



NJCGTP

Accelerate. Create. Enrich.

Event Catalog

2025 - 2026

Table of Contents

About Us	1
Mission Statement	1
NJCGTP Leadership	1
Executive Board	1
Board Members	1
Benefits of NJCGTP Membership	1
Educator Resources	1
Programming for Students	1
NJCGTP Policies & Procedures	2
Registration	2
Payment	2
NJCGTP Registration Materials	3
Invoice for District Membership	3
NJCGTP District Registration Form	4
NJCGTP Events	5
2025-2026 Calendar	5
Event Details	6
Welcome to NJCGTP 25-26	6
Do You Want to Build...	6
STEAM Machines	6
Debate Coaches Training	7
Fall Scavenger Hunt	7
Math Marathon	7
STEM/STEAM Adventures	7
Public Speaking Symposium	8
Jr. Workshop on the Arts	8
Spelling Bee	8
NJCGTP Sharing Meeting	8
Debate Coaches Training	9
Poster Contest: Interior Design	9
Learning Carnival	9
Workshop on the Arts	9
Spelling Bee	10
Jr. Model United Nations	10
Learning Carnival	10
Chess Tournament	10
Debate Judges Training	11
Debate Tournament	11
NJCGTP End of Year	11
EdTalk: Future of STEM	12
EdTalk: Humanities Happenings	12

About Us

Mission Statement

Since its founding in 1985, the New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs (NJCGTP) has remained committed to providing free training and mentoring to educators throughout New Jersey and delivering diverse, interdisciplinary events that engage and nurture the gifts and talents of New Jersey's youth.

NJCGTP Leadership

At the heart of our organization's success is our vibrant, dedicated membership: people who believe deeply in encouraging their students' potential. We are proudly led by a volunteer group of active and retired educators. Though our ranks have evolved over time, all those who choose to serve on our board are crucial to our consistent delivery of high-quality programming. Each fresh perspective helps us expand and enhance our offerings, cementing our role as a vital resource for gifted and talented students and educators throughout the state. We welcome all those who wish to join us in this tradition of collaborative, educator-led work.

Executive Board

Susan Vigilante, Director
Roberta Foster, Secretary

Barbara Platz, Assistant Director
Pati Link, Treasurer

Board Members

Lenore Argen
Matt Hales
Liz Minkowitz

Gail Defeo
Alex Lefkovits*
Emily Thompson

Trish Fagan
Linda Marton
Shana Tracy

Kara Galarza
Diane McCormack
Diana Wisniewski

Benefits of NJCGTP Membership

Educator Resources

We furnish a wide array of materials and programming to enhance or complete a curriculum for gifted and talented (G&T) students; supply **FREE** professional development on assorted G&T topics with *no limit to the number of member district staff in attendance*; and provide **FREE** mentoring and support for G&T educators and administrators from member districts, including an annual Sharing Meeting for G&T educators to benefit from tried and true, successful lesson plans.

Programming for Students

To target the varied interests and abilities of the gifted student population, we produce educational events that transcend the classroom; offer both in-person and virtual challenges and workshops; deliver diverse, cross-curricular, and interdisciplinary activities; sponsor creative and artistic outlets and performances; grant students access to working professionals in varied fields; and create opportunities for students to work cooperatively and build long-term relationships with other high-ability students from different districts.

*non-voting

NJCGTP Policies & Procedures

Registration

All provided contacts for **confirmed member districts** will receive the link to our event registration website via email. “Confirmed member districts” are those that have provided both a completed membership form for the current academic year **and** a purchase order (or check) for the member district fee indicated on this year’s invoice. **Any district in arrears must pay ALL outstanding invoices AND the current year’s membership fee in order to be eligible to register for any events.**

Registration opens for all NJCGTP events on September 1st. **Registrations MUST be received via the appropriate digital registration form.**

After hitting “SUBMIT” on any of the event registration forms, you will see a confirmation screen **and** the form will automatically generate a confirmation email, which will go to the email address entered on the form. If you have not received a confirmation email, it is likely that you did not submit the form. Please check your SPAM folder first and then reach out to our business administrator at njgtconsort@gmail.com if you remain unsure.

