



International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC)

2026 Integrated Master Schedule Document

Note: ESRA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering and promoting engineering knowledge and experience in the field of rocketry. See www.esrarocket.org for more information.

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ALL TIMES ZONES ARE US CENTRAL TIME (CT)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) host and support the International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC), a week-long event which is the world's largest university rocket engineering competition. The IREC has a long history of inspiring student design teams from across the country and around the world to launch their dreams and rockets high into the air.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The "smoke and fire," noise, high speeds, and sleek aerodynamics of rocketry encourage students to pursue science, technology, and mathematics-based careers. They have "Rocket Fever!", and competition motivates them to extend themselves beyond the classroom to design and build the rockets themselves. These students also learn to work as a team, solving real world problems under the same pressures they'll experience in their future careers.

ESRA held the first annual IREC in 2006 in Utah. The competition achieved international status in 2011 when Canadian and Brazilian universities threw their hats in the ring. These schools have since been joined by others from every inhabited continent. In fact, the competition has grown rapidly since 2013, becoming the largest collegiate level rocket engineering competition in the world in 2014. The number of participating student competitors in 2025 is over 7,300 and come from over 172 colleges and universities. From 2017-2024, the IREC was hosted by Spaceport America in Las Cruces, NM, and was known as the Spaceport America Cup. In 2025, the IREC moved to Spaceport Midland, Texas.

1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document primarily defines the schedule on which participants in the IREC must submit required deliverables to the event organizers to be considered "timely" in scoring. The impact of timeliness on scoring is described for each respective deliverable in Section 2.6 of the *IREC Rules & Requirements Document*, maintained on the ESRA website (<https://www.esrarocket.org/documents-and-forms>). Furthermore, this document, integrates other information useful to participants, such as the deadlines for early, on-time, or late-payment of fees, due dates for required waivers/forms, and the detailed event schedule.

1.1 REVISION

The Integrated Master Schedule Document is a living document and will be updated as needed throughout the year leading up to the event. The most up to date version will always be maintained on the ESRA website (<https://www.esrarocket.org/documents-and-forms>). Participants should always verify they are working to the correct version by checking the Effective Date recorded on the header of their copy matches the version currently stored on the ESRA website. Updates to the IREC Integrated Master Schedule Document will always be announced via e-mail and other means.

1.2 DOCUMENTATION

The following documents include standards, guidelines, schedules, or required standard forms. The documents listed in this section are either applicable to the extent specified in this document or contain reference information useful in the application of this document.

DOCUMENT	FILE LOCATION
IREC Rules & Requirements Document	https://www.esrarocket.org/documents-and-forms
IREC Range Standard Operating Procedures	https://www.esrarocket.org/documents-and-forms

IREC Documents and Forms	https://www.esrarocket.org/documents-and-forms
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2.0 IREC DELIVERABLES SCHEDULE AND OTHER IMPORTANT PRE-EVENT DATES

All times given are CENTRAL Time (CT).

ESRA is no longer utilizing HeroX.com

All deliverables are managed via the IREC 2026 page at: <https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec>

DATE	ACTION(S)
Monday, Oct 6, 2025	Entry Application window OPENS https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
5:00pm CT Friday, Oct 24, 2025	Entry Application window CLOSES https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Early Nov 2025	Acceptance Announcement https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Mid Nov 2025	International Teams requiring a VISA LETTER: Submit a single email request per team to general.info@esrarocket.org requesting a Visa Letter for Accepted International Teams. VISA applications should be completed ASAP. Waiting even a month could keep your team from participating.
5:00pm CT Friday, Dec 5, 2025	Deadline for 1 st Interim Progress Update Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
5:00pm CT Friday, Dec 5, 2025	Deadline for Entry Application Fee PAYMENT. Use the payment link provided on the IREC Fees webpage of the ESRA website: Entry Application Fee is NOT REFUNDABLE https://www.esrarocket.org/irec-fees
5:00pm CT Friday, Feb 6, 2026	Deadline for 2nd Interim Progress Update Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Monday, March 2, 2026	Window opens for Team Registration package submissions. Instructions will be sent out via ESRA social media https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Friday, April 3, 2026	Window opens for Video Flight Readiness Safety Reviews. <i>These video reviews should be coordinated with your ESRA Safety Reviewers</i> https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
5:00pm CT Friday, April 10, 2026	This is the on-time payment deadline for the Rocket Fee. This fee increases for late payment. The Rocket Fee will be paid using the payment link provided on the IREC Fees webpage of the ESRA website https://www.esrarocket.org/irec-fees

