



Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

Question: Who is eligible to participate?

Answer: All entrants must be living within the United States, U.S. Territories or Canada and enrolled full-time in a public, charter, private or home school. Students must be currently enrolled in either sixth, seventh or eighth grade and under the age of 18.

Q: Is there a fee to enter the Bright Schools Competition?

A: There is no cost to enter the Bright Schools Competition.

Q: Can a student submit an individual project?

A: No. Students must participate as part of a team of 2 to 4 students.

Q: How many students are the minimum for a team?

A: Two. Teams are comprised of Teachers/Coaches (adult over the age of 21) and 2 to 4 students.

Q: Can home school students participate?

A: Yes. Home schooled students must connect with teachers/coaches in the public school setting. The teachers/coaches would then enter the team and use the school information they are employed by to complete the registration.

Q: Can home school students be on the same team as public school students?

A: Yes. See answer above and competition rules.

Q: I home school my children, can I be their teacher/coach?

A: Home schooled students must connect with teachers/coaches in the public school setting. A parent may not be the teacher/coach of a team on which his or her child is a member.



Q: Do all students on one team have to be in the same grade?

A: No. Teams can consist of a combination of 2 to 4 members in 6th through 8th grade.

Q: Do all students on one team have to be enrolled in the same school?

A: Yes. Unless, the team is comprised of home schooled students. Teams with home schooled students must connect with teachers/coaches in the public school setting. See question above and competition rules.

Registration Information

Q: How do I register?

A: The team teacher/coach must register all teams online here: <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/>.

Q: Do students need to register to participate?

A: No. Teachers/Coaches will register each team. Only one registration is needed for each team project. Only one project can be submitted per team.

Q: Can teachers/coaches sponsor more than one team?

A: Yes. Teachers/coaches can mentor multiple teams. However, all team projects must be unique and registered separately.

Q: How do I register more than one team?

A: In order to register multiple teams you will have to fully 'submit' one team project in the registration portal. You can do so by entering as much information as possible or placeholder text and hit submit. The option to add another submission will then appear on your dashboard and you will be able to enter more teams. Once you fully submit the first team project, you will have the ability to add and edit/update additional submissions as you please within the portal, whether they are complete or not. You will just need to "Save and Logout." After the first team project is submitted, you will be able to toggle back and forth between projects and update each submission. Please note, that you will be able to update your first/original team submission in the portal until the competition closes on 2/6/17.



Q. May a parent who is also a team member's teacher/coach sponsor the team?

A. No, under no circumstances may a parent be the teacher/coach of a team on which his or her child is a member.

Resources Information

Q: What resources are available to help get students started?

A: Lesson plans, research articles, and other resources/information are available on the competition website: <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/Teach-Lesson-Plans.aspx>.

Q: How will this competition benefit students?

A: The Bright Schools Competition provides students the opportunity to receive a positive and enduring STEM experience. It was created to help students, parents and teachers better understand the link between light, sleep and student health and performance.

Submission Information

Q: How do teams submit a completed project?

A: Team teachers/coaches will submit completed projects (exploration, written project and three minute video) online at the Bright Schools Competition website: <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/>.

Q: In what format do teams submit a video?

A: Video files or links will be submitted through the online submission portal. Teams may submit a video file or video link. We encourage teams to explore submitting an online video via YouTube or Vimeo. If you submit your video via YouTube or Vimeo make sure to set your sharing options to "Public" or "Unlisted." Private videos will not be judged. Click here: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/157177?hl=en> or here: <https://vimeo.com/help/basics> for information on uploading videos.

Q: What is the page limit for the Written Project?

A: The written portion of the project should be no more than three pages doubled spaced and in 12 point Times New Roman font.



Q: What is the page limit for the Bibliography? What is the required citation style?

A: The Bibliography may be up to three pages in length and should include at least five sources. Sources must be clearly labeled and should conform to MLA or APA citation standards. Teachers/Coaches should select and confirm the citation format of the Bibliography when submitting projects.

Q: What is the entry deadline?

A: Complete projects must be **received** by NSTA by **11:59 pm EST, February 6, 2017**.

Q: Who do I contact for more information or if I have problems registering or submitting projects?

A: For more information, assistance and instructions on submitting projects, visit the Bright Schools Competition website or send an email to: brightschoolscompetition@nsta.org.