Payment

A purchase order or payment should follow all registrations for student events. Purchase orders may be emailed to our business administrator at njgtconsort@gmail.com or mailed to our address. Checks should be made payable to **NJCGTP** and mailed to our current address:

**NJCGTP
P.O. Box 168
Ogdensburg, NJ 07439**

Over the years, we have learned that districts have different pay procedures for our events. Some districts have the budget to fully support the program; others must bill students. We can accept individual checks; however, please note that **districts are ultimately responsible for remitting payments for ALL registrations. Whatever numbers are submitted via the event registration form will stand, and any outstanding fees will be billed to the district, UNLESS we are notified of changes to registration as below:**

- **For in-person events, registrations must be canceled/amended with AT LEAST FIVE (5) days of written notice to BOTH the event organizer* and our business administrator at njgtconsort@gmail.com.**
- **For virtual events, registrations must be canceled BEFORE the launch date with written notice to BOTH the event organizer* and our business administrator at njgtconsort@gmail.com. Once proprietary materials have been sent out, districts are responsible for remitting payment.**

*The email addresses for event organizers are listed on the event registration website and the event registration forms.

NJCGTP Registration Materials



New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs

P.O. Box 168, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439-0168

Email: NJGTConsort@gmail.com

Tel/Fax: (973) 810-3366

Web: TheNJCGTP.org

Invoice for District Membership

To: Board of Education

Date: July 2025

Invoice #: 25-2600

Re: NJCGTP Membership (2025-2026)

Event(s)	Details	Cost
2025-2026 District Membership	Unlimited PD/Training for Teachers, Access to 2025-2026 Workshops and Events for K-8 Students	\$ 500.00
Purchase Order or Payment Due October 1, 2025		Total \$ 500.00
Payments may be remitted to: The NJCGTP Mailing Address: P.O. Box 168 Ogdensburg, NJ 07439		

N.B.: To be considered a "confirmed member district," districts must submit BOTH a completed membership form for the current academic year and a purchase order (or check) for the member district fee indicated on this year's invoice. Purchase orders may be mailed to our P.O. Box (given above) or emailed to our business administrator at njgtconsort@gmail.com. Any district in arrears must pay ALL outstanding invoices AND the current year's membership fee in order to be eligible to register for any events.

NJCGTP District Registration Form

Please fill out this 2025-2026 NJCGTP Membership form and return to all email addresses listed below:

njgtconsort@gmail.com

swvigilante@gmail.com

barb.platz.5@gmail.com

Please print legibly or type to fill in ALL information fields. Thank you.

School District			
Central Office Address			
Payment Contact		Phone Number	
Email Address			
Gifted Supervisor		Title	
Email Address			
IMPORTANT —Please list the names, phone numbers, and emails of ALL teachers, administrators, etc. who should receive registration notifications and reminders for our events.			
Name(s)	Phone Number	Email Address	

NJCGTP Events

2025-2026 Calendar

Event Date	Event Name	Event Type	Registration Closes
Friday, Sept. 19	Welcome to NJCGTP 25-26	Teacher Meeting	Register by Fri, 9/12
Thursday, Oct. 16	Debate Coaches	Teacher Training	Register by Thu, 10/9
Wednesday, Nov. 12	Math Marathon	In-Person	Register by Mon, 11/3
Thursday, Dec. 4	STEM/STEAM Adventures	In-Person	Register by Fri, 11/21
Friday, Dec. 12	Fall Scavenger Hunt	Virtual	Register by Fri, 10/3
Friday, Dec. 19	Do You Want to Build...	Virtual	Register by Mon, 12/1
Friday, Jan. 9	Public Speaking Symposium	In-Person	Register by Fri, 12/19
Wednesday, Jan. 22	Spelling Bee 6-8	In-Person	Register by Mon, 1/12
Thursday, Jan. 29	NJCGTP Sharing Meeting	Teacher Meeting	Register by Thu, 1/22
Tuesday, Feb. 3	Debate Coaches	Teacher Training	Register by Tue, 1/27
Wednesday, Feb. 11	Learning Carnival 3-4	In-Person	Register by Wed, 1/21
Tuesday, Feb. 24	Workshop on the Arts: Day 1	In-Person	Register by Fri, 2/6
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Workshop on the Arts: Day 2	In-Person	Required with Day 1
Thursday, Mar. 12	Spelling Bee 3-5	In-Person	Register by Mon, 3/2
Wednesday, Mar. 18	Jr. Model UN	In-Person	Register by Fri, 10/24
Tuesday, Mar. 24	Poster Contest: Interior Design	Virtual	Register by Mon, 2/9
Wednesday, Apr. 22	Learning Carnival 5-6	In-Person	Register by Wed, 4/1
Friday, Apr. 24	STEAM Machines	Virtual	Register by Mon, 4/13
Wednesday, Apr. 29	Chess Tournament*	In-Person	Register by Mon, 4/13
Friday, May 1	Jr. Workshop on the Arts	Virtual	Register by Fri, 1/16
Sunday, May 3	Debate Judges	Teacher Training	Register by Mon, 4/27
Thursday, May 7	Debate Judges	Teacher Training	Register by Mon, 4/27
Monday, May 4	EdTalk Proposals	N.B.: Student nominations due by Wed, 1/14	
Wednesday, May 20	Debate Tournament	In-Person	Register by Fri, 5/8
Wednesday, Jun. 3	NJCGTP End of Year	Teacher Meeting	Register by Wed, 5/27
Thursday, Jun. 4	EdTalk: Future of STEM	In-Person	Invitation Only
Friday, Jun. 5	EdTalk: Humanities Happenings	In-Person	Invitation Only