	This is the on-time payment deadline for the individual Rocketeer Fee. This fee increases for late-payment. Each participant will pay using the payment link provided on the IREC Fees webpage of the ESRA website https://www.esrarocket.org/irec-fees
Friday, May 1, 2026	Deadline for Team Registration package submissions. https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
5:00pm CT Friday, May 1, 2026	Deadline for Project Technical Report Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
	Deadline for Poster Session Material Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
	Deadline for Podium Session Material Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
	Deadline for School Participation Letter Submissions https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Friday, May 15, 2026	<i>Deadline for Video Flight Readiness Safety Review Submissions</i> https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Friday, May 29, 2025	Submit team short video (to be played in the livestream). The submission link will be announced via an ESRA Discord post. https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Thurs, June 11, 2026	First day to pick up items shipped to Midland storage warehouse <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Thursday, June 11, 2026 from 9am until 4pm● Friday, June 12, 2026 from 9am until 4pm● Sunday, June 13, 2026 from 2pm until 6pm● Monday, June 14, 2026 from 9am until 4pm
Monday, Jun 15, 2026	Deadline to submit Team full video entry for the Video Challenge to be eligible for the Livestream Awards. The submission link will be announced via a ESRA Discord post. https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec
Saturday, Jun 20, 2026	Deadline to Submit a video entry for the Live Video Challenge to be eligible for the Livestream Awards. The submission link will be announced via a ESRA Discord post. https://www.esrarocket.org/2026irec

3.0 IREC EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

The following table records the detailed schedule of events for the IREC. Unless otherwise specified, **all times given are CENTRAL Time (CT)**. The IREC will be held at the following locations listed below.

LOCATION NAME	LOCATION ADDRESS	GOOGLE MAPS LINK
Horseshoe Pavilion, Midland	2514 Arena Trl, Midland, TX 79701	https://maps.app.goo.gl/v5By5cvCix2SQTdK7
Host Hotel - Four Points by Sheraton, Midland	5518 Starboard Dr, Midland, TX 79706	https://maps.app.goo.gl/m6BEWdSa7biZ1v9e8
Shipping Warehouse	Legacy Artificial Lift Solutions 3000 I-20, Midland, TX 79701	https://maps.app.goo.gl/EjB7rm23qZxoai1186
Spaceport Midland Rocket Launch Area	31°02'59.3"N 103°32'50.3"W	https://maps.app.goo.gl/vZaAbHRUJFzfFppf6
George Bush Convention Center	105 N Main St, Midland, TX 79701	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5v1xpYxLjAw68Xqj9

DATE	EVENT(S)
Sunday June 14, 2026 10:00am-5:00pm Spaceport Midland	<p>Hybrid and 2-Stage Pad and Ground Support Equipment Set Up (Optional):</p> <p>Hybrid and 2-Stage Category Student Teams may begin setting up their Ground Support Equipment at the Rocket Launch Area. Teams are not allowed to work on their rocket, energetics or pressurize any systems. This time is available to teams to get their pads and GSE set up.</p> <p>Teams must coordinate with their ESRA Hybrid Lead before arriving to be included on the Security Access List.</p> <p>Any team who ordered gasses should check with your ESRA Hybrid Lead for additional details.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: All participants shall carry their respective form of government issued photo ID with them at all times.</p>
Monday June 15, 2026 Horseshoe Pavilion	<p>9:00am - Team Registration and Rocketeer Check-in: Team leaders should report to registration during their assigned registration window time to complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of team/student fees payment • Confirmation of Tripoli membership (as required) • Student rocketeer passes and car passes • Distribution of T-Shirts and Team Swag • Team Photo (WEAR YOUR TEAM SHIRTS) <p>Teams unable to check in on Monday must check in on Tuesday morning. ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase.</p>

