

2021 IEEE REGION 3 SOUTHEAST CON STUDENT Outreach COMPETITION RULES

I. OVERVIEW

The Student Community Outreach Competition is new to the Region 3 Student Activities Committee (SAC). The spirit of the community Outreach competition is to highlight outreach activities IEEE students and branches are performing. Students will prosper with this competition if they apply creativity, analysis, and perspective ability to implement technical or non-technical solutions that fit their community need.

Students must maintain a blog where they post their work on their project throughout the progression of their project. The blog will be posted to the IEEE Southeast Con 2021 website prior to the start of IEEE Southeast Con 2021. Evaluation of the projects will be based solely on the information the students post to their projects blog. Therefore, the students should ensure that the blog properly captures the work done by their team and includes all information that the team would want the reader to take into account when evaluating their project. Keep in mind that things such as needs or value can be subjective and so the project blog should capture the teams reasonings and decisions that went into their project.

Competition Timeline

Key Dates

November 2020	Rules are released and students can start brainstorming/planning their projects.
December 1, 2020	Registration for the Outreach Competition opens which means that students can start submitting their project proposals.
February 28, 2021	Competition ends and students must stop work on their project blog at this time. Outreach competition registration will close at this time and therefore, students must have submitted their project proposals by this time.

Competition Process

Below is a breakdown of the competition process. The remaining section of this document will address the details needed to complete each step:

1. Determine your project and team

There are no requirements for the size of the team and number of teams that can compete from a single student branch.

2. Register for Outreach Competition by submitting project abstract to SAC

Instructions on how to register/submit project abstract is found in the registration section of these rules.

3. Once you receive approval from SAC on your project, reach out to your local IEEE professional section and invite them to follow along on your project using the project blog
Students should receive approval from SAC within 1 week of submitting project abstract. Instructions on how to coordinate with your IEEE professional section is found in the rules section.

4. Start working on project while also maintaining your project blog

Project blog requirements is found in the rules section.

5. Complete project and stop work on your blog by February 28, 2021

Student must be registered for both the Southeast Con Conference and the outreach competition by this point.

Registration

There are two registrations that students need to be aware of; conference registration and competition registration. All students competing in student competitions must register for both the conference and the competition. Information for both registrations are as follows:

- 1) Conference registration (i.e. IEEE SoutheastCon 2021 registration)
 - a) Registration URL:
<https://attend.ieee.org/southeastcon-2021/registration/conference-registration/>
 - b) Costs for students to register is \$20 a student. All students competing on an Outreach Competition team must register for IEEE SoutheastCon.
 - c) Students must register for the conference before February 28, 2021 if they are competing in the Student Outreach Competition.
 - d) Because SoutheastCon 2021 will be virtual, students should not expect any additional costs such as travel or hotel

- 2) Student Outreach Competition registration
 - a) Each team must register for the outreach competition by filling out the Outreach Competition registration form (found in the appendix of this rules document) and emailing it to ieeesacregion3@gmail.com
 - b) There are no size requirements for the number of students that can compete on a team and the number of teams that can compete from the same student branch.
 - c) SAC will review the team's project proposal and will notify the team within 1 week if their project has been accepted to compete in the outreach competition. Once SAC approves the project proposal, the student team will be officially registered for the student outreach competition.
 - d) There are no fees for students to register for the outreach competition (aside from the costs for students to register for the conference)
 - e) Students must register their team for the outreach competition by the closing of the competition, February 28, 2021. Keep in mind that the longer the student waits on registering their team for the outreach competition, the more difficult it will be for the students to meet all criteria for this competition.

II. OUTREACH COMPETITION RULES

Virtual requirements

All activities the students conduct for the project must be conducted virtually and not require any in person interaction during the COVID 19 pandemic. However, students are allowed to do projects that would result in in person interaction but they cannot release their project until after the COVID 19 pandemic. For example, if a project is an app that connects people and allows for in person meeting up, then the students can do the app for their project but they must not release their app until after the COVID 19 pandemic. For the purpose of this competition students should not expect a conclusion of the pandemic before IEEE Southeast Con 2021. If a student does decide to do a project that would not be released until after the pandemic then the students should address their roll out plan in their project blog and list what they will define as the conclusion of the pandemic.

Project Topic

The project must reflect well on the values of IEEE. A project that poorly reflects IEEE may be disqualified. The project must not be political or controversial in nature. Students are allowed to work with organizations (such as non profits) for their project but the organization must not be centered around controversy or politics. Students must receive approval of their project topic from SAC by submitting their project proposal to SAC (information on this is found in the registration section). Aside from this, there are no rules for what the students can and cannot select as a project. Resources for selecting a project and examples are found in the appendix of this document.