*Space permitting, Chess 3-5 & 6-8 will run simultaneously; otherwise, Chess 3-5 will occur on Wed, May 6.

Event Details

Below are the details for each of the events we offer, both for district staff and for students.

We **highly** recommend reviewing each event and putting in the paperwork for everything you hope to do (including professional development!) at the beginning of the year.

Welcome to NJCGTP 25-26

Teacher Meeting

Friday, Sept. 19

Event Organizer: New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*The kickoff educator- and administrator-facing event for the consortium provides our first set of event training and professional development sessions, previews student-facing offerings for the year, and delivers interactive discussion on the state of G&T in New Jersey. **Professional development hours will be awarded. Programming details will become available on Sept. 1st.***

Registration Closes: Friday, September 12

Cost: FREE!

Do You Want to Build...

Virtual (K - 6)

Launch Sept. 19

Event Organizer: Emily Thompson

*The Do You Want to Build... mystery challenge marries students' creative and technical talents through a grade-level appropriate prompt that requires students to consider both how to craft their mystery build piece and what to include in their filmed presentation explaining their creation. **Students will submit their finished videos by Friday, December 19 to be judged and considered for a prize in the K-2, 3-4, or 5-6 grade bands.***

Registration Closes: Monday, December 1

Cost: \$100 for up to FIVE (5) submissions, \$150 for up to TEN (10)

STEAM Machines

Virtual (5 - 8)

Launch Sept. 19

Event Organizer: Matt Hales

*In this competitive event, student teams are challenged to create a machine out of unconventional materials that will perform a simple task. Though each machine needs to meet certain parameters, students should lean into their creative spark and the spirit of hilarious invention. **To be judged and considered for a prize in the 5-6 or 7-8 grade band, students will submit their finished videos by Friday, April 24.***

Registration Closes: Monday, April 13

Cost: \$150 for up to TEN (10) submissions

Debate Coaches Training

Teacher Training

Thursday, Oct. 16

Event Organizer: Roberta Foster

4 pm - 5:30 pm

This workshop provides detailed information, lesson plans, and practical tips to teachers who wish to start a debate program and/or compete in the Consortium's Debate in May. The debate competition is for students in grades 5-8; however, teachers outside of this grade band are welcome. This training is repeated in February.

Professional development hours will be awarded.

Registration Closes: Thursday, October 9

Cost: FREE!

Fall Scavenger Hunt

Virtual (K - 8)

Launch Oct. 20

Event Organizer: Lenore Argen

*This autumn-themed scavenger hunt encourages students to become more familiar with and aware of the natural world. Enjoy a nature walk around your school grounds, have students explore as a team in a local park or nature trail, or plan for students to forage in their own backyards. Entries will be judged on accuracy, creative methods of display, and the unique location of students' finds. **Separate prizes will be awarded to students in the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade bands who submit by December 12.***

Registration Closes: Friday, October 3

Cost: \$60 per team submission (maximum of 8 students per team)

Math Marathon

In-Person (3-5)

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Event Organizer: Pati Link

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Math Marathons give students gifted in the area of mathematics an opportunity to experience and learn challenging, new math concepts. Math specialists present hands-on workshops in three rounds during the course of a morning. The binary system probability and Trachtenberg addition are among the many hands-on topics that have been offered over the years.

Registration Closes: Monday, November 3

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

STEM/STEAM Adventures

In-Person (2-3)

Thursday, Dec. 4

Event Organizer: Trish Fagan

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Students involved with STEM/STEAM Adventures will challenge themselves while working together in groups to explore different activities relating to technology, engineering and mathematics. They will help each other as they must follow directions, utilize trial and error, and test their creations for strength and stability.

Registration Closes: Friday, November 21

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

Public Speaking Symposium

In-Person (5-8)

Friday, Jan. 9

Event Organizer: Lenore Argen

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Forensics Public Speaking Symposium is designed to introduce your students to Forensics Public Speaking Events and encourage speaking with expression and confidence. Students will engage with the performance style used for three different events: Oral Interpretation/Interpretive Reading, Declamation, and Duo.