	<p>9:00am - Mentors, Flyers of Record and Faculty Advisor Check-in Make sure to bring your ID and Tripoli Rocketry Association ID card.</p> <p>9:00am - ESRA Volunteer Check-in Make sure to bring your ID and Tripoli Rocketry Association ID card.</p> <p>4:00pm - Mass Group Photo in the Horseshoe Amphitheater All participants will gather for the mass group photo. ESRA Volunteer/Staff group photos will be directly afterward.</p> <p>6:00pm - Event Staff, Judge, and Volunteer Coordination Kick-off Meeting All event staff, Range Safety and Launch Operations team members, judges, and volunteers will meet for a coordination kick-off meeting. ESRA Leadership team will brief the teams on the schedule of activities, distribute necessary materials, and answer all questions from those assembled. (This meeting is Not for Students.)</p>
<p>Tuesday June 16, 2026 <u>Horseshoe Pavilion</u></p>	<p>6:30am – Pavilion Opens to Everyone</p> <p>7:00am - Opening Ceremony, Conference Day Podium and Poster Sessions: Judges will begin evaluating all projects. Judges will begin evaluating podium sessions</p> <p>ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time at the Convention Center.</p> <p>1:00pm – ESRA Press Conference (for media only)</p>
<p>Tuesday June 16, 2026 <u>Four Points by Sheraton, Midland</u></p>	<p>6:00pm - ESRA Volunteer Pizza Social: ESRA volunteers are invited to gather following the end of events at 5:00pm. Pizza and soft drinks provided by ESRA.</p>
<p>Wednesday June 17, 2026 <u>Spaceport Midland</u></p>	<p>5:00am – Launch Day 1 Gates will open. Teams who have received Final Launch Safety approval can proceed to Launch and recovery operations. Launch Operations will begin as early as possible.</p> <p>5:00am - Launch Preparations and Design Implementation Evaluation: While being judged and monitored for flight safety concerns, all teams will spend the day on-site setting up the Rocket Assembly Area(s), assembling their systems, and troubleshooting components in preparation for launch. Livestream coverage begins and ends coordinated with the launch time window</p> <p>Morning - High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40k' at sunrise and closes at 1pm</p>
<p>Thursday Jun 18, 2026 <u>Spaceport Midland</u></p>	<p>5:00am - Launch Day 2 Gates will Open: Launch and recovery operations will occur on-site. Livestream coverage begins and ends coordinated with the launch time window</p> <p>There is NO HIGH ALTITUDE WAIVER for Thursday</p>

<p>Friday Jun 19, 2026 <u>Spaceport Midland</u></p>	<p>5:00am - Launch Day 3 Gates will Open: Launch and recovery operations will occur on-site. FLIGHT SAFETY REVIEWS will END at 12:00pm ON FRIDAY. Livestream coverage begins and ends coordinated with the launch time window</p> <p>Morning - High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40k' at sunrise and closes at 1pm</p>
<p>Saturday June 20, 2026 <u>Spaceport Midland</u></p>	<p>5:00am - Final Launch Half-Day Gates will Open: Launch and recovery operations will occur on-site until 12N Livestream coverage commences with launching and ends at 10am</p> <p>Site Cleanup: All teams will support the cleanup of the Rocket Assembly Area(s) and immediate surroundings by removing equipment and properly disposing of trash, discarded material, etc.</p> <p>Morning - High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40k' at sunrise and closes at 12n</p>
<p>Saturday June 20, 2026 <u>George Bush Convention Center</u></p>	<p>5:00pm Doors Open – 7:00pm Awards Ceremony begins: For participants, family, friends, faculty, and media.</p>

3.1 SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Note: All times recorded below are subject to change by ESRA as needed based on extenuating circumstances. ESRA will make every attempt to communicate schedule changes in advance; however, we ask that teams remain flexible and adaptable to changes if/when they occur.

