

Twin Sustainability Competition 2026 Rulebook

OVERVIEW

Twin Sustainability Competition is a virtual STEM for Sustainability competition for students ages 9-12. The competition is only open to schools.

Dates:

- Final Application Deadline: 15 Nov 2025:
- Training & Project Development: 15 Nov 2025 - 20 Jan 2026
- Project Submission Deadline: 6 Feb 2026
- Virtual Finals: 27 Feb 2026

Each team needs:

- 3-4 students (Maximum 4 Students)
- 1 School teacher as a the team advisor
- A real-world problem related to sustainability
- A STEM-based solution for the chosen problem
- A video of the prototype of their solution

The competition consists of 2 phases:

- Competition:
 - A maximum of 3 teams can participate from one school.
 - 1 teacher may lead only 1 team in the competition.
 - Starts in Nov 15, 2025 and ends in Jan 20, 2026 .
 - Each team will choose a real-world problem related to sustainability. Problem definition should be linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - Each team should come up with a technological solution to the chosen problem and the solution should be STEM-based. Teams can use any material available in the schools. Contact the [Twin Competition Team](#) for further information.
 - Teams will develop their designs, build a working prototype, and clearly show that the solution is STEM-based.
 - Teams will submit the [Twin Sustainability Competition Folder](#) by Feb 6, 2026 .

- Teams will submit a 3-minute video that explains the problem, solution, and prototype clearly which then be evaluated by jury members according to the [Twin Sustainability Competition Scoring Rubric](#).
- The jury will select 5 winners, whose projects will be showcased during the virtual finals event on Feb 27, 2026 .
- Virtual Finals
 - The Virtual Finals will be held on Feb 27, 2026 and streamed via [Twin Educator Portal](#) competition page.
 - All finalist team members and their advisors are encouraged to view the event. The winning team will be announced during the Virtual Finals, followed by comments and feedback on the project from the Twin team.
 - Snippets from the top teams will be featured in a trailer video in the finals.

RULES

Welcome to the Twin STEM for Sustainability Competition! Please carefully review the competition rules and reach out to the [Twin Competition Team](#) if you have any questions.

I. Code of Conduct: Team Advisor and Student Responsibilities

- A. Once a school registers for the Twin Sustainability Competition, they agree that they have read and will adhere to the following Code of conduct:
 1. Team advisors who are assigned by schools are responsible for the behavior and ethical conduct of their students, both inside and outside of the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to: competition meetings, social media, posts, messages, and comments in the Twin app platform, videos that will be submitted for the competition, and any events associated with the Twin Sustainability Competition.
 2. Team advisors are responsible for verifying the eligibility of the team members. All team members (students) must be in the 9-12 age range and should be students of participating schools. As the **competition language is English**, any school from any part of the world can participate in the competition.
 3. Any other forms, folders and videos that are in different languages will not be accepted and disqualified.
 4. Team advisors and students are responsible for following safety rules and taking safety precautions throughout the entire experimental process including demonstrations at all levels of the competition. All

teams are required to follow Lab safety protocols set forth by their school or classroom.

5. Students and team advisors are not permitted to use any item that might be determined by their school to be banned, prohibited, or contraband.
- B. Team advisors and students must review and understand these statements while participating in the Twin Sustainability Competition.
1. I understand the project my team members and I plan to work on (or are working on) must be original work and that the resources and references used in our project will be noted throughout our research. Additionally, all work on the project for the competition began after Nov 15, 2025 .
 2. I will not give out any personal or identifying information without my parents' or guardians' permission, including, but not limited to, my name, email address, home address, telephone number, parent's work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school (other than the information required for registration).
 3. I will tell my parent or guardian right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable. I will also tell my Team Advisor and ask them to inform the [Twin Competition Team](#).
 4. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parent or guardian agrees to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my parent or guardian along.
 5. I will treat other students, volunteers, competition staff, and team advisors with respect while participating in the Twin Sustainability Competition. This includes always using appropriate language and never being rude or disrespectful when interacting on the Twin App forum, posts, videos, or social media, during investigations or interviews conducted by the team.
 6. I will conduct myself ethically and in compliance with the Twin Sustainability Competition rules stated below when using the Twin App forum, posts, videos, and social media, during investigations or interviews conducted by the team.
 7. I understand that if I do not follow the guidelines of this Code of Conduct, my team members and I may be disqualified from the competition.