Registration Closes: Friday, December 19

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

Jr. Workshop on the Arts

Virtual (3 - 5)

Launch Jan. 20

Event Organizer: Emily Thompson

*Upper elementary students are invited to showcase their theatrical, musical, and artistic talents in this virtual competition. Students will be given a specific scenario or challenge with detailed requirements and instruction and may enter as dancers, vocalists, instrumentalists, designers, or actors. **Prizes will be awarded to students in these five (5) categories: drama, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, and set/costume design.***

Registration Closes: Friday, January 16

Cost: \$100 for up to FIVE (5) submissions, \$150 for up to TEN (10)

Spelling Bee

In-Person (6-8)

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Event Organizer: Linda Marton

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Spelling bees afford students an opportunity to showcase their excellent knowledge of spelling rules and exceptions, as well as a mastery of phonics. After competing against excellent spellers from many schools, the first-place finalist for each grade band wins a savings bond and trophy. Other top spellers earn trophies; all participants receive ribbons.

Registration Closes: Monday, January 12

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

NJCGTP Sharing Meeting

Teacher Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 29

Event Organizer: New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*This Sharing Meeting is one of our most successful teacher-focused events as it reenergizes veteran G & T teachers and provides new teachers with a plethora of information — including best practices, free resources, and turn-key lesson plans. **Professional development hours will be awarded. Programming details will be released closer to the date.***

Registration Closes: Thursday, January 22

Cost: FREE!

Debate Coaches Training

Teacher Training

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Event Organizer: Roberta Foster

4 pm - 5:30 pm

*This workshop provides detailed information, lesson plans, and practical tips to teachers who wish to start a debate program and/or compete in the Consortium's Debate in May. The debate competition is for students in grades 5-8; however, teachers outside of this grade band are welcome. This training is a repeat of the training given in October. **Professional development hours will be awarded.***

Registration Closes: Tuesday, January 27

Cost: FREE!

Poster Contest: Interior Design

Virtual (K - 8)

Launch Feb. 10

Event Organizer: Diane McCormack

*For this virtual competition, students in each of the three grade bands will receive a theme for their poster designs. Students will create and submit posters, as well as a brief description of their work, that aligns with their grade-level topic. Posters will be judged on artistic merit, clever adherence to the theme, and creativity. Superheroes, autobiography advertisements, and pandemic-related topics are some of the themes offered in the past. **Prizes will be awarded to students in the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade bands who submit by March 24.***

Registration Closes: Monday, February 9

Cost: \$100 for up to FIVE (5) submissions, \$150 for up to TEN (10)

Learning Carnival

In-Person (3-4)

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Event Organizer: Barbara Platz

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Learning Carnival provides an opportunity for gifted students in the upper elementary grades to broaden their interests. Numerous presenters facilitate challenging, hands-on workshops in areas or dimensions new to attendees, repeating them in three rounds over the course of a morning. Over the years, offerings have included engineering challenges; theatre, dance, and music; science, math, and critical thinking classes; and advertising.

Registration Closes: Wednesday, January 21

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

Workshop on the Arts

In-Person (6-8)

Tuesday, Feb. 24 & Wednesday, Feb. 25

Event Organizer: Susan Vigilante

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Workshop on the Arts is a two-day event in art, vocal music, instrumental music, dance, drama, and creative writing. Students choose two of the six art areas in which to interact with professionals from the entertainment community in sixty-minute workshops. On the second day, students present their interpretation of a given scenario. **Both days are required.***

Registration Closes: Friday, February 6

Cost: \$70 per participant (maximum of 12 students per district)

Spelling Bee

In-Person (3-5)

Thursday, Mar. 12

Event Organizer: Linda Marton

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Spelling bees afford students an opportunity to showcase their excellent knowledge of spelling rules and exceptions, as well as a mastery of phonics. After competing against excellent spellers from many schools, the first-place finalist for each grade band wins a savings bond and trophy. Other top spellers earn trophies; all participants receive ribbons.

Registration Closes: Monday, March 2

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

Jr. Model United Nations

In-Person (7-8)

Wednesday, Mar. 18

Event Organizer: Alex Lefkovits

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Students form delegations each of which consists of two or three persons and represents a member nation of the United Nations. Delegates research the history and geography of their member nation, address major world issues from the perspective of that nation, and develop position papers to guide their negotiations with fellow delegates in their assigned Jr. Model UN committee sessions. After delegates finalize their committee's resolution, they return to the General Assembly to discuss, debate, amend, and ratify or reject the proposed resolutions.