Project Blog

Students must create and maintain a blog for their project showcasing their efforts and project timeline. Each project should have its own project blog. If a student branch is submitting multiple projects/teams, each project must have its own blog.

The blog can be on any blogging platform that the students would like as long as the blog can be accessed with a URL and does not require viewers to take any additional steps, such as registration to the website, in order to see the content of the blog. Recommend blog platforms are WordPress, Wix, or Weebly.

All blog postings must be appropriate. SAC will reach out to the team and notify them if any postings are inappropriate and give the team a chance to resolve the posting. Failure to resolve any inappropriate posting will result in disqualification of the team. All blogs will be posted to the SoutheastCon 2021 website in advance of IEEE Southeast Con 2021

Some of the items that the project blogs will be evaluated on are as follows:

- The blog has a quality showcase of project timeline. It is recommended for the project blog to have multiple postings addressing each key event in the project. The first posts in the project blog should be focused on planning and address items such as how the students plan to complete their project, expected difficulties and setbacks, estimated costs and resources, etc.
- Discussion on setbacks or obstacles that the students encountered in their project.
- The blog is clean and easy to follow
- Students show ethical thought and analysis in their project design and any decision making
- Students provide context and background in their blog. For example, if a team was revamping a non profits website and added the ability for people to donate to the non profit with a click of a button on the website, then the students need to also explain the starting conditions for the website such as; did the organization have any resource for accepting donations online? Did website only accept credit card donations initially and the students added a paypal feature?, etc.

SAC will evaluate the projects using the project blogs. Projects that SAC determines has contributing the highest to their community will receive extended publicity by being included in IEEE newsletters, website, and other IEEE publications. These selected projects will be announced at IEEE Southeast Con 2021 when the winners or all student competitions are announced.

Coordination with IEEE Professional Sections

Students must reach out to their local IEEE Professional section by sending an email to their section chair cc ieeesacregion3@gmail.com. The email must inform the chair of their outreach project and invite them to follow their project blog. This must be conducted within 72 hours of the students receiving approval of their project proposal from SAC. No further coordination or interaction with IEEE professional sections are required for this competition but it is important for students to know that IEEE professional sections can offer resources and advice that might benefit their project.

Student branch advisors are often part of the local IEEE Professional section and should be able to help find out the email for their section chair. If students are having trouble finding out their local professional section chair then they can reach out to SAC at ieeesacregion3@gmail.com and SAC will help find the needed information for them.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Discord Channel

Students are encouraged to follow the Outreach Competition discord discussion on the 2021 SoutheastCon discord channel. This will be the best place for students to stay in the loop on information for the outreach competition as well as other student competitions. Information for the discord channel is found at: <https://attend.ieee.org/southeastcon-2021/student-program/>

Project Topic Resources and Examples

Volunteermatch (<https://www.volunteermatch.org/>) is an online resource that offers projects that are in need of volunteers.

Examples of project topics are:

- Improving a non profits website
- Helping a non profit, such as an animal rescue group, use social media to get information on animals in their rescue to the larger audience. A lot of rescue groups are run by older volunteers who might not understand the value of a hashtag or know about apps that help quickly create the best hashtags for their postings.
- Moving fundraising activities virtual. Most nonprofits have 1-2 key annual fundraising events that the organization depends on for finances in the coming year. These events are often activities such as golf tournaments and silent actions that were not virtual. The community outreach activity that the student branch can preform for this would be moving the fundraising event virtual either by replacing the golf tournament with an online game or a virtual fundraiser.
- Creating a process improvement for a non profit organization. For example, most dog rescues have a volunteer based screening process and reference check that could use improvement in their process by using resources such as google docs to collaborate on a reference check. Rescues also need to find a way to virtually conduct home checks for applicants. In these examples the students would be often working with a non technical volunteer group who would need tutorials on how to use google docs or zoom and would need assistance in communicating the value of these resources to those in the rescue who are unsure of technology and resistant to change.
- Creating an app that helps people connect virtually and is focused on the missed connections brought on by 2019 Covid pandemic

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Fill out this form and attach it to an email addressed to: ieeesacregion3@gmail.com

Student Outreach Competition Proposal Form <i>IEEE Region 3 Southeast Con 2021</i>	
<u>Name of University</u>	
<u>Name of project:</u>	[Students create a title for their project. The title can be a team name or descriptive to the project the students will be doing]
<u>Description of project:</u>	
<u>Link to project blog:</u>	
<u>List of all organizations or non profits that will be associated with this project</u> <i>(if project is not associated with any organizations then put "N/A" in this field)</i>	
<u>Name and email of students on the team</u>	<u>Name(s)</u>
	<u>Email(s)</u>
<u>Statement from team on what motivated them to compete in the outreach competition</u>	