

The IEEE Student Branch Website Contest is conducted by the IEEE Student Activities Committee. This contest is the 12-hour programming contest.

Rules and guidelines

The goal of a website is to convey information in a manner useful to the reader. How you convey the information can increase readers' interest as well as their knowledge. For example, a page of text provides useful information but is not visually attractive. The same text with the appropriate colored figures, JavaScript, etc., can deliver significantly more information while motivating the reader to read further. Poorly designed websites either provide no useful content or are hard to use (takes too long, user cannot find the desired information, etc.). Thus, the hallmarks of a good website are:

- Usability
- Accessibility
- Solid content
- Presentation
- Navigability
- Originality
- Portable

The criteria of usability, accessibility, content, presentation, navigability, originality, portability, and load time are the judging categories.

Avoid using unsupported HTML elements, Java programs, images, etc., which may or may not work on the browsers that may be used by the judges, including Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Lynx 2.6 or higher, Netscape Navigator 4.5 or higher, and Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher.

Content

The rating of how the content is presented is judged as a separate category.

Your site is an IEEE website and IEEE should be the focus. At a minimum, Student Branch websites should have, somewhere, local contact information for the branch officers, the counselor, and the website administrator. Each page in the website should have contact and date information. A good branch website may have current, past, and future branch

activities, information on other IEEE units, how to join as a Student member, and other information relevant to an electrical and computer-engineering or computer-science student audience. To encourage international support of websites, the use of multiple languages may be awarded up to two bonus points in this category.

Navigation

All links should be up-to-date and working. Keywords used for hyperlinks should be logical and tasteful. While many large sites have site maps, navigation bars, search engines, etc., to help the user find the appropriate information, it is by no means required. In fact, the use of these elements can backfire and create a website that is not visually pleasing or is highly complex to use. Many websites do well enough without these aids.

Remember to use relative links as much as possible to ensure easy site portability and mirroring.

Presentation

Presentation will be judged not on its originality but on how well it "works" with the content to provide the user with a pleasant viewing experience. Use of good presentation elements, such as color, fonts, tables, etc., can enhance raw information on a website. Graphics should be relative to the page and text. Header, footer, and other navigation images should be small. Backgrounds should be used intelligently.

Portability

Unfortunately, there is no "standard" web browser. Even the same web browser on different computers may result in significantly differing renderings of the same page. You should attempt to make your web pages relatively portable across different browsers, including both text and graphical browsers, and different screen sizes.