TIME (MDT)	EVENT(S)
<p>Sunday June 14, 2026 10:00am-5:00pm <u>Spaceport Midland</u></p>	<p>Hybrid and 2-Stage Pad and Ground Support Equipment Set Up (Optional): Hybrid and 2-Stage Category Student Teams may begin setting up their Ground Support Equipment at the Rocket Launch Area. Teams are not allowed to work on their rocket, energetics or pressurize any systems. This time is available to teams to get their pads and GSE set up. Teams must coordinate with their ESRA Safety Team before arriving to be included on the Security Access List. Any team who ordered gasses should check with your ESRA Hybrid Lead for additional details. IMPORTANT: All participants shall carry their respective form of government issued photo ID with them at all times.</p>

3.2 MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Events scheduled include Check-in for Rocketeers, and a Coordination Kick-off Meeting for all Event Staff, Judges, and Volunteers. Check-in occurs and the Event Staff meetings will occur.

Note: All times recorded below are subject to change by ESRA as needed based on extenuating circumstances. ESRA will make every attempt to communicate schedule changes in advance; however, we ask that teams remain flexible and adaptable to changes if/when they occur.

TIME (CT)	EVENT(S)
<p>Monday June 15, 2026 9:00am-4:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion</p>	<p>Student Team Check-in and Poster Area Set up:</p> <p>Student Team Check-in begins at 9:00am CT. All the student rocketeers, mentors and Flier of Record for each team should arrive NO LATER THAN 4:00pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Confirmation of team/student fees payment● Confirmation of Tripoli membership (as required)● Student rocketeer passes and car passes● Student T-Shirts and IREC Swag● Team Photo● Recovery team safety briefing● Set up Team Display and Poster Presentation Tables● Rocket Safety Reviews <p>IREC Teams will be directed to bring their poster displays, project hardware, and any other materials through the rear entrances or through the cargo dock. Teams will find tables assigned to them.</p> <p>Eight-foot-long tables are provided for each team. All tables will be numbered and assigned. Standing displays (e.g. roll-ups, spider frames, etc.) are permitted as long as they do not interfere with other teams' displays, traffic flow or create a safety hazard.</p> <p>Note: ESRA Merchandise Store will be open and items will be available for purchase during this time at the Convention Center.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: All participants wear their IREC Badges and shall carry their respective form of government issued photo ID with them at all times.</p>
<p>Monday June 15, 2026 4:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion Amphitheater</p>	<p>Mass Group Photo:</p> <p>Teams begin gathering in the Pavilion Amphitheater at 4:00pm. At 4:30pm, a mass group photo will be taken. Teams not ready at 4:15pm <u>will not be in the photo</u>. It is the team's responsibility to be ready at 4:15pm. Rockets are optional. Teams can bring school and/or national flags. There will be two photos - one with school and/or national spirit, and one without.</p>

<p>Monday June 15, 2026 9:00am-4:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion</p>	<p>Wildman Hobbies and Aerotech will host a Motor Building Class</p> <p>All teams who have pre-purchased motors from either of these vendors can pick up their motors during this time. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you seek assistance and guidance on building your motors from these experts.</p>
<p>Monday June 15, 2026 6:00pm-9:00pm (or last question) Midland Horseshoe Pavilion</p>	<p>Event Staff, Judge, and Volunteer Coordination Kick-off Meeting:</p> <p>Event Staff, Judges, and Volunteer Coordination Kick-off Meeting: All event staff, Range Safety and Launch Operations team members, judges, and volunteers will meet at 6:00pm for a coordination kick-off meeting.</p> <p>ESRA Leadership team will brief the volunteer team on the coming schedule of activities, distribute necessary materials, and answer all questions from those assembled. (This meeting is Not for Students)</p>

1.3 TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Events scheduled include Conference Day Proceedings and late check-in.

