

# Innovative Research and Invention Competition Guidelines

Welcome to the 2024 IRIC (Innovative Research and Invention Competition)! Before you officially participate in the competition, please carefully read the following participant guidelines and agreement. Underlined tasks are for participants to submit or demonstrate. Your participation in the competition implies your agreement to and compliance with the following regulations:

## 1. Eligibility and Academic Integrity

### 1.1 Participant Eligibility

**Participation Eligibility:** Teams must complete the registration process before the stipulated deadline to qualify for participation in the competition. All members constituting a team must be enrolled as high school students.

**Seasonal Entrance:** Each team is permitted a singular entry per competition season.

### 1.2 Academic Integrity

**What we expect:** [IRIC-Instructions on Academic Honesty](#)

## 2. Team Collaboration

### 2.1 Team Formation

**Team Members:** Participating teams should consist of two to six members.

**Team Formation:** Participants should convene and establish teams within the official group chat, fostering a collaborative environment. Each member's strengths, skills, and interests are encouraged to be considered to cultivate a well-balanced team. Please access the [Team Formation Guidelines](#) for more detailed team formation guidelines.

**Team Registration:** All team captains must formally submit their team application forms by April 1st through the [Team Registration Form](#); failure to do so will result in disqualification.

## 2.2 Collective Works

**Team Member Responsibilities:** Each member is required to actively participate in and possess comprehensive knowledge of all facets of the project, fulfill duties delegated by the team leader, and punctually attend scheduled meetings.

**Roster Alternation:** Teams must refrain from incorporating new participants during the research process or midway through the competition. Each team member is expected to fully engage in and be familiar with all aspects of the work, and team captains have the right to remove team members from the roster if they fail to fulfill their duties. Fill the [Emergency Team Member Dismissal Form](#), follow the instructions to complete the dismissal procedure and send it to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org).

## 3. Competition Agenda and Task Guidelines

### 3.1 Preparation Phase (Before April 1st)

#### 3.1.2 Understanding Rules and Procedures

Teams should diligently review the competition's regulations, procedures, scoring criteria, and any pertinent information and updates through the [IRIC Official Website](#).

#### 3.1.3 Task Assignment and Planning

During this phase, team captains should allocate team members' responsibilities, formulate plans, and commence the acquisition of necessary resources and materials. Captains can also organize meetings or discussions to strategize for the competition, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of roles and responsibilities, establishing a strong rapport among team members, and fostering effective collaboration in the future.

### 3.2 Initial Submission Phase (April 1 - April 20)

**Benchmark for Success:** The Initial Submission Phase plays a pivotal role in laying the foundation for the successful execution of projects by promoting collaboration

among team members. It ensures that each entry is meticulously conceived and strategically positioned for success.

### 3.2.1 Research Topic Selection

**Competition Theme:** Teams are mandated to meticulously choose topics that harmonize with the competition's theme "**sustainable development**".

**Independence:** Participating teams must independently complete all tasks and research. External assistance is strictly prohibited, except for guidance from the IRIC official committee and mentors.

**Prohibited Tools:** Using generative AI and other automated tools or software that significantly enhance research is strictly prohibited.

#### **Ethical Considerations:**

Entries violating national laws, regulations, social ethics, or public interests will not be accepted. Additionally, entries involving academic misconduct, harm to experimental subjects, or violations of laboratory protocols are strictly prohibited.

Participants conducting experiments involving vertebrate animals, hazardous pathogens, or other potentially harmful substances must adhere to relevant laboratory protocols and work under the guidance of qualified professionals.

### **3.2.2 Task One: Research Design (Optional)**

**Task One Guideline:** Teams are required to furnish comprehensive outlines of their proposed entries. For detailed instructions please read carefully through the [IRIC Task One Guideline](#).

**Task One Submission Deadline:** By April 20th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task One Submission Approach:** If you want your research design to be reviewed by the IRIC mentorship committee, send your team's research design document in PDF Format to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your document and the email title in the following format: [Team number + Task One], and your task will be carefully reviewed by mentors and conveyed back to you with comments and suggestions.

This is optional, but we highly suggest you do so for the best research experience and to receive the most amount of support from IRIC mentors!

**Task One Feedback:** Once you submit your task, you will receive the feedback within a week. Therefore we suggest that you submit the tasks as early as possible.

### **3.3 Research and Drafting Phase (April 20th - July 10th)**

#### **3.3.1 Literature Review**

**Instructions:** Before conducting experiments, we suggest that you review past papers and insightful pieces of literature first. During this process, we highly recommend you analyze other research and construct the introduction part of your research paper.

