



Building Wyoming's Future through Technology and Innovation

Guidelines

The Wyoming Governor's Cup (WGC) seeks to encourage and recognize Wyoming 9th-12th grade students who use creative thinking, innovative technology, and principles of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to provide improved solutions to problems facing Wyoming and its citizens. These solutions may take many forms, e.g. a new product; a software application; a more efficient way of doing one aspect of a business operation; or a novel or unexpected use of technology.

Eligibility

The WGC is open to all Wyoming High School age students currently in Wyoming. Participants may be a school club member, a class member, an independent student, or homeschooled. Participants from afterschool clubs or programs are also encouraged to participate. Projects can be submitted by an individual, or by a group of at most 8 students. No student can be a member of more than one submitted project.

Projects must have an adult coordinator (e.g. a teacher, club organizer, or an expert from a local business) who will be the point-of-contact for the project. Projects should not involve testing or experimenting with human or animal subjects, and should refrain from using hazardous materials.

Participants in the competition may participate in other competitions and programs using the same project. All projects will be evaluated on the basis of criteria designed specifically for this competition. A rubric is available along with other supplementary materials at the Wyoming Department of Education's (WDE) [website](#). Participation in and/or success in other competitions will not be a factor in the Governor's Cup competition.

Recognition and Awards

Semi-finalist projects will be featured via State, University of Wyoming and business websites. Projects will be showcased in State and UW facilities.

Prizes will be provided to two winning entries. Each prize package will include \$1000 for the student or team, \$1000 for the school or organization, and \$1000 to the adult coordinator.

Deadlines

- **November 15, 2015:** Submission of Intent to Participate Form
 - o This form should be completed by one of the student participants and will ask for a brief description of the project as well as participant and sponsor names and contact information. This form should be submitted to gov-cupstem@wyo.gov or the Office of Governor Mead, attention: Emily Madden.
- **December 1, 2015:** the Wyoming Governor's Cup Steering Committee will work with project coordinators, local sponsors, and educators to help identify available technical assistance that can be provided to the project.
- **March 15, 2016:** Project portfolios should be submitted to the Office of the Governor. A description of what to include in the project portfolios is given below.
- **Early April, 2016:** Projects will be evaluated by representatives of higher education, business, industry, and K-12.
- **Mid-April, 2016:** Semi-finalists will be asked to present their projects via Skype or Google Hangouts.
- **April 30, 2016:** Announcement of WGC 2016 Winners.
- Governor Mead will recognize the winners in a celebration to be determined; either in a local community or a statewide event.

Mentoring support

The University of Wyoming, Community Colleges, and industry partners will work to match high-level expertise to help advise and mentor students. This technical assistance opportunity will depend on the nature of the project, and on the availability of expertise to provide appropriate assistance.

Sponsors

Governor Mead is working with the University of Wyoming, the WDE, and the Community College Commission. The competition also has partners from the energy, technology, construction, and manufacturing industries. This is a unique combination of education and business representatives working with the Governor to honor and bring awareness to the innovativeness of Wyoming students.

Ethics

Participants will honor and respect the highest ethical standards related to scientific research and presentation. This includes understanding the inherent violations associated with plagiarism and the falsification/misrepresentation of data. Fraudulent projects will not qualify for consideration in this competition.

Role and responsibilities

Teachers, parents, friends, Community College and University of Wyoming faculty, and experts in the community are encouraged to appropriately support students involved in the projects. However, the projects must be the result of these students' work and ideas. Appropriate ways of encouragement include: provision of supplies

and equipment, providing use of lab space and equipment, helping guide students to pertinent information (e.g. books, articles, websites), providing general advice about research and innovation, and serving as a role-model.

Please Note: All projects submitted to the WGC will remain the intellectual property of the individual or team. However, by entering the WGC, the individual or team grants the organizers of the WGC permission to write and disseminate stories about the projects, the students and their schools. Projects will be described in general, without specific details related to intellectual property concerns.

Description of Portfolio

The projects will be evaluated by a panel of experts and according to the provided rubric. The portfolios should

- Provide a clear description of the motivating problem or issue that led to the innovation;
- Highlight the ways in which the project is creative or innovative;
- Demonstrate the functionality and utility of the innovation;
- Include a description of the process that led to the end product.

The particular format of the portfolio is left open to encourage creativity. A portfolio could include a PowerPoint presentation, a video of the group describing the project, a link to a software application that students developed, or a brief report describing the project.

Contacts

For more information about the WGC-2016, please contact Emily Madden at emily.madden@wyo.gov or (307)777-8922. Questions can also be referred to the WGC email: gov-cupstem@wyo.gov.