



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS®
CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM COMPEITION

2027

RULES AND REGULATIONS





Contents

Welcome Statement	2
Section 1: Mission and Background	2
Section 2: Participation and Eligibility	3
Section 3: Ethics and Required Conduct	5
Section 4: Safety	5
Section 5: Judging	6
Section 6: Request for Information (RFI)	6
Section 7: Project Parameters	6
Section 8: Competition Overview	7
Section 9: Submission Details	9
Section 10: Competition Schedule	9
APPENDIX A: JUDGING RUBRIC	10
APPENDIX B: ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT SYMPOSIUM COMPETITION	11
APPENDIX C: SYMPOSIA LOCATIONS FOR 2027	12

Welcome Statement

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Construction Institute (CI) support and encourage a fully inclusive culture that celebrates individual uniqueness, engenders a sense of belonging, and promotes equitable opportunity for all people to participate in the ASCE CI Student Symposium Competition. (See ASCE [Policy statement 417 - Justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion](#).)

Participation should be inclusive, open, and fair to all interested and eligible students.

Welcome!

Section 1: Mission and Background

1.1 Mission Statement

CI, one of ASCE's nine (9) institutes, connects students and professionals through programs that enhance skills, expand networks, and shape the future of civil engineering and the construction industry. CI and the CI Young Professionals Council bridge the gap between student chapters and ASCE Technical Institutes by offering the CI Student Symposium Competition and the annual CI Student Days program. The CI Student Symposium Competition provides a construction focused experience for engineering students. CI Student Days, a separate competition from the student symposium competition, occurs annually in the summer months and focuses on heavy civil construction with student teams creating and presenting a real-world construction proposal.

1.2 Problem Statement

Each year, the CI Student Symposium Competition presents a real-world construction engineering challenge that allows students to simulate the role of a construction firm responding to an owner's request. Students are expected to devise professional, technical, and creative solutions within a timed environment.

1.3 Problem Intent

The competition promotes teamwork, innovation, and real-world application of civil and construction engineering principles. It strengthens student engagement with the construction

industry and builds awareness of CI's value throughout a student's academic and professional career.

Section 2: Participation and Eligibility

2.1 Team Member Requirements

Team members must be undergraduate students, enrolled during all or part of the current competition academic year, members of an ASCE Student Chapter in good standing, registered participants of the student symposium, and Society Student Members of ASCE. (Society student membership is free; be sure to [join](#).)

2.2 Team Requirements

It is an expectation that teams will reflect diversity, foster an inclusive culture, and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Only one team per ASCE Student Chapter may compete in the competition. A team may consist of up to four (4) students and must designate one team captain. A student chapter may compete in only one ASCE Student Symposium per year. Conference assignments and student symposium hosts are listed [here](#).

This competition is designed to be completed with a team consisting of four (4) students. Teams with less than four (4) members are still encouraged to participate but may face additional challenges in completing a quality proposal in the allotted time.

Official Guest Teams

ASCE Student Chapters hosting student symposia may invite Official Guest teams, which are teams from Region 10 that have an official ASCE Student Chapter not yet assigned to any Student Conference. Official Guest teams may compete in only one student symposium per year and are eligible to place and receive awards at the student symposium competition (if they meet the other requirements, including eligibility requirements). ASCE Student Programs shall be notified by the student symposium host of an Official Guest team prior to the start of the student symposium via e-mail to student@asce.org.

Exhibition Teams

A university group that is in the establishment phase of becoming an ASCE Student Chapter may request to compete at their potential future ASCE Student Symposium as an exhibition team. If the student symposium host grants permission, the exhibition team may compete.

An ASCE Student Chapter team wanting to enter a competition that is NOT being hosted at their assigned student symposium may request to compete at another ASCE Student Symposium as an exhibition team. If the student symposium host grants permission, the exhibition team may compete.

An ASCE Student Chapter team wanting to enter a competition that is being hosted at their assigned student symposium but has circumstances that prevent participation at their assigned student symposium may contact ASCE Student Programs (student@asce.org) with a description of the circumstances to explore options.

The exhibition team will be scored but shall not be ranked or win awards at the student symposium competition.

2.3 Student Chapter Eligibility and Competition Forms

Eligibility criteria for the Student Symposia Competitions are shown in Appendix B.

Teams must submit online [Intent and Eligibility Acknowledgement Forms](#), no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on November 2, 2026. By completing this form, a student chapter states:

- Their intent to have a team participate in the competition at their assigned student symposium; and
- Their acknowledgement of the eligibility requirements for student symposium competition participation (Appendix B).

The form must be completed and separately submitted by the:

- 1) Team Captain;
- 2) ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor; and
- 3) Competition Team Faculty Advisor.

