

# SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS

2021 TNTSA VIRTUAL  
REGIONAL CONFERENCES



**CONFERENCE  
GUIDE**

## 2021 Regional Conference Welcome

### I LETTER FROM THE STATE OFFICER TEAM I

Hello Tennessee TSA!

We are excited to announce that this year, we will be taking the experience of our members and advisors and **soaring to new heights**. This year's regional conferences will feature more competitive events, more special sessions for members and advisors, and other exciting new opportunities. We cannot wait to present this year's regional conferences to you and see how all of our TNTSA members will **rise** to the opportunity presented by a virtual conference. On behalf of the entire 2020-2021 State Officer Team, I would like to say that there has truly never been a better time to be a part of the TSA family. We are excited to see all of you soon!

To Infinity and Beyond,



Carson Bock, TNTSA [State President](#)

### I LETTER FROM THE TN TSA TEAM I

Hello Tennessee TSA!

On behalf of the rest of the 2020-2021 TN TSA Team, I would like to say welcome to conference season! Both the State Officer Team and Conference Management Teams have been hard at work planning conferences this year. Although we are not able to be together physically, I believe that the conference will allow us to connect in a new way -- unprohibited by time and space. It is our sincere hope that the format allows students and advisors greater flexibility in preparation and invites many new attendees that travel would have presented a barrier. I cannot wait to see the incredible talents of our membership and the outstanding guidance from their advisors. In the subsequent pages, you will find the answers to frequently asked questions, conference schedule, dress code, important links, and other helpful information. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or a member of my team. We look forward to serving you, and hope to (virtually) see you soon!

Best of luck,



Dr. Brittany Debit-Barker, Acting State Advisor  
[Brittany.Debity-Barker@tn.gov](mailto:Brittany.Debity-Barker@tn.gov)



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## FAQ's

### I BASIC INFORMATION I

#### **Q: If I have questions, who should I ask?**

A: General/Registration/Special Session Questions

- State Advisor, [Dr. Brittany Debitz-Barker](#)
- State Officer Coach, [Keith Stubblebine](#)

A: Competition Questions

- West TN Regional Coordinator, [Taylyn Hill](#)
- Middle TN Regional Coordinator, [Noah Kelley](#)
- East TN Regional Coordinator, [Elizabeth Bulay](#)

#### **Q: Why is the format changing to a virtual regional conference?**

A: Many districts have discontinued approval for travel outside their district, or altogether. We also understand that many budgets have impacted making travel impossible, even if approval was granted. Out of consideration for restrictions at the local level, and an acute concern for the safety of our membership, TN TSA adjusted the conference format to ensure we could still provide students with the opportunity to prepare for SLC and further their educational development through more co-curricular activities.

#### **Q: Will there be a single virtual regional conference, or will each region have their own virtual conference?**

A: Each region --east, middle, west-- will have their own virtual conference this year. Dates for each regional conference can be found on the TN TSA [Calendar](#).

#### **Q: What is the dress code for virtual regional conferences?**

A: In order to allow students more financial flexibility, virtual regional conferences will require the minimum of business casual clothing. While TSA attire is recommended, we understand that during these times it is not feasible for all of our members. Specific details regarding the dress code, including how business casual is defined, can be found on page 9.

#### **Q: I would like to be more involved with the virtual regional conferences. What can I do to help?**

A: If you are interested in assisting with virtual regional conferences, please contact your regional coordinator identified on page 3.

**Q: Will we still get awards?**

A: Information pertaining to awards will be posted on social media (@tennesseetsa).

**I DATES I**

**Q: When will the conference(s) take place?**

A: [West TN](#) - January 21-23

[Middle TN](#) - January 28-30

[East TN](#) - February 11-13

*Please note that the first day of each conference is submission-based only. The second day will host all live events. The third day will be all score computations and result notifications.*

**Q: When will competition submissions be due?**

A: The conference competitive events schedule can be found below. All asynchronous events will be due Thursday of each conference, along with some pre-live event components. Middle School Submissions are due by 11am. High School Submissions are due by 1pm.

