

TSA News

It has been a busy summer/fall and we're already at full steam getting ready for the Fall Leadership conference and the **2012 Colorado TSA State Conference!** And at long last, the final version of the 2012 Call to Conference and Competitive Events Guide is ready for you and should be attached to this email. Please review the document carefully – as there have been several changes and updates to several contests.

Among the changes, this year, we have combined the Call to Conference and the State Competitive Events Guide into a single document. This should eliminate a lot of confusion, but it does create a really big document.

Here are some items to be aware of as you work your way through the document.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT – This year, you can pay for conference registration via credit card. This is helpful for districts that wish to use a P-card. The form is included in this document along with all the registration forms for the state conference.

OFFICER AT LARGE – This year, we have instituted the Officer At Large program for the State Officer Team. This program is designed to help foster leadership development and give officer experience to those students who may not have as much as is required to be a full state officer. The application forms are included in this document.

COMPETITIVE EVENTS – There have been a number of changes to competitive events this year. With the revision of the middle school rule book came necessary changes to some state-only contests. You are advised to carefully read over ALL rules and check the updates as posted on the TSA website; however, here's a quick overview.

- a. **AG & BIOTECH DESIGN** – MS – Revised to bring it in line with HS event.
- b. **CASTLE BALLISTICS** - MS/HS– A change was made to the size of the hacky-sack as well as a change to the overall dimensions (to allow for easier storage of the devices).
- c. **COMMUNITY SERVICE VIDEO** - MS – This event has replaced video production at the middle school level.
- d. **CRASH TEST** –MS – A theme has been assigned to the contest. This year, it's **AMBULANCES**. Also, the testing procedure and rubric have been modified to speed up the testing process and reflect the inclusion of a specific theme.
- e. **ESSAYS ON TECH** – MS – Renamed from Tech Writing.
- f. **GRAPHIC DESIGN** – MS – Contest eliminated.
- g. **INTEGRATED AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE** – TSA has removed the middle school event **ROBOT TOBOR** from the national event line up, in effect eliminating all but the **VEX** competition from robotics-related events. This event has been expanded to the Middle School level and the rules/testing procedures have been updated.
- h. **INVENTIONS & INNOVATIONS** – MS – Updated.

- i. MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION – MS – Replaces TSA MULTIMEDIA; emphasis on animation.
- j. PIN DESIGN MS/HS – This contest has been renamed and modified to match the Middle School event PROMOTIONAL DESIGN. Since the new middle school event is a pin design contest, the rules to the state pin design contest for high school has been modified to be the same.
- k. PROMOTIONAL DESIGN – MS – This is a new event where students design a trading pin for the state. This event eliminates PIN DESIGN at the state level.
- l. RUBBER BAND POWERED CARS MS/HS– A revision was made to specify the type and size of rubber band that can be used for the car. The car must be powered by a rubber band attached to a propeller, not wrapped around an axle to generate power for the vehicle.
- m. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING – MS – Revised to bring it in line with HS event.
- n. TECHNICAL DESIGN – MS – This event replaces Technical Drawing at the middle school level.
- o. TECHNO TALK – MS – Updated
- p. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS – HS – For high school, this event replaces HYDRODYNAMICS. At the middle school level, the national office has replaced TSA CUP: MARINE DESIGN with a new event called TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. In order to make the water troughs consistent and make judging easier, we have modified the HS to be the same.
- q. VIDEO GAME DESIGN – MS/HS – The Middle School event was revised to bring it in line with HS event; **NOTE: *EARLY SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR STATE CONTEST*** – We have made this an early submission deadline for a couple of reasons: A) The length of time it takes to evaluate the games is just a bit much for our judges at the state conference, and B) There were an inordinate number of games that were disqualified last year because they didn't play or the discs/thumb drives were blank. With the early deadline, our judges can make sure the game works; if it doesn't your students will be notified and will have one week from the submission deadline to fix the problem and resubmit the game. **The deadline for submissions is January 27, 2011.**

RUBRICS – This year, the national middle school competitive events guide has rubrics for each contest; high school rubrics will come next year. This should help get feedback to the contestants after each contest, both at the state and national levels. As has been the case, at the state level, you will continue to receive all rubrics back for the events.

SCHEDULE – We've planned enough ahead to put the schedule in the rule book so advisors and students can plan appropriately and avoid conflicts wherever possible. Changes to the schedule include:

- a. CHECK-IN TIMES: Please note the change in start time for the opening session and the check-in/display. All events must be checked in BEFORE 7:00 PM. This will facilitate the judging process and eliminate late-night judging sessions. It also ensures that **EVERYONE** is in attendance for the opening session.

- b. CONFERENCE HQ: Moves back to the Spruce room – for security and traffic flow.
- c. EVENT CHECK-IN: This year, all check-in events will be moved to the Evergreen Ballroom (where we used to have our banquet). This will allow for greater security and help with logistics on the day of the awards ceremony. It also provides us more space for our banquet and dance.
- d. SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS: This year, in the Lupine Room (our former conference HQ), we will be running special interest sessions throughout the day. These sessions will be for both students and advisors. These sessions will include, but will not be limited to: State Officer 101, Advisors forum, Becoming and Alumni, Becoming a Chapter Officer. We will provide more details as we get closer to the event. If you have an idea for a special interest session you'd like to see, or would like to present on a topic, please complete the form at the back of the attached book and send it to me or log online and complete the form: www.ctsoadvisor.com/cotsa/special_interest_session_proposal.html
- e. ROOM LOCATION: This year, we have made several room changes for events to keep all the TSA events on the main floor of the hotel. This should minimize our impact on other guests in the hotel by confining our activities to the main level and yet make everything as accessible as possible.
- f. CO2 DRAGSTERS/TRANSPORTATION MODELING-MS/HS – This is such a popular event, we have made arrangements to put this event “out in the open” in the Conference Center Lobby – where we hope to allow even more spectators to watch this event.
- g. TECHSPO – Efforts are being made to expand the Techspo and will have them nearby the Conference Center lobby. We already have commitments from the Colorado Rockies, Denver Nuggets/Avalanche, KSE Imprints and are working on more. If you have an idea for a vendor you'd like to see at the Techspo, please let me know.
- h. BANQUET – The banquet has moved to the Rocky Mountain Events Center where we hold the opening/awards ceremony. This will allow the hotel to make fewer room turns and put them in a position to get more chairs in the RMEC for the awards session on Saturday.
- i. ADVISOR FORUM – We also have a special session on Thursday night for advisors to get their questions about the state conference answered immediately following the Opening session.
- j. GIANT JENGA TOURNAMENT – This year, the state officers will be hosting the First Annual Giant Jenga Tournament. The tournament will be held following the banquet on Friday night in the Atrium. The event appears on the schedule as “SOCIAL SPACE”. You should have received a flyer regarding this event. If your students would like to participate, please email me and I will forward you the information.

ALSO.... mark your calendars for a couple of dates:

- **December 2, 2011 – FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**
 - Information has been sent out to all advisors regarding this event. You can also download the conference documents at www.ctsoadvisor.com
 - Featured this year are Nationally Certified Trainers for COTSA in the Student Leadership Challenge

- **February 9-11, 2012 – COTSA State Conference**