

STEM

ARCHITECTURE

Description

The art and process of designing and building structures.

Overview

Create an original architectural design as a 2D drawing or 3D model. Your design can be expressed through grand buildings, serene landscapes, or cozy interiors.

Requirements

1. Unique Design: Your submission must be entirely your own original work.
2. Written Explanation: A 5-page double-spaced paper is required to detail your design process, goals, and challenges.
3. Technical Drawings: Provide a comprehensive set of blueprints, including site plans, floor plans, elevations, and sections.
4. Oral Presentation: Prepare a 8-10-minutes presentation to explain your design to the judges. Exceeding this time limit may result in point deductions or disqualification. Additional time may be allotted for the judge's questions and responses.
5. Physical Model: Construct a scaled model of your design
6. STEM Verification: Obtain a signed STEM verification form from a qualified architect.

Judging Criteria

Category	Weight	Description
Design Concept	30	Complexity, originality, and overall concept
Planning and Space	10	Effective use of space and functionality
Aesthetics	10	Visual appeal and harmony of elements
Technical Accuracy	25	Quality of drawings, model craftsmanship, and construction feasibility
Written Statement	5	Clarity, coherence, and depth of explanation
Oral Presentation	5	Delivery, clarity, and ability to answer questions
Site Analysis	15	Understanding of the site and integration of design
Point Deduction	-1 to -5	In the event the student presentation exceeds 10 mins one point will be deducted for every minute over up to five points.
Total	100	

Tips for Contestants

- **Start Early:** Begin your project well in advance to allow for ample time for research, design, and construction.
- **Research Thoroughly:** Explore various architectural styles, historical periods, and contemporary trends.
- **Develop a Strong Concept:** Clearly articulate your design's purpose and unique qualities.
- **Pay Attention to Detail:** Ensure your drawings are precise and your model is meticulously crafted.
- **Practice Your Presentation:** Rehearse your presentation to deliver a confident and informative speech.
- **Seek Feedback:** Consult with mentors, teachers, or other architects to refine your design.
- **Stay Organized:** Keep track of your progress, deadlines, and materials.
- **Have Fun:** Enjoy the creative process and let your imagination soar

BIOLOGY/MICROBIOLOGY

Description

The science of life or of the origin, structure, reproduction, growth and development of living organisms collectively.

Overview

Explore the science of life or the origin, structure, reproduction, growth, and development of living organisms. Projects in this category can dive into the biology of organisms at any scale, from macroscopic creatures to microscopic entities such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa, fungi, yeast, genes, etc.

Project Submission

1. Single Entry per Competition: Only one project may be submitted per competition.
2. Scientific Paper:
 - a. Content: Submit a double-spaced scientific paper (maximum 20 pages) that includes:
 - i. Introduction: Background and purpose of the research.
 - ii. Experimental Section: Methods and results.
 - iii. Conclusion: Discussion of results and implications.
 - b. Formatting: Include tables, graphs, charts, maps, photographs, raw data, references, and acknowledgements.
 - c. Identification: Each page must include the student's name, page number, unit name, and number.
 - d. Supporting Documents: Submit all supporting documents with the scientific paper.

Oral Presentation

3. Presentation Time: Deliver a 8-10 minute oral presentation. Exceeding this time limit may result in point deductions or disqualification. Additional time may be allotted for the judge's questions and responses.
4. Equipment: Contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment.
5. Display Board*:
 - a. One Board per Entry: Each qualifying entry requires a separate display board.
 - b. Relevance: Ensure the display board content is directly related to the competition.
 - c. Shared Items: Demonstration items may be transferred between displays if necessary.
 - d. Power and Tables: The NAACP ACT-SO Program will provide electrical power and display tables upon request (subject to deadlines).
 - e. *Acceptable display boards include trifold, pentafold, and foam core. Poster boards are not permitted

STEM Verification

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Judging Criteria

Category	Criteria	Points
Quality of Research	Scientific Approach/Method	20
	Validity of Information	10
	Validity of Conclusion(s)	10
Depth of Understanding & Oral Presentation	Knowledge Gained and Creativity	20
	Thoroughness & Individual Work	20
Written Report	Clarity and Organization	10
Visual Presentation	Effectiveness of Display	10
Point Deduction	In the event the student presentation exceeds 10 mins one point will be deducted for every minute over up to five points.	-1 to -5
Total		100