All three parties will use the same form to submit. If the ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor and the Competition Team Faculty Advisor are the same person, the form has a field to indicate as such and only

one faculty advisor submission is required.

Teams can verify that all three parties have submitted an Intent and Eligibility Acknowledgement Form by checking the [Intent Form Status Report](#) in Cerberus.

In addition, ASCE will send student chapters an online team member form, which must be completed **by February 3, 2027**, listing each team member's first and last name and ASCE ID number, as well as designating a team captain.

2.4 Awards

The top three teams from each Student Symposium competition will receive recognition awards for their performance.

Section 3: Ethics and Required Conduct

This competition is to be conducted with the highest regard for ethical responsibility per [ASCE's Code of Ethics](#). All members of ASCE, regardless of their membership grade or job description, commit to all the ethical responsibilities in this Code. All ASCE members should make themselves familiar with ASCE's Code of Ethics.

All participants shall act professionally and respectfully at all times. Failure to act appropriately can result in sanctions, disqualification, and loss of invitations to future student symposia competitions or Society-wide finals competitions. The inappropriate use of language, alcohol, materials, and equipment, uncooperativeness, and general unprofessional or unethical behavior will not be tolerated.

Section 4: Safety

Safety is the highest priority and behaviors that increase the risk of or cause personal injury will not be tolerated. Judges and student symposium hosts, including the Safety Officers, are empowered to stop or prohibit an activity which is deemed to be hazardous, or to postpone an activity until the hazard is rectified. All participants are responsible for complying with all campus/venue protocols and procedures, including those deemed necessary for public health purposes.

Hosts may coordinate with ASCE to provide and activate virtual competition provisions if determined

necessary for the safety of participants.

While the competition is typically held indoors, if there is a thunderstorm, all outdoor activities shall cease and may not resume until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last observed occurrence of thunder or lightning.

Section 5: Judging

5.1: Scoring Rubric

Judges will assess team performance using the scoring criteria outlined in Appendix A. Teams will be evaluated based on the accuracy and relevance of their content, the clarity and organization of their presentations, their ability to demonstrate technical innovation and professionalism, and the completeness and quality of their submitted deliverables.

All scores will be recorded using official judging forms and submitted via Google Drive for final tabulation. Each Student Symposium Competition's judging panel will meet before the competition with a representative of the CI Young Professionals Council to review the necessary information required to judge the competition. Meetings with judges are intended to ensure that the rules are explained and that judges understand how the competition will be scored. The CI Young Professionals Council provides judges with an easy-to-use Google Sheets file labeled for them to input the scores.

Section 6: Request for Information (RFI)

There will be no formal RFIs, as the entirety of the competition will take place during the symposia. Any additional information or clarifications needed about this document shall be emailed to student@asce.org (subject line: CI Student Symposium Competition Question). Clarifications and changes to the rules will be publicly published on the ASCE websites of the student symposia conducting the competition as a revision to the Rules document.

Section 7: Project Parameters

Students will be presented with a Request for Proposal (RFP) during the symposium outlining a specific construction engineering challenge. Teams will have two (2) hours to develop and submit their solution. Project components will primarily focus on construction and heavy civil engineering challenges. Components of the RFP may include cost estimates, project schedules,

risk evaluation, environmental consideration, construction management, quality assurance and control processes, and public communication. As the RFP directs, responses may be conceptual, diagrammatic, quantitative, or written.

Section 8: Competition Overview

8.1 Competition Overview

The competition is structured around a condensed working period (2.0 hours) followed by team presentations. Deliverables must be packaged into a provided Google Slides presentation before the deadline.

8.2 Presentations

Each team will deliver an 8- to 10-minute presentation summarizing its solution, followed by a 5-minute Q&A from the judging panel. The Q&A time can increase or decrease based on the number of teams participating. All team members must speak during the presentation. Presentations should include company qualifications, technical solutions, project management strategies, and innovation highlights. The entire program is anticipated to take no more than 5.5 hours. However, if more than 8 student teams participate, the presentation time will extend beyond that.

Teams are not permitted to watch other teams present their proposal to ensure all teams are presenting their own work.

8.3 Team Resources and The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The ASCE Construction Institute Student Competition is an open book competition intended to evaluate engineering judgment, ethical decision making, and independent team problem solving.

Teams may bring reference materials, templates, laptops, and planning tools. However, no outside assistance from faculty, other students, or professionals is allowed. Each team member must provide their own laptop. The host school will not provide any such resources.

The following guidance applies to the use of artificial intelligence and reference resources during the competition.

Permitted Resources and Tools

Teams may use the following resources during the competition period.