II. Schedule and Deadlines

- A. The online registration period is open from Oct 13, 2025 through Nov 15, 2025 . A complete team, three or four students, and a Team Advisor must be registered and assigned to a team by Nov 15, 2025 , at 11:59 PM GMT, to compete in the competition. After the registration deadline, teams may no longer register to participate in the current competition.
- B. Each Team Advisor is responsible for ensuring their team members are onboarded to the platform. Team Advisors must add their team members (team name and students) to the platform and notify the Twin Competition Team by Dec 1, 2025 .
- C. [Please complete this form to officially register your team](#) members for the competition by Dec 1, 2025 .
- D. The method for this notification will be explained in detail in the 'Official Competition Start' email sent to the teachers. ([How to add students for new accounts](#)) New accounts do not need to be created for existing students who are already using the platform (Twin App).
- E. The competition work may begin any time after Nov 15, 2025 . Teams have until Feb 6, 2026 . at 11:59 PM GMT, to submit their competition folders (all components) to the link that will be provided to each school after their registration. After this deadline, no other folders and/or attachments will be accepted. Twin reserves the right to extend the deadline. Any changes to the deadline will be communicated through email and/or text communication.
- F. Virtual judging takes place Feb 6, 2026 - Feb 20, 2026 and top 5 winner video will be shown in virtual finals.

III. Team Structure, Student, and Team Advisor Eligibility

- A. Team Structure and Eligibility
 - 1. To compete in the Twin Sustainability Competition, participants must be part of a complete team. A complete team includes three, or four students competing for the same school and one adult Team Advisor who is a teacher at the same school and over the age of 21. (See Section III.D for Team Advisor Eligibility Requirements). Teams may be students from the same age or students from different ages (9-12).
 - 2. All students and team advisors who wish to participate must register and have a complete team before the close of registration. A Team advisor may register one team from each school. All registered teams

must be complete and registered before submission of the project in Feb 6, 2026 .

3. For competition purposes, the number of participants on a team is determined at 11:59 PM GMT on the registration deadline date, Nov 15, 2025 . Teams may not add or drop students after this time. If the team number falls below three students at any point after registration is completed, the team will become disqualified.
 - a) If a team of four students loses a member due to extenuating circumstances (proof of circumstances may be required) team eligibility will be determined by the Twin Competition Team. Any team with less than three students and one Team Advisor will automatically be disqualified regardless of the circumstances.

B. Student Eligibility Requirement

1. Regardless of nationality or residency all students ages 9-12 can participate in the Twin Sustainability Competition.

C. School Eligibility

1. Schools that follow English-based education can participate in the Twin Sustainability Competition.
2. Students who formed the teams should be enrolled in the participating school.
3. 1 team advisor can be responsible for 1 team.
4. Each school can participate in the Twin Sustainability Competition with up to 3 teams.
5. If a school has more than 3 teams, it will be asked to choose 3 to participate. If more than 3 teams submit projects, the Twin Competition Team will randomly select 3 and disregard the rest.

D. Team Advisor Eligibility Requirement

1. A team advisor must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Team advisors must be one of the following: a teacher, coach, or counselor in participating schools or organizations.
3. Team advisors must have access to the internet and an active email address to communicate with the competition team.
4. 1 team advisor teacher can mentor up to 1 team from their school.
5. At the end of STEM for Sustainability Education, team advisors will study the activity report for each child and help students form teams.

IV. Student and Team Advisor Responsibilities

A. Student Responsibilities

1. Students should conduct themselves ethically and in compliance with the Twin Sustainability Competition rules and be mindful of online etiquette when interacting on the Twin App forum, posts, videos, and social media, during investigations or interviews conducted by the team, or while attending any events associated with the Twin Sustainability Competition.
2. Students are only allowed to participate as a member of one team. Duplicate registrations are not accepted by the Twin competition team.
3. Students should complete the activities in the Twin app and as a team do their work on the [Competition Folder](#) and must not permit any person (other than student members of the team) to perform such work.
4. Each student must make significant contributions to the success of the team and be a full participant in the development of the Competition Folder.