Tips for Contestants

- **Start Early:** Begin your research well in advance to allow ample time for experimentation, data analysis, and report writing.
- **Choose a Fascinating Topic:** Select a subject that genuinely interests you to maintain enthusiasm throughout the project.
- **Master Your Material:** Thoroughly understand your research to answer questions confidently during the oral presentation.
- **Practice Your Presentation:** Rehearse your presentation multiple times to improve delivery and timing.
- **Engage Your Audience:** Use clear and concise language, visual aids, and storytelling techniques to captivate your audience.
- **Anticipate Questions:** Consider potential questions and prepare thoughtful responses.
- **Seek Feedback:** Consult with your mentor or teacher to receive constructive criticism and improve your project.
- **Stay Organized:** Keep meticulous records of your experiments, data, and observations.
- **Be Creative:** Use innovative approaches to present your findings and stand out from the competition.
- **Have Fun:** Enjoy the process of learning and discovery!

CHEMISTRY/BIOCHEMISTRY

Description

The science that deals with the composition, structure and properties of chemical processes and phenomena of substances and the transformation that they undergo.

Overview

Projects in this category could involve physical chemistry, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, materials, plastics, fuels, pesticides, metallurgy, soil chemistry, etc. This category also includes the chemistry of life processes such as molecular biology, molecular genetics, enzymes, photosynthesis, blood chemistry, protein chemistry, food chemistry, hormones, etc.

Project Submission

1. Single Entry per Competition: Only one project may be submitted per competition.
2. Scientific Paper:
 - a. Content: Submit a double-spaced scientific paper (maximum 20 pages) that includes:
 - i. Introduction: Background and purpose of the research.
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Description

The science that deals with exploring the principles and practices behind programming/coding, artificial intelligence, and the transformation of data through computational methods.

Overview

This category pertains to the study and development of artificial intelligence, computer software, IT networking, communications, graphics (including human interface), and simulations/virtual reality.

Project Submission

1. Single Entry per Competition: Only one project may be submitted per competition.
2. Scientific Paper:
 - a. Content: Submit a double-spaced scientific paper (maximum 20 pages) that includes:
 - i. Introduction: Background and purpose of the research.
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EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

Description

The body of sciences that include geology, mineralogy, physiographic, oceanography, meteorology, climatology, astronomy, speleology, seismology, geography, etc.

Overview

This competition encompasses the broad field of Earth and space sciences, including disciplines such as geology, mineralogy, physiography, oceanography, meteorology, climatology, astronomy, speleology, seismology, and geography. Projects may address environmental science topics, including the analysis of pollution sources such as air, water, and land, and their mitigation strategies, as well as ecological studies focusing on the relationships between organisms and their environments

Project Submission

1. Single Entry per Competition: Only one project may be submitted per competition.
2. Scientific Paper:
 - a. Content: Submit a double-spaced scientific paper (maximum 20 pages) that includes:
 - i. Introduction: Background and purpose of the research.
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PHYSICS

Description

Theories, principles and laws governing energy and the effect of energy on matter.

Overview

Projects can involve solid state physics, optics, acoustics, particle physics, nuclear physics, atomic energy, superconductivity, fluid and gas dynamics, thermodynamics, semiconductors, magnetism, quantum mechanics, biophysics, etc.

Project Submission

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ENGINEERING

Description

The use of scientific and mathematical principles to design, test, and build machines, structures, and processes to solve problems.

Overview

Projects that directly apply scientific principles to manufacturing and practical uses. This category could involve civil, mechanical, aeronautical, chemical, electrical, robotic, photographic, sound, automotive, marine, heating, refrigerating, transportation, and environmental engineering; etc.

Project Submission

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MATHEMATICS

Description

The science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, combinations, generalizations, and abstractions of spaced configurations and their structure.

Overview

The science of numbers and their operations, interrelations, combinations, generalizations, and abstractions of spaced configurations and their structure. Development of formal logical systems or various numerical and algebraic computations and the application of these principles. Projects in this category could involve calculus, geometry, number theory, statistics, complex analysis, probability, etc.

Project Submission

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2. Scientific Paper:
 - a. Content: Submit a double-spaced scientific paper (maximum 20 pages) that includes:
 - i. Introduction: Background and purpose of the research.
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MEDICINE AND HEALTH

Description

The study of diseases and health of humans and animals.

Overview

Projects in this category could involve dentistry, pharmacology, pathology, ophthalmology, nutrition, sanitation, dermatology, allergies, speech and hearing, etc.

Project Submission

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