Virginia TSA Fall Competitive Events Addendum

For Use at the 2026 Virginia TSA Fall Competitive Events

An Addendum to the National TSA
2026-2027
Middle School Guidelines
AND the National TSA
2027-2028
High School Guidelines

See Virginia TSA Competitive Event Eligibility and Special Awards Guide for eligibility

Virginia TSA Fall Events

Virginia TSA is pleased to announce its competitive events plan for the fall of 2026. With the success of fall events over the last six years, Virginia TSA will continue to run fall events again this year. The fall events will take place in November with their culmination happening at Leadership Academy at Camp Piankatank on November 13-15, 2026.

The list of Middle School events includes: *Career Prep, Digital Photography, Dragster, Prepared Speech, Promotional Marketing, STEM Animation and Structural Engineering.*

The list of High School events includes: *Digital Video Production, Dragster Design, Extemporaneous Speech, Music Production, Photographic Technology, Prepared Presentation, Promotional Design, and Structural Design and Engineering.*

There will need to be at least 10 entries registered in an event for it to take place in the fall. So, get your students going early this year so these events happen and we can continue doing this each year.

All of these event winners will qualify for Technosphere next April 29 – May 2, 2027, just like those winners in the upcoming 2027 spring Regional Fairs across the state. With this, students will have two opportunities to qualify for state in the above-mentioned events. The schedule for these events is listed in the below addendum. The top five in each fall event qualify for Technosphere 2027. Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each event on November 15th as part of Leadership Academy's closing session. Registration deadline for Leadership Academy and the fall events will be on October 30, 2026. Registration will open in early October.

Price points: Competing and/or Attending Leadership Academy $145

Competing and not attending Leadership $20

All fall events in this addendum will use the current school year's national middle and high school guides. Must be affiliated with National TSA to access guide and compete in the fall events or Leadership Academy.

Good Luck!

Virginia TSA 2026 Fall Events Addendum **9/10/2026**
MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CODE	EVENT		NOTES
MS	Career Prep	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Design and produce a cover letter and a job-specific resume based on research. **See National Themes and Problems https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems for Career Clusters.** No semifinalist interview portion at Fall Competitive Events. **Students will be able to upload their PDF submission into the judges' system by 9 PM. On 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.**
MS	Digital Photography	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants produce a digital photographic portfolio that represents or relates to a chosen theme posted on the National TSA website at https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems (No semifinalist portion will be held at the Fall Competitive Event.) **Students will be able to upload their PDF submission into the judges' system by 9 PM. on 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges system from their advisors.**
MS	Dragster	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Design and produce a fast CO^2 powered dragster according to stated specifications and using only certain specified materials. For this event, use the competitive event guide for specifications. See National Themes and Problems https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems for any changes to specifications. Dragsters not meeting safety tolerances shall be disqualified and will NOT be raced. Cars will be judged based on the judging sheet provided on the addendum page of the Virginia TSA website. There is a button provided for the sheet. No semifinalist interview at Fall competitive events. **Cars will be judged and raced on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at Leadership Academy.**
MS	Prepared Speech	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants deliver an oral presentation that reflects the theme of the current conference. The theme for 2027 is: **Forward to Fifty.** A video of the speech entry will be due **by 9 PM on 11/10/2026 to the judges' system. Students get their username and password for the judges system from their advisors.** There will be no Semi-Finalist Portion at the fall competitive event.
MS	Promotional Marketing	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants complete a marketing portfolio based on the current year's theme. **The topic for the 2027 conference is located at: https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems All three items in the marketing tool kit will be uploaded to the judges' system by 9 PM. on 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges system from their advisors.** There will be no Semi-Finalist Portion at the fall competitive event.

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MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

CODE	EVENT		NOTES
MS	STEM Animation	Three teams per chapter, 1-6 members per team, one entry per team	Participants use computer graphic tools and design processes to communicate, inform, analyze and/or illustrate a topic, idea, subject or concept. (No semifinalist portion will be held at the fall competitive event.) **STEM Animations must be turned in to the judges' system by 9 P.M. on 11/10/2026. Student captains get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.**
MS	Structural Engineering	Three teams per chapter, 2 members per team, one entry per team	Participants apply the principles of structural design and engineering through research, design, construction, destructive testing, and assessment to determine the efficiency of a designated structure. **Use the Design brief and specifications located on the National TSA website under themes and problems for this event. Structures will be turned in and tested the evening of November 13, 2026 at Camp Piankatank as part of Leadership Academy.** Structures will be judged using the judging sheet provided on the addendum page of the Virginia TSA website. There is a button provided for the sheet.
		HIGH SCHOOL	
HS	Digital Video Production	Three team entries per chapter, 2-8 members per team, one entry per team	Participants develop a digital video/film that focuses on the given year's theme. The theme for 2027 can be found on the National website under Themes and Problems https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems Videos will be submitted **to the judges' system by 9 P.M. on 11/10/2026. Student captains get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.** No semifinalist portion will be held at the Fall Competitive Event.
HS	Dragster Design	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Design and produce a fast CO^2 powered dragster design according to stated national specifications and using only certain specific materials. For this event, use the current high school competitive event guide for specifications. Dragsters not meeting safety tolerances shall be disqualified and will NOT be raced. Cars will be judged based on the judging sheet provided on the addendum page of the Virginia TSA website. There is a button provided for the sheet. No semifinalist interview at Fall competitive events. **Cars will be judged and raced on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at Leadership Academy.**
HS	Extemporaneous Speech	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants give a three to five (3-5) minute speech on a topic provided. Students will compete in this event through the judges' system on **November 10, 2026 at 8 PM.** The Prompt will be in the judges' system at that time and then participants will have a total of 30 minutes to film and upload their speech after the 15 minutes prep time that is allowed after receipt of the topic. This will be a total of 45 minutes to complete the task.
HS	Music Production	Three teams per chapter, 2-8 members per team, one entry per team	Participants produce an original musical piece that is based on this years' current theme. See National Themes and Problems, https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems **Participants will upload their projects to the judges' system by 9 PM on 11/10/2026. Student captains get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.** No semifinalist interview portion at Fall

CODE	EVENT		NOTES
			Competitive event. Copyright and documentation should be submitted in the format listed in the National guide under documentation portfolio.
HS	Photographic Technology	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants capture images and process photographic and digital prints that depict the current year's theme. See National Themes and Problems https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems No semifinalist portion at fall competitive event. **Submissions, in PDF format, for this event will be uploaded to the judges' system by 9 PM on 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.**
HS	Prepared Presentation	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants deliver an oral presentation, using a digital slide deck, on a topic that will be posted on the National website under themes and problems. https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems **Students will upload their presentation to the judges' system by 9 PM on 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges' system from their advisors.**
HS	Promotional Design	Three individual entries per chapter, one entry per individual	Participants use computerized graphic communication layout and design skills in the production of a promotional resource for TSA. **Items that need to be finished based on the instructions from the National website under themes and problems https://tsaweb.org/competitions/themes-and-problems will be uploaded to the judges' system by 9 PM on 11/10/2026. Students get their username and password for the judges system from their advisors.** No Semifinalist portion at fall competitive events.
HS	Structural Design and Engineering	Three teams per chapter, Two members per team, one entry per team	Participants apply the principles of structural design and engineering through research, design, construction, destructive testing, and assessment to determine the efficiency of a structure. **Structures will be turned in and tested on Friday evening, November 13, 2026 at Camp Piankatank as part of Leadership Academy.** The problem statement can be found on the National website under themes and problems. Structures will be judged using the judging sheet provided on the addendum page of the Virginia TSA website. There is a button provided for the sheet.