**Q: When will I have to register to compete at the regional conference?**

A: Registration opens on November 20 and the deadline for registration is December 15. Further information about registration can be found here. The payment deadline is January 10. The list of important dates can be found on the last page of the guide.

## I COST I

### **Q: Will the virtual regional conference have a registration fee?**

A: The regional conference will cost \$10 per student/advisor. All students must be affiliated TSA members. Although the conference is in a virtual setting, there are still costs incurred. However, we were able to reduce the costs slightly as a result of the format change.

### **Q: What does the registration fee cover?**

A: In order to provide well organized, substantive competitive events, programs, and special educational activities, fees must be collected. Fees are applied to expenses such as conference staffing, materials, platforms, and more.

## I COMPETITIONS/ACTIVITIES I

### **Q: What competitions will be offered at the 2021 virtual regional conference?**

A: The list of events available for entry can be viewed [here](#).

### **Q: How are the competitions offered at the virtual regional conference determined?**

A: In the past, we have always limited the number of events that are offered at regional conferences due to time constraints and the number of entries. We have further modified this list this year in order to be more conducive to the virtual formatting of this conference. However, we are proud to be hosting more events than in previous years.

### **Q: My competition requires a submission. How do I know how and where to do this?**

A: Each conference page will be updated in early January with the required submission forms and the information with how to access links for live events. When these are updated, regional coordinators will email all advisors registered for the conference.

### **Q: In addition to competitive events, what sessions/activities will be offered at the regional conference?**

A: All of the special sessions can be found on the conference schedule below, which includes:

- Thursday | 9:00 AM | Conference Kickoff (Website/Social Media/Email)
- Thursday | 9:00 AM | Release of Alumni Session (Website/Social Media)
- Thursday | 9:00 AM | Release of SLC Awards Info Session (Social Media)
- Friday | 7:30-4:00 | Conference HQ/Help Desk (Live Zoom Room)

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- Friday | 10:00-12:00 | Conference Meet & Greet (Live Zoom Room)
- Friday | 2:30-3:00 | State Officer Program Q&A (Live Zoom Room)
- Friday | 4:00-6:00 | Video Game Night (Details to come)
- Saturday | 4:00 PM | Conference Closing (Website/Social Media/Email)

**Q: The conference schedule shows a “conference closing” on Saturday. Do I need to be present for this?**

- A. Our conference closing will be a video released on social media and the website. This video will feature the competitive events results and some other shoutouts from the State Officer Team. Please post about your regional conference, tag @tennesseetsa, and use the hashtag #TNTSA.

## Conference Schedule

Day	Submission Open	Submission Close	Session Name
Wednesday	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	MS Challenging Tech // Topic Release
Wednesday	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	HS Prepared Presentation // Topic Release
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>CONFERENCE KICKOFF</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Release of SLC Awards Info Session // Website</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Release of Alumni Advice Session // Website</b>
Thursday	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	MS Leadership Strategies // Topic Release
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	MS Career Prep // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	MS Challenging Tech // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	MS Essays on Tech // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	MS Leadership Strategies // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	MS Prepared Speech // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	*MS Inventions // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	*MS Biotech // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	*MS Children's Stories // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	*MS Medical Tech // Submission Due
Thursday	--	11:00 AM	*MS Off the Grid // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Biotech Design // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Board Game // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	HS CIM // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Digital Video Production // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Engineering Design // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Future Tech & Engineering Teacher // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	HS Prepared Presentation // Submission Due
Thursday	--	1:00 PM	*HS Children's Stories // Submission Due



