

## **FL TSA 2021 Virtual State Conference FAQs**

### **Who can participate in the FL TSA virtual conference?**

Any affiliated FL TSA chapter members can register for the state conference and pay associated conference fees as outlined in the conference package and registration software

### **Will Florida TSA offer an onsite state conference in 2021?**

No, FL TSA will only have a virtual state conference in Feb 2021 due to COVID.

### **Which events have an early submission deadline?**

Website and video game events will maintain their early submission deadlines similar to prior years. See conference package for specific deadlines. These two events are submitted earlier than other events with project submissions.

### **How will events with projects be submitted?**

Most events with projects will need to be uploaded in the state conference online portal by Monday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 8pm EST in order to be judged. (Keep in mind website and video game have earlier deadlines.) Conference registration software will list which events have components due by this pre-conference deadline. No late submission can be accepted since the upload portal will auto close at the deadline.

### **How will events with exams be administered?**

An online exam system will be open at designated times on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and Feb 24<sup>th</sup> for specific events each day. Check the conference program to see which events will have exams on each day. Only one time per event is scheduled and there are no make up exams allowed if the time window is missed.

### **How will events with interviews be conducted?**

Interviews will be conducted on Zoom or similar platform. Specific information will be provided to registered chapters closer to the conference. All schools must be present at the start of an interview time block to check in with the coordinator.

### **How will schedule conflicts be handled?**

FL TSA posts a conference matrix in November each year so schools can avoid schedule conflicts of overlapping events. Volunteer judges and coordinators are not able to accommodate any participation outside of posted time blocks so schools need to ensure conflicts are avoided. This is the same policy that has been in affect for in person conferences. Each student may compete in up to 6 competitions that don't have time conflicts.

### **How are state officer applications submitted?**

In the registration system, a state officer candidate must select "FL TSA State Officer Applicant" in the event selection menu. This will allow the student to upload their application in PDF format between when registration closes and the submission deadline. FL TSA is trying to avoid hard copy paperwork submissions this year due to COVID. All components need to be uploaded in PDF files.

### **How are honor society applications submitted?**

In the registration system, an honor society candidate must select “FL TSA Technology Honor Society” in the event selection menu. This will allow the student to upload their application in PDF format between when registration closes and the submission deadline. FL TSA is trying to avoid hard copy paperwork submissions this year due to COVID. All components need to be uploaded in PDF files.

### **How are high school senior scholarship applications submitted?**

In the registration system, a scholarship applicant must select “FL TSA Scholarship Submission” in the event selection menu. This will allow the student to upload their application in PDF format between when registration closes and the submission deadline. FL TSA is trying to avoid hard copy paperwork submissions this year due to COVID. All components need to be uploaded in PDF files.

### **How are middle school award applications submitted?**

In the registration system, a middle school award applicant must select “FL TSA Middle School Award Applicant” in the event selection menu. This will allow the student to upload their application in PDF format between when registration closes and the submission deadline. FL TSA is trying to avoid hard copy paperwork submissions this year due to COVID. All components need to be uploaded in PDF files.

### **Do officer applications or award applications count toward the 6 event total?**

No, these additional opportunities are not part of the event total to be consistent with past years. The registration software is set to not count these toward the 6 event limit.

### **How does a student know if their team advances to the semi-final round of a competitive event with multiple components?**

Semi-finalists for competitions with multiple components will be posted on the FL TSA website. Up to 10 semi-finalists will be posted for each event for the FL TSA 2021 Virtual State Conference. Students are responsible for checking the website and attending their next round of the competition. Up to 10 finalists will be recognized at the virtual awards program.

### **What software is required for Tech Bowl Competition?**

Each of the 3 participants on each team must have their own unique computer this event. Any teams that qualify for this event will need access to 3 computers that can connect to zoom with audio connection. Each participant will need to log in with this format: “school name – 1” “school name – 2” “school name – 3” to designate the school and three positions.

### **Will there be general sessions?**

There will be an opening general session and a final awards session. Any additional sessions are still under review.

**How will officer elections be conducted?**

E-ballot software will be used to administer the election. User names and passwords will be sent to each advisor's email address. The advisor will be responsible for disseminating this information. A window for voting electronically on this system will be announced.

**Are chapter volunteer commitments still required this year?**

Yes, each chapter that participates is required to provide at least one volunteer to conference manager Aubrey Hudson to be assigned as an event coordinator. If all coordinator spots are filled then a volunteer will be assigned as a judge. The chapter participation fee of \$250 per chapter will be waived and show up as a credit on a chapter invoice once a volunteer is identified and scheduled.

**Will finalists still receive pins?**

Yes, up to 10 finalists per event will be recognized and receive a finalist pin. Team event pin totals will be based on registration numbers in the conference system. Chapter packages will be distributed after the conference.

**Will conference pins be distributed?**

Yes, each participant and advisor registered in the conference system will receive a conference themed pin designed by Florida TSA's state officers. Distribution will be determined at a later date.

**What conference location should be used on event cover pages?**

State conferences are usually in Orlando, Florida so any events requiring a state conference location to be listed may list Orlando, Florida.

**Where are participant ID numbers located?**

Advisors will see all student ID numbers in the conference registration system as students are entered and submitted. The full ID number needs to be used for individual events. The first 4 digits is the team ID number for team events. This is the same as prior years.

Questions Above Posted on Dec 26, 2020

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**What awards will winners receive in each competitive event?**

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will receive recognition as in past years. Due to COVID, each participant will be awarded an individual medal. For team events, each team member registered in the conference system will receive a medal. One package per school will be sent after the conference.

**Will school trophies still be awarded?**

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place Outstanding School award trophies will be shipped to the top 3 school in each division. These trophies are usually put in a case in a classroom or front office and not shared between students

Questions Added on Feb 2, 2021