Time (CT)	EVENT(S)
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 6:00am-7:00am Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	<p>Continued Student Team and Sponsor Area Set-up:</p> <p>IREC sponsors, recruiters, vendors, exhibitors and IREC teams will set-up their displays and booths in specified areas.</p> <p>Sponsors, recruiters, vendors, exhibitors will enter through the front entrance to set up at designated locations. A table and chairs are provided for each Sponsor area.</p> <p>Any sponsors or IREC Teams who do not finish setting up their booth prior to the Kick-off All-hands Briefing at 07:00, may continue setting up after the briefing.</p> <p>Note: ESRA Merchandise Store will be open and items will be available for purchase during this time at the Convention Center.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: All students, event staff, judges, and volunteers must always wear their badges during the. Badges shall be worn where they are clearly visible – clipped either to a garment or a provided lanyard or above the waist. Only vehicles (not including trailers) with a vehicle placard will be admitted. Placards shall be displayed prominently – either on top of the dashboard or hanging from the rearview mirror.</p>
Tuesday June 16, 2026 7:00am-8:00am Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	<p>Opening Ceremony for all attendees</p> <p>All event attendees will gather within the main pavilion area for the official opening of the IREC. This will be a standing room only event. A Keynote Address will be given. Opening ceremony will be Livestreamed</p>
Tuesday June 16, 2026 8:00am-8:30am Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	<p>Team Officers, Mentors, Flyers of Record & Faculty Briefing:</p> <p>Each team should have the two most senior members, Mentors, Flyer of Record, and faculty advisors (if present) for a detailed briefing on the launch operations procedures for the event. There will be a Q & A session during this briefing.</p>
Tuesday June 16, 2026 9:00am-5:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	<p>Late Check-in:</p> <p>Any teams which did not check-in on Monday must <u>check in during the conference day</u>. Please refer to details recorded in Section 3.3 of this Document under “Registration Day” for check-in requirements.</p>

Time (CT)	EVENT(S)
Tuesday June 16, 2026 9:00am-5:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Doors open to the general public: Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time
Tuesday June 16, 2026 9:00am-5:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Conference Poster Session: IREC Team Poster Displays, project hardware, and other materials on display in the Exhibit Hall all-day offer students, judges, recruiters, the general public, and media a chance to see all the projects. At least one member of the team must be present with their display at all times, both to supervise the booth and engage with any visiting event attendees, judges and other competitors.
Tuesday June 16, 2026 9:00am-11:00am Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Conference Podium Session: There will be two areas designated for Technical Podium Presentations. Each area will concurrently host student presentations. Each presentation is expected to be twenty minutes long with an additional five minutes allotted for Q&A. There may be as many as 24 such presentations – 12 in each area.
Tuesday June 16, 2026 11:00am-12:00n Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Podium Session pauses while the judging panel breaks for lunch
Tuesday June 16, 2026 Time: 1:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	1:00pm – ESRA Press Conference (for media only)
Tuesday June 16, 2026 12:00n-5:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Conference Podium Sessions Resume
Tuesday June 16, 2026 4:00pm-5:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Tear Down: All IREC sponsors, recruiters, vendors, exhibitors and IREC teams shall remove their displays from the Horseshoe Pavilion by 5:00pm.

Time (CT)	EVENT(S)
Tuesday June 16, 2026 9:00am-4:00pm Midland Horseshoe Pavilion	Wildman Hobbies and Aerotech will host a Motor Building Class All teams who have pre-purchased motors from either of these vendors can pick up their motors during this time. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you seek assistance and guidance on building your motors from these experts.
Tuesday June 16, 2026 5:30pm-10:00pm Four Points by Sheraton, Midland	ESRA Staff, Judge and Volunteer Pizza Dinner: ESRA Staff, Judges, and Volunteers will meet for a social pizza party dinner at a location Host Hotel - Four Points by Sheraton, Midland. Awards will be given out