## Conference Schedule

Day	Start Time	End Time	Session Name
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Conference HQ/Help Desk</b>
Friday	8:00 AM	9:45 AM	MS Forensic Testing // Live Event
Friday	8:00 AM	9:45 AM	MS Tech Bowl Testing // Live Event
Friday	8:00 AM	9:45 AM	HS Chapter Team Testing // Live Event
Friday	8:00 AM	9:45 AM	HS Forensic Science Testing // Live Event
Friday	8:00 AM	9:45 AM	HS Tech Bowl Testing // Live Event
Friday	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	MS Essays on Tech Writing // Live Event
Friday	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	HS Essays on Tech Writing // Live Event
Friday	9:45 AM	12:45 PM	MS Problem Solving // Live Event
Friday	9:45 AM	12:45 PM	HS Tech Problem Solving // Live Event
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Conference Meet &amp; Greet // Live Event</b>
Friday	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	HS Debating Tech Oral // Live Event
Friday	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	MS Tech Bowl Oral // Live Event
Friday	11:30 AM	2:00 PM	MS Career Prep // Live Event
Friday	11:30 AM	12:30 PM	HS Chapter Team Oral // Live Event
Friday	12:30 PM	3:15 PM	HS Tech Bowl Oral // Live Event
Friday	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	MS Forensic // Live Event
Friday	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	HS Forensic Science // Live Event
Friday	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	HS CIM // Live Event
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>State Officer Program Q&amp;A // Live Event</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Video Game Night // Live Event</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>CONFERENCE CLOSING</b>

## Conference Dress Code

### I OVERVIEW I

The Tennessee TSA Dress Code for Virtual Regional Conferences for 2020-2021 is a deviation from the National TSA Dress Code and the State and Regional Conference Dress Code mandated in the past. Please review the following information carefully to ensure attendees adhere to the proper requirements. All conference attendees, including parents, guests, and children, must be officially registered for Tennessee TSA conferences and comply with the following dress code policy.

### I MINIMUM REQUIRED VIRTUAL COMPETITION ATTIRE I

- Any business attire which meets the standards outlined by business casual attire is acceptable, but more specific guidance is provided below.
- Shirt: long-sleeved, royal blue, button-up shirt is preferred; however, a button-down, a polo/golf shirt, or a dress blouse are acceptable. *T-shirts, or shirts that expose the shoulders or torso are prohibited.*
- Dress, skirt, or pants. *Jeans, pants with exterior pockets, shorts, and ill-fitting attire (too baggy or too tight) are prohibited.*

### I OPTIONAL TRADITIONAL TN TSA ATTIRE I

- Shirt: long-sleeved, royal blue, button-up shirt (*does not have to have TSA logo or be purchased from the TSA Store*)
- Pants or skirt: gray
- Shoes: black dress shoes worn with black or dark blue socks, hosiery (*optional*); open-toe shoes or sandals are acceptable. *Athletic shoes, flip-flops, military boots, or work boots are prohibited.*

### I REQUIRED CHAPTER TEAM COMPETITION ATTIRE I

- Blazer: navy blue with official TSA patch
- Tie: official TSA tie (*required for males; optional for females*)
- *Required Chapter Team event attire may be worn for other competitions if preferred by participants.*

## Important Links & Other Helpful Information

### I IMPORTANT LINKS I

[2020-21 TN TSA Affiliation](#)

[2020-21 TN TSA Calendar](#)

[2020-21 TN TSA Competition Information](#)

[TN TSA Competitive Events Updates](#)

[Conference Information](#)

[Advisor Resource Center](#)

[Staff Contact Information](#)

[State Officer Contact Information](#)

[TN TSA Communications](#)

### I IMPORTANT DATES I

November 20 | National TSA Priority Membership Deadline

November 20 | Regional Conferences Registration Opens

December 15 | Regional Conference Registration Closes

January 10 | Regional Conference Payment Deadline

January 21-23 | West Tennessee Regional Conference

January 28-30 | Middle Tennessee Regional Conference

February 11-13 | East Tennessee Regional Conference

### I **CRUSHING CONFERENCES** -- STATE STAFF & STATE OFFICER ZOOM HELP DESK I

This year, the state staff & State Officer Team will be hosting conference preparation “help desks” throughout the time leading up to conferences. “Crushing Conferences” will be a live Q&A help desk to address any questions our members and advisors may have. More detailed Information regarding time, date, and how to join will be sent out via future advisor email updates and posted on all @tennesseetsa social media. Please join these live zoom sessions if you have any questions or need support!