

## Overview & Eligibility – 2025 Kansas KidWind

*Note: This document is an introduction to Kansas KidWind eligibility and registration. After reviewing this information, more details can be found in the [Rules and Logistics](#) document. If you have questions, contact the Kansas Energy Program - [ksenergyprog@ksu.edu](mailto:ksenergyprog@ksu.edu) or 785-532-6026.*

### What is the KidWind Challenge?

The KidWind Challenge, which officially kicked off in 2009, is an annual STEM competition that allows students to explore the power of wind energy by building and testing wind turbines and then competing against other teams in their age division (4th-5th, 6th-8th, or 9th-12th). Watch our 3-minute overview [video](#) to see what the competition is like. The Kansas KidWind Challenge is organized by the Kansas Energy Program (KEP), part of the Engineering Extension at Kansas State University.

In Kansas, teams build their turbines before attending one of six regional KidWind Challenges. At the challenge, teams test their turbines for energy output in a wind tunnel, present their turbine design-and-build process to a panel of judges, take a knowledge quiz, and participate in a hands-on task called the "Instant Challenge." The top two winners in each age division from each regional challenge move on to compete at the statewide challenge. Teams that win at the Statewide KidWind Challenge are invited to attend the World KidWind Challenge.

The Challenge is free, aside from your time and materials! A \$7 generator is required, but we can provide one to each team. Thanks to sponsor funding, we can also reimburse schools for travel and substitute teacher costs, and pay for lunch and snacks!

### Eligibility:

Any group of students in grades 4 to 12 is eligible to enter a team, including students from public and private schools, home-schooled students, after-school clubs, Scout troops, etc. As long as you have a coach and a team, you can attend!

In the event of a mixed-age team (a team with members who are in grades spanning multiple divisions), the team's division will be based on the oldest student. For example, if two 5th-grade students and one 6th-grade student form a team, the team will be considered in the 6th-8th division. KEP verifies the participating student's grade level via signed photo release forms.

Although there is no team size requirement, a team of 3-5 students is recommended to encourage all members to contribute equally.

Each team must have a coach/sponsor. The coach/sponsor is responsible for registering the team(s) for the competition, managing team progress, and supervising the team(s) at events. One adult for every ten students is required at the in-person competition.

### Registration Process:

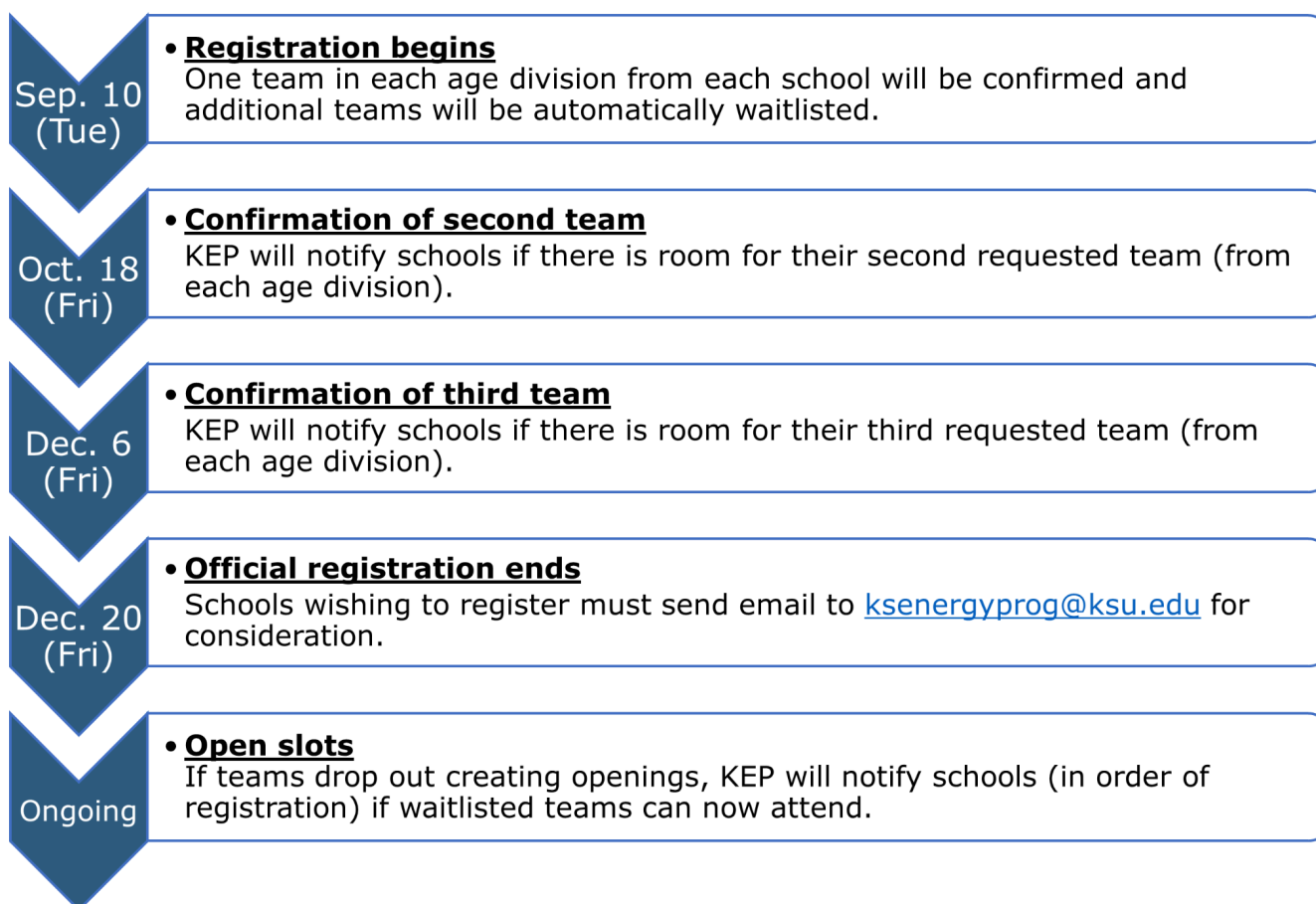
Registration is a two-step process and is completed on the KEP website at <https://kansasenergyprogram.org/educators/kidwind-challenge>. Choose the regional challenge(s) that make the most sense for your team location and/or schedule. Each regional challenge will be limited to approximately 16 teams depending on location and timing.