Registration Closes: Friday, October 24

Cost: \$100 per delegation or part thereof (maximum of 3 students per delegation)

Learning Carnival

In-Person (5-6)

Wednesday, Apr. 22

Event Organizer: Barbara Platz

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Learning Carnival provides an opportunity for gifted students in the upper elementary grades to broaden their interests. Numerous presenters facilitate challenging, hands-on workshops in areas or dimensions new to attendees, repeating them in three rounds over the course of a morning. Over the years, offerings have included engineering challenges; theatre, dance, and music; science, math, and critical thinking classes; and advertising.

Registration Closes: Wednesday, Apr. 1

Cost: \$35 per participant (maximum of 15 students per district)

Chess Tournament

In-Person (3-5, 6-8)

Wednesday, Apr. 29

Event Organizer: Barbara Platz, Diana Wisniewski

4 pm - 7 pm

*In the "Game of Kings," students combine a propensity for strategy with an understanding of the rules of chess to find victory in this challenging competition. Students in grades 3 to 5 will be judged and awarded separately from students in grade 6 to 8. **Please note the tournaments for both grade bands will run simultaneously; however, if enrollment exceeds available space, the tournament for grades 3-5 will occur on Wednesday, May 6.***

Registration Closes: Monday, Apr. 13

Cost: \$15 per participant (maximum of 24 students per district)

Debate Judges Training

Teacher Training

Sunday, May 3 OR Thursday, May 7

Event Organizer: Roberta Foster

4 pm - 5:30 pm

*This workshop will give detailed information and practical tips for those intending to be a judge for the Consortium's Morris Area Debate in May. The debate competition is for students in grades 5-8; however, teachers outside of this grade band are welcome. **This training is required for all first time judges.** Professional development hours will be awarded.*

Registration Closes: Monday, April 27

Cost: FREE!

Debate Tournament

In-Person (5-8)

Wednesday, May 20

Event Organizer: Roberta Foster

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The most challenging level of public speaking offered, the NJCGTP debate format asks students to research, prepare, and present timed speeches and rebuttals in support of or against a given controversial topic. Many high-level skills are necessary: researching, assessing sources, thinking and listening critically, writing persuasively, editing, developing strong oratory, and speaking extemporaneously. A coaches' training workshop is offered once in October and once in February to explain the debate's format and to offer lesson plans to prepare students for the May tournament; judges' training workshops are offered twice in May. Each district may send up to two JV teams (Grades 5-6) and two Varsity teams (Grades 7-8), with each team consisting of two Affirmative speakers, two Negative speakers, and one timer who also functions as an alternate. Coaches must also bring one trained judge per team to the tournament. Top Affirmative and Negative teams win trophies. Winning teams at both the JV and Varsity levels earn plaques for their schools.

Registration Closes: Friday, May 8

Cost: \$100 per team of 5 (maximum of 4 teams per district)

NJCGTP End of Year

Teacher Meeting

Wednesday, Jun. 3

Event Organizer: New Jersey Consortium for Gifted and Talented Programs

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*At the final meeting of the year, we deliver trainings and a keynote presentation on salient topics in education, reflect on the year's events, and engage in interactive discussion on the most pressing issues facing educators, particularly in the gifted and talented sector. Professional development hours will be awarded. **Programming details will be released closer to the date.***

Registration Closes: Wednesday, May 27

Cost: FREE!

EdTalk: Future of STEM

In-Person (9-12)

Thursday, Jun 4

Event Organizer: Alexandria Lefkovits

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

*Debuting in the 2025-2026 academic year, the NJCGTP offers high school-aged gifted students the opportunity to show off their work in STEM. High school faculty or guidance counselors may nominate two (2) outstanding students in the field. **Nominations must be received by January 14.** Nominated students will then be invited to submit EdTalk presentation proposals; those with the strongest proposals will be selected to present live, and the top three (3) presenters will receive a monetary prize and award.*

Proposal Presentation Submission Deadline: Monday, May 4

Cost: FREE!

EdTalk: Humanities Happenings

In-Person (9-12)

Friday, Jun 5

Event Organizer: Alexandria Lefkovits

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

*Debuting in the 2025-2026 academic year, the NJCGTP offers high school-aged gifted students the opportunity to show off their work in the humanities. High school faculty or guidance counselors may nominate two (2) outstanding students in the field. **Nominations must be received by January 14.** Nominated students will then be invited to submit EdTalk presentation proposals; those with the strongest proposals will be selected to present live, and the top three (3) presenters will receive a monetary prize and award.*

Proposal Presentation Submission Deadline: Monday, May 4

Cost: FREE!