B. Team Advisor Responsibilities

1. Team advisors are responsible for the behavior, safety, and ethical conduct of themselves and their students, both inside and outside of the classroom. This includes, but is not limited to: competition meetings, social media, posts, messages, and comments in the Twin app platform, videos that will be submitted for the competition, and any events associated with the Twin Sustainability Competition.
2. Team advisors are responsible for reminding students that they should complete STEM for Sustainability activities in the Twin app weekly basis during the STEM for Sustainability education period.
3. Activity reports for each student from the participating schools will be prepared at the end of the educational period. Team advisors will consider the performance of students while forming the teams for their school.
4. Team Advisors are responsible for demonstrating and encouraging respect and teamwork within their teams and towards others in the Twin Sustainability competition.
5. For teams to be eligible to compete in the Twin Sustainability Competition, Team Advisors must ensure and verify that all students on a team compete for the same school. A student may only be on one team, and that team may only submit one [Competition Folder](#). Team

Advisors must ensure and verify that all students on a team are eligible to participate (see Section III for eligibility requirements).

6. Team Advisors must assist in validating their team if requested by the competition team. Validation information is found in Section XI.

V. Competition Folder Contents and Requirements

A. General

1. The Competition Folder content must be unique and all work on the project must begin after Nov 15, 2025 . Students should identify a problem within the community related to sustainability, investigate the problem through the use of scientific inquiry design a solution through the use of the engineering design process, and answer all of the questions in their Competition Folder.
 - a) The main part of deliverables will be a 3-minute video of the team talking about:
 - (1) The real-world problem they choose and how the problem statement is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals
 - (2) The solution and how it is based on STEM
 - (3) The model or working prototype of the solution and results of the tests if conducted
 - (4) Environmental impact of the solution and how it can be reduced further
 - (5) The biggest challenge faced by the team during the competition process
 - b) Answers must be entered in the space provided or as an attached document. If answers are provided in an attached document, the answers must be in the same order as the online format and easily identified.
 - c) Each field must contain a written statement (for example, "See attached document.") to submit a completed Competition Folder.
 - d) Teams are encouraged to reference supporting files, such as graphics, photos, or tables for the Virtual Judges to review. Supporting files must be uploaded to the Competition Folder and named and referenced in the text fields.

(1) It is the responsibility of the team to verify all allowable files are correctly uploaded and viewable to the public.

School Google documents are not viewable to the public.

2. Each team member must make significant contributions to the success of the team and be a full participant in the development of the final Competition Folder.
3. While students are encouraged to seek guidance from parents, Team Advisors, friends, published sources, scientists, engineers, other collaborators, and the Internet, the students must do their work on the Competition Folder and must not permit any person (other than student members of the team) to perform such work.
4. Teams must not copy the words or images of others, except as permitted in Section V.B.
5. The Mission Folder, as well as other communications submitted to the competition folder, must be written in English.
6. The video submitted also should be in English.
7. A team may submit a project that they entered in another science competition (such as FIRST Robotics, etc.) as long as research and experimentation for the Competition Folder began no earlier than Nov 15, 2025
8. Teams may develop prototypes including websites and apps. The total value of the prototype cannot exceed \$1.000 (U.S. dollars). For teams that develop a website or app as part of their project, please note that the website and/or app developed by the team is the prototype, and the technology used to display the website or app is not considered part of the prototype.
9. Teams can use the following material for the prototype of their STEM-based solution.
 - a) Teams will be able to use any material available in their school. They do not have to make any additional procurement of STEM kits. Below, is a list of tools that can be used by teams.
 - (1) [Twin Education Pack](#)
 - (2) LEGO® Education [Spike Prime Set](#) with [Expansion Set](#) and [Essential Set](#)
 - (3) [VEX IQ Education Kit](#) or [VEX IQ Competition Kit](#)
 - b) If your school has additional material that is not included in this list, any STEM materials that cost under \$1.000 will be approved.

10. Teams may NOT duplicate or replicate a project submitted by another team in a previous competition year. Students may focus on the same problem, but submitted work must contain new research, new solutions, and new outcomes.
 11. Failure to meet these requirements could result in the team being disqualified from the competition.
- B. Use of Copyrighted Materials
1. Competition Folders must be the original work of the students. The word "material" as used in this section includes text, images, and data included in the Competition Folder or otherwise published on the Internet.
 2. A Competition Folder may include supporting materials that were created by another person if an accurate citation of the quoted material is included in the Competition Folder. If citations are not included, this is a form of plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in the Competition Folder being disqualified. In addition, no Competition Folder may include material that was created by another person without permission to quote such materials by the creator or owner of such intellectual property, such as unpublished documents or documents that explicitly state obtain permission to use and a copy of such permission must be made available to the Twin Sustainability Competition.
 3. Quotations from materials printed in newspapers, magazines, or books are permissible if an accurate citation is included.
 4. No Competition Folder may include any trademarked material(s) without written permission from the owner(s) of the trademarked material(s).