3.3 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

TIME (CT)	EVENT(S)
Wednesday June 17, 2026 5:00am Spaceport Midland	Gates open: The gate opens at 5:00am. Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time
Wednesday June 17, 2026 6:00am Spaceport Midland	Morning Flyer Meeting: All Team Project Managers and Safety Officers must meet for mandatory Flyer's Meeting each morning until they complete their flight. These morning meetings cover launch operations, safety instructions and any updates to procedures that have been made. It is the responsibility of the team project manager and safety officer to disseminate the information to all team members. Students attending the Flyer's Meeting should expect to take notes.
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 7am-4:30pm Spaceport Midland	Launch Preparations and Judging Evaluations: Once the Rocket Assembly Area is established, participants will begin preparing their projects for flight. Judging and Range Safety Evaluations not completed by this afternoon, will continue the next day. Livestream coverage active from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM each day

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 7:00am-4:30pm Spaceport Midland	<p>Range open for launch operations: ESRA anticipates both staff and students being prepared to support launches as early as possible. Livestream coverage begins and ends coordinated with the launch time window</p> <p>Morning - High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40,000 ft at sunrise and closes at 1pm</p>
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 4:30pm-5:00pm Spaceport Midland	<p>Judges Coordination Meeting: Judges will convene in the for a quick debrief of the first day and prepare for the next day's launch operations.</p>
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 5:00pm-5:30pm Spaceport Midland	<p>Evening Flyer Meeting: Mandatory for all teams attempting to launch early the following morning before the next scheduled Morning Flyer Meeting, and any other team told to attend by event staff. Optional to all other teams.</p> <p>REMINDER – There will be NO HIGH ALTITUDE Flights on Thursday.</p> <p>This briefing will be similar to the Morning Flyer's Meeting but will also act as a way for teams and ESRA to give feedback to one another.</p>
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 Sunset ~8:00pm Spaceport Midland	<p>Gates Close - All Students must depart the launch site.</p>

3.4 THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Events scheduled include launch operations and the resolution of any judging activities not completed the previous day.

TIME (MDT)	EVENT(S)
Thursday June 18, 2026 5:00am Spaceport Midland	Gates Open Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time
Thursday June 18, 2026 6am-6:30am Spaceport Midland	Morning Flyer Meeting: <u>All Team Project Managers and Safety Officers must meet for a mandatory Flyer's Meeting each morning until they complete their flight.</u>
Thursday June 18, 2026 7:00am-4:30pm Spaceport Midland	Range open for launch operations: ESRA anticipates both staff and students being prepared to support launches no earlier than 06:00. Launches will not commence until the sun rises and the RSO has officially approved launches can proceed. Livestream coverage active from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM each day NO High Altitude Waiver – No flights above 40k' on Thursday
Thursday June 18, 2026 4:30pm-5:00pm Spaceport Midland	Judges Coordination Meeting: Judges will convene for a quick debrief of the first day and prepare for the next day's launch operations.
Thursday June 18, 2026 5:00pm-5:30pm Spaceport Midland	Evening Flyer Meeting: Mandatory for all teams attempting to launch early the following morning before the next scheduled Morning Flyer Meeting, and any other team told to attend by event staff. Optional to all other teams. This is mandatory for all high altitude launches – which will attempt flight early Friday morning. This briefing will be similar to the Morning Flyer's Meeting but will also act as a way for teams and ESRA to give feedback to one another.
Thursday June 18, 2026 Sunset ~8:00pm Spaceport Midland	Gates Close - All Students must depart the launch site.

3.5 FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Events scheduled include launch operations and the resolution of any judging activities not completed the previous day.