Each school can request a maximum of three teams in any age division. However, the second and third team in each age division is automatically added to the waiting list. Schools can register teams at multiple regional challenges, while still adhering to the maximum team limit and waitlist

procedures. For example, if a school registers two teams in the same age division at different locations, one team is guaranteed a spot while the second is waitlisted even though the teams will be at separate regional challenges.

If KEP receive registrations from more than approximately 16 teams at a regional event, all new registrations will be put on the waiting list. For schools that have teams on the waiting list, KEP will notify them prior to the event if there is room for their team(s) - see timeline below. Waiting list priority will be based on the registration date. Schools that have several teams interested in participating should consider hosting an internal KidWind Challenge at the school. KEP may be able to provide support if given enough notice.

The second step of the registration process occurs a few weeks before the challenge begins when teachers/coaches provide more detailed information about their teams (team and student names, dietary restrictions, etc). By the day of the event, photo releases must be provided for each team member and any other person who may appear in photos. The KEP typically use name tags to identify individuals who did not submit a photo release, so all attendees are required to wear the name tags provided.



## Event Logistics:

The KidWind Challenge is a full-day event that typically runs from approximately 8 am to 4 pm, based on 16 teams. KEP will provide a finalized schedule to the registered coaches before the event. Throughout the day, each team will visit four event stations – Wind Turbine Performance Testing, Judging Room, Knowledge Quiz, and Instant Challenge. Each station lasts about 10-15 minutes. When students are not at an event station, they can be preparing for the competition and working on their turbines.

The date and location details for each event can be found at <https://kansasenergyprogram.org/educators/kidwind-challenge/upcoming-events>.

Snacks and food will be provided. As part of the registration process, teachers will notify KEP before the event if students have any dietary restrictions or preferences. Scoring sheets and judges' comments will be scanned and emailed to teams; this will typically occur within 1-2 weeks of each event.

## Resources & Equipment:

Resources to help prepare for the KidWind Challenge can be found on the KEP website under Tips and Resources for Getting Started:

<https://kansasenergyprogram.org/educators/kidwind-challenge/kidwind-resources>.

KEP loans out equipment to assist with preparing for the KidWind Challenge, including wind tunnels! Equipment can be checked out at the [KEP Equipment Library](#). Filter equipment by "wind energy" as the focus area to find all our wind-energy-related equipment.

## Rules and Logistics:

Once registered, check out our [Rules and Logistics handout](#) for more details including turbine design rules, turbine performance testing rules and scoresheets, judging presentation guidance and score sheet, instant challenge, and knowledge quiz.