VI. Competition Folder Submission

- A. Complete Competition Folders must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on Feb 6, 2026 .
- B. Once the Team Advisor submits the Competition Folder, it can be withdrawn by the Team Advisor if changes need to be made before the submission deadline of Feb 6, 2026 . It must be re-submitted by the Team Advisor by the submission deadline, Feb 6, 2026 . for it to be judged.
- C. Teams are not permitted to make edits, additions, or changes to their Mission Folders after the deadline on Feb 6, 2026 .

- D. A completed Competition Folder contains a 3-minute video of the team, answers to all Competition Folder questions, and any required supporting files and must be electronically signed by the Team Advisor.
- E. Partial Competition Folders will be deemed incomplete and disqualified.
- F. Team Advisors will be asked to verify the start date of the project before a team can complete their Competition Folder.

VII. Competition Folder Judging Phase

- A. Finalists and Honorable Mentions: Virtual Judging
 - 1. Team Advisors are required to submit Mission Folders prior to the submission deadline of Feb 6, 2026 . (see Section VI for additional information).
 - 2. Once the submission deadline has passed, a panel of Virtual Judges will review the Competition Folders using the competition's [scoring rubric](#). Once all Competition Folder submissions are scored, the Twin competition team will contact potential country winners and Honorable Mentions.
 - 3. 5 teams that get the highest points according to [Competition Scoring Rubric](#) will be mentioned in the virtual finals.
 - 4. Teams that have outstanding projects but are not able to make the finals might get honorable mentions from the judges and will be invited to virtual finals.
- B. Winners: Virtual Finals
 - 1. The top 5 winners after the virtual judging process will be featured in the virtual finals.
 - 2. The winning team and other awards will be announced at the virtual finals.

VIII. Disqualification

- A. Disqualification of Applications, Entries, Participants or Teams
 - 1. The Twin Sustainability competition team may decide to disqualify a team or disqualify a Competition Folder if it is of the opinion that:
 - a) There is a violation of any portion of the rules. Violations include, but are not limited to, failing to submit required forms, falsification of student information; violating the Twin Sustainability Competition Code of Conduct (see Section I); a team consists of less than three completely registered team

members; plagiarism; or inappropriate conduct or misuse of the Twin Sustainability Competition website or server by gaining access to areas that the user does not have explicit right to use or by using the server for purposes not related to the development and deployment of a Competition Folder. For example, a team, individual team member, or user will be immediately disqualified if the team, individual team member, or user gains unauthorized access to an area of the server other than the area designated for students or teams.

- b) If a Competition Folder contains material that appears to violate any of the competition rules, Twin Sustainability Competition, at its discretion, may disqualify the Competition Folder in its entirety, remove the materials from the Competition Folder which violate such rules or requirements and/or withdraw an award that has been previously paid out to the team.

- 2. A final decision to disqualify a team or a Competition Folder may only be made by the Twin Sustainability Competition team.

B. Disqualification of Virtual Judges

- 1. In order to avoid an actual or apparent conflict of interest, a Virtual Judge must not be closely related to team members or a Team Advisor of a team that the Virtual Judge is screening, evaluating or judging. Accordingly, no one may act as a Virtual Judge with respect to a Competition Folder of a team if he or she is closely related to any member or Team Advisor of that team or otherwise feels that they might be, or appear to be, biased. Parents and Team Advisors cannot also serve as Virtual Judges in the same competition year. Violations of this rule may result in disqualification for the team.
- 2. A final decision to disqualify or remove a Virtual Judge may only be made by the Twin Sustainability Competition team.

IX. Competition Changes and Intellectual Property

A. Extensions of Contest Deadlines

- 1. The Twin Sustainability Competition team may extend any competition deadline and will post any such extension on the Twin Sustainability Competition website.

B. Ownership of Intellectual Property and the Rights and Duties of Parties

- 1. A Competition Folder will remain the property of the submitting team.