TIME (CT)	EVENT(S)
Friday June 19, 2026 5:00am Spaceport Midland	Spaceport Midland Launch Site Gates Open Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time
Friday June 19, 2026 6am-6:30am Spaceport Midland	Morning Flyer Meeting: These morning meetings are to cover launch operations, safety instructions and any updates to procedures that have been made. It is the responsibility of the team project manager and safety officer to disseminate the information to all team members. Students attending the Flyers Meeting should expect to take notes.
Friday June 19, 2026 7:00am-4:30pm Spaceport Midland	Range open for launch operations: ESRA anticipates both staff and students being prepared to support launches no earlier than 06:00. Launches will not commence until the sun rises over the mountains and the RSO has officially approved launches can proceed. Livestream coverage active from 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM each day Any remaining teams unable to fly on Friday are at a <u>VERY HIGH RISK of not launching on Saturday.</u>
	Morning - High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40k' at sunrise and closes at 1pm
Friday June 19, 2026 4:30pm-5:00pm Spaceport Midland	Judges Coordination Meeting: Judges will convene for a quick debrief of the first day and prepare for the next day's launch operations.
Friday June 19, 2026 5:00pm-5:30pm Spaceport Midland	Evening Flyer Meeting: Mandatory for all teams attempting to launch early the following morning before the next scheduled Morning Flyer Meeting, and any other team told to attend by event staff. Optional to all other teams. Flight Safety Review Cutoff: Teams that have not completed flight safety review by this time will not be permitted to fly for the remainder of the competition. Teams who fly on Saturday <u>may not receive a score for their flight due to delays in getting the data to the judges.</u>
Friday June 19, 2026 Sunset ~8:00pm Spaceport Midland	Gates Close - All Students must depart the launch site.

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3.6 SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026 SCHEDULE DETAILS

Events scheduled include launch operations, final judging deliberations, and the Awards Ceremony.

TIME (CT)	EVENT(S)
Saturday June 20, 2026 5:00am Spaceport Midland	Gates Open Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time
Saturday June 20, 2026 6:00am-6:30am Spaceport Midland	Morning Flyer Meeting: Any remaining teams who need to fly must attend.
Saturday June 20, 2026 7:00am-12:00n Spaceport Midland	Range open for launch operations: Launches will not commence until the sun rises over the mountains and the RSO has officially approved launches can proceed. High Altitude Waiver OPEN for flights above 40k' at sunrise and the WAIVER and launch operations close at 12:00n. IMPORTANT - The final remaining rockets ready to fly must be on the pads by 11:00. All flights must be launched before 12:00 when the waiver officially closes. IMPORTANT - Teams who fly on Saturday <u>may not receive a score for their flight due to delays in getting the data to the judges.</u> Data Recovery must have your flight apogee data and status before 12:00n in order to provide it to the judges committee for consideration. Any team who has not cleared RSO inspection and the Final Checkpoint by 10:00am Saturday morning will not get to launch. Any team showing up to the Range-head with your rocket at 12:00n for inspection will be turned away. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE FINAL DAY TO LAUNCH!!!
Saturday June 20, 2026 7:00am-10:00am Spaceport Midland	Livestream coverage active from 7:00 AM – 10:00 Am today

TIME (CT)	EVENT(S)
Saturday June 20, 2026 12:00n-3:00pm Spaceport Midland	Range Close and Site Cleanup: ESRA will start packing up any non-essential resources. This includes any rails and launch equipment that will not be needed, ESRA tents, etc. ESRA will be asking for volunteers from the teams over the PA system to help make this quicker. ESRA asks that each team provide one or two people to assist in range tear down. The goal is to leave the area in better condition than when we arrived!
Saturday June 20, 2026 12:00n-4:00pm George Bush Convention Center	Judges meet for final deliberations: All scored flights must have been recovered and completed post-flight processing no later than 12:00n.
Saturday June 20, 2026 6:00pm-6:30pm George Bush Convention Center	Doors Open - Social time and gathering for all attendees. Watch videos submitted by teams for the Video Challenge. Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time at the convention center.
Saturday June 20, 2026 6:00pm-8:30pm George Bush Convention Center	IREC Awards Ceremony: Featuring keynote speakers, closing remarks will be made, music will be played, and winners of all competitions and categories will be announced. Doors Open at 6pm. Ceremony begins ~6:30pm Ceremony will be livestreamed Note: Concessions and the ESRA Merchandise Store will be opened, and items will be available for purchase during this time