**Guidelines:** For more detailed information on how to conduct a literature review, please read through [IRIC Literature Review Guidelines](#)

#### **3.3.2 Research Experiment**

**Instructions:** Before drafting the research paper, please please conduct

**Guidelines:** For more detailed information on how to conduct a literature review, please read through [IRIC Research Guidelines](#)

#### **3.3.3 Task Two: Research Paper's First Draft (Mandatory)**

**Task Two Guideline:** Teams are required to construct a comprehensible research paper summarizing the literature reviewed and experiments accomplished by the team, for detailed instructions please read carefully through the [IRIC Task Two Guidelines](#) (including guidelines, template, and grading rubric).

\* Note: if your research is followed by an innovative invention, please include the invention's digital model in your research paper.

**Task Two Submission Deadline:** By July 10th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task Two Submission Approach:** Send your team's research paper's first draft document in PDF Format to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your document and the

email title in the following format: [Team number + Task Two]. Your task will be carefully reviewed by IRIC mentors, and the comments and suggestions will be conveyed back to you through email within a week.

### **3.4 Revising Phase (July 10th - July 30th)**

#### **3.4.1 Task Three: Research Paper's Second Draft (Optional)**

**Task Three Submission Deadline:** By July 30th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task Three Submission Approach:** Send your team's revised paper in PDF Format to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your document in the following format: [Team number + Task Three], and your task will be carefully reviewed by mentors and conveyed back to you with comments and suggestions. You don't have to submit this task unless you want additional help from the mentors.

### **3.5 Final Submission Phase (July 30th - August 5th)**

#### **3.5.1 Task Four: Final Research Paper (Mandatory)**

**Task Four Submission Deadline:** By August 5th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task Four Submission Approach:** Send your team's final draft in PDF Format to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your document and the email title in the following format: [Team number + Task Four]. This is the version of your paper that's going to be graded, good luck!

### **3.6 Research Result Presentation Phase (August 5th - August 20th)**

#### **3.6.1 Task Five: Display Board**

**Task Five Guidelines:** Task five requires you to create a display board that demonstrates all your research details, steps, results, and accomplishments. For more detailed information, please check out [IRIC Task Five Guidelines](#) (including guidelines, template, and grading rubric).

\* Note: if your research is followed by an innovative invention, please include the invention's digital model in your display board.

**Task Five Submission Deadline:** By August 10th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task Five Submission Approach:** Send your team's Display Board in PDF Format to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your document and the email title in the following format: [Team number + Task Five]. This is going to be graded, good luck!

### **3.6.2 Task Six: Display Board Demonstration Video**

**Task Six Guidelines:** Task six requires you to demonstrate your display board in a video form, which will be posted to IRIC's official social media platforms. For more detailed information, please check out [IRIC Task Six Guidelines](#) (including guidelines, template, and grading rubric).

\* Note: if your research is followed by an innovative invention, please include the invention's digital model in your display board demonstration video.

**Task Six Submission Deadline:** By August 10th (you can always turn it in early)

**Task Six Submission Approach:** Send your team's video link to [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org). Please name your email using the following title: [Team number + Task Six]. The popularity of your video will be counted into your overall competition scores, good luck!

### **3.6.3 Task Seven: Presentation**

**Task Seven Guidelines:** Task seven requires you to present an online research presentation. For more detailed information, please check out [IRIC Task Seven Guidelines](#) (including guidelines, template, and grading rubric).

\* Note: if your research is followed by an innovative invention, please include the invention's digital model in your presentation.

**Presentation Date:** August 21st, 5 PM EST - 10 PM EST. Because of time zone differences, we will confirm each team's time zone with the team captain in advance and assign each with the appropriate presentation time.

**Presentation Schedule:** The presentation schedule will be released to the IRIC official website on August 15th. Team captains should prepare the team for the best performance.

#### **4. Award Ceremony (August 27th)**

**Ceremony Time:** 5 PM - 10 PM EST

**Attendance:** All participants are required to attend this ceremony, failing to do so will result in disqualification and the cancellation of your awards.

**Ceremony Agenda:** The IRIC will announce awards and the mentors' final evaluation of each team's research/invention accomplishments. A more detailed ceremony agenda will be released on August 20th on IRIC's official website.

Thank you for your participation and support! We wish you outstanding achievements in this Research and Innovation Online Competition!

Official Email: [fusac@fusso.org](mailto:fusac@fusso.org)

IRIC Committee

Future Science Scholar Organization