2. By submitting a Competition Folder, each individual team member grants Twin Sustainability Competition a perpetual, irrevocable, fully paid-up and royalty-free right and license to use the Competition Folder in whole or in part for any purpose whatsoever, beginning with the submission of the Competition Folder and continuing until September 20, 2030.
 - a) Such rights and licenses include, but are not limited to: improving, modifying, making derivative works, enlarging, distributing, and making such Competition Folder available for use by any person or organization.
 3. During such licensure period, Twin will also keep such Competition Folder on its website, or any successor website, and can distribute such Competition Folder to any person or organization in any manner.
 4. Twin Sustainability Competition shall have the right, but not the obligation, to take actions it deems appropriate to prevent misuse of a Competition Folder. The team members and their parent(s) or guardian(s) may take such steps or actions to prevent misuse of the Competition Folder, as submitted, as they deem appropriate.
- C. Finality of Twin Sustainability Competition Team Decisions
1. Each decision made by the Twin Sustainability Competition team, with respect to any matter related to any Twin Sustainability Competition, shall, in all respects, be final and binding on the team member(s), their parent(s), or guardian(s), the school(s) and the Team Advisor, and shall not be subject to review.
- D. Modification of the Rules
1. Twin Sustainability Competition reserves the right to modify the rules to the extent that is fair and appropriate.
 2. Modifications will be posted on the Twin Sustainability Competition website.

X. Award Terms and Validation

A. General Award Terms

1. Twin Sustainability Competition will adhere to all applicable tax laws and regulations relating to the payment of awards, including any applicable required withholding. All taxes on awards, if any, will be paid by the winners.
2. All winners must complete validation before the presentation of awards, see Section X.C for the validation process and requirements.

3. Students and Team Advisors who do not provide correct and complete information by the deadline provided are seen as refusing to comply with the rules and regulations of the competition and are forfeiting their and their team's claim to an award.
4. There is a one-year statute of limitations on receiving awards. Any claims made after one year of winning the award will not be honored, and the winner will forfeit any and all awards.
5. Each participating team in the Twin Sustainability Competition that submits the competition folder will receive a Twin Certificate of Sustainability.

B. Virtual Finalists

1. The winning top 5 teams will receive the awards listed below and their projects will be mentioned during the Virtual Finals. Selection will be made independently according to the [Twin Sustainability Competition Scoring Rubric](#):
2. The Honorable Mention award winners will receive certificate.

#1 Platinum	#2 Gold	#3 Silver	#4 Bronze	#5 Jury Special	All Participant Schools
One Twin STEM for Sustainability Kit*	One Twin STEM for Sustainability Kit*	One Twin STEM for Sustainability Kit*			
250\$ Amazon Gift Card**	200\$ Amazon Gift Card**	150\$ Amazon Gift Card**	100\$ Amazon Gift Card**		
First Place School Plate	Second Place School Plate	Third Place School Place	Fourth Place School Plate	Jury Special School Plate	
Platinum Certificate	Gold Certificate	Silver Certificate	Bronze Certificate	Jury Special Certificate	Participation Certificate
Educator Portal Access for 1 Year***	Educator Portal Access for 1 Year	Educator Portal Access for 1 Year	Educator Portal Access for 1 Year	Educator Portal Access for 1 Year	Educator Portal Access for 1 Year
1 Year Free	1 Year Free	1 Year Free	1 Year Free	1 Year Free	1 Year Free

Student App Subscription** **	Student App Subscription** **	Student App Subscription** **	Student App Subscription** **	Student App Subscription** **	Student App Subscription** **
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* Each of the top 3 winning teams will receive one STEM for Sustainability Kit valued at \$350.

** Each Amazon gift card covers both the teacher and the team, with one gift card awarded per team.

*** Starts at the date of Virtual Finals.

**** Starts at the date of Virtual Finals.

C. Validation Process and Information

1. The top 5 teams at the virtual finals will be subject to validation as legitimate teams.
2. Validation of the team includes but is not limited to:
 - a) Review by Twin Sustainability Competition of the Competition Folder for any rules violations.
3. If a team cannot be validated per competition rules, then ALL team members on that team will forfeit their position as a First, Second Place, or Honorable Mention winners.
4. If a Winning Team is not legitimate, then the Second-Place Winning Team may have the opportunity to earn the First-Place Awards. If a Second-Place Winning Team is not legitimate or moves into the First-Place position, the Third-Place Winning Team may advance into the Second-Place position, and so on.