i>

EVALUATION:	<u>Preliminary Round:</u> No change. <u>Delete Semifinal Round.</u> No semifinalist interview. Evaluation based on 130 points: • Website (130)