- Reference materials that the team independently accesses and controls
- Internet access to publicly available references such as any codes, standards, or agency guidance
- Digital or physical cost databases such as RSMeans, provided they are accessed directly by the team
- AI assisted tools (ChatGPT, CoPilot, Gemini, etc) used only as reference aids, including search or summarization of publicly available information
- Grammar, spelling, formatting, or organizational assistance tools

Prohibited Use of Artificial Intelligence

The following uses of artificial intelligence are not permitted.

- Generating project specific analysis, calculations, schedules, cost estimating approaches, construction strategies, or recommendations
- Producing presentation slides, graphics, diagrams, or narrative responses related to the competition problem
- Using AI tools as a substitute for engineering judgment or team deliberation
- Any AI interaction that functions as outside assistance during the two-hour competition period

General Requirements

- All content presented must be developed by the student team
- Teams are responsible for the accuracy and integrity of their work
- Teams must be able to clearly explain and defend all aspects of their presentation to the judges without reliance on AI generated outputs

Evaluation and Ethics

Use of artificial intelligence will not be directly scored. Failure to comply with these requirements or misuse of artificial intelligence will result in scoring deductions at the discretion of the Head Judge.

Ethical use of available tools is consistent with the competition emphasis on professionalism, integrity, and independent engineering judgment.

Section 9: Submission Details

The deliverable for this competition is the presentation file, as all the Request for Proposal elements will be answered in the presentation. All team deliverables must be uploaded via the submission link before the 2-hour work period ends. **Late submissions will not be scored.** A submission link will be provided to teams before the start of the competition. The Head Judge has final say over deductions and submission-related decisions. The Head Judge may consult with the CI Representative and/or Rules Committee regarding deductions, but the CI Representative and/or Rules Committee will not overturn the Head Judge's decision.

Section 10: Competition Schedule

Date	Milestone
September 18, 2026	Release of Competition Rules
November 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m. ET	Intent & Eligibility Acknowledgement Form due
February 3, 2027, 11:59 p.m. ET	CI Team Member Form due
March–April 2027	Student Symposia occur

Sample Competition Schedule (6-8 teams)

Time	Event
10:00 AM	Teams arrive at competition location
10:00-10:30 AM	Announcements and rules review
10:30 AM	RFP released (Google Drive)
12:30 PM	All deliverables due via Google Slides
12:30-1:00 PM	Teams practice presentations
1:00 PM	First team presents
1:20 PM	Second team presents

APPENDIX A: JUDGING RUBRIC

***Rubric is an example of what judges will use on competition day. Subject to adjustments.*

Question Number	RFP Area	Judges Comments	Score (1–10)
	PROJECT UNDERSTANDING		
XX	Civil scope clarity and constraints		
XX	Delivery method selection rationale		
	PLANNING & EXECUTION		
XX	Risk & Safety identification with mitigation		
XX	Construction staging & sequencing logic		
	PROJECT & TEAM QUALITY		
XX	QA/QC inspections and compliance		
XX	Team Qualifications and value		
	COST & VALUE		
XX	Cost estimating logic		
XX	Ethical awareness		
	PROFESSIONALISM		
Overall	Team organization with Q/A		
Overall	Presentation quality		
		TOTAL SCORE (Max = 100)	0

Point Scoring Guideline:

10 pts: Response addresses the question fully with solid construction reasoning.

6 pts: Response is on track with what is being asked but lacks key details to support a full understanding of the construction topic.

3 pt: Put a good faith effort in the response

Professionalism Judging Guidelines

Team Organization:

In order to receive full points for this category, speaking time should be split equally among team members to demonstrate each team member contributed to RFP answers.

Presentation Quality:

In order to receive full points for this category, the overall quality of the slides, presentation qualities of speakers, and quality of answers to judge's questions should be examined.

APPENDIX B: ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT SYMPOSIUM COMPETITIONS

The purpose of student competitions is to provide student members career-enrichment opportunities to gain hands-on, practical experience and leadership skills. Society Competitions are an important and special opportunity to showcase the engineering and professional skills of student teams. As such, mutual respect is required for all stakeholders, including competitors, judges, hosts, and guests. Participation in the Student Symposia is a privilege, not a right. Failure to act professionally can result in sanctions, disqualifications, and loss of invitations.

Student Chapter Eligibility for Student Symposium Competitions

The following qualifications are required of all ASCE Student Chapters to compete at the Student Symposium Competitions:

An ASCE Student Chapter must:

1. Be in good standing with ASCE:
 - a. Have paid their annual dues, as received by ASCE, **no later than the start of their Student Symposium.**
 - b. Have submitted their student chapter's full Annual Report or EZ Annual Reporting Form **no later than February 1, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to student@asce.org

APPENDIX C: Symposia Locations For 2027

The Construction Institute Student Symposium Competition will only be hosted at the following symposia for 2027:

- *Gulf Coast*
- *Southeast*

The Construction Institute hopes to expand access in the coming symposia years.