

# **Student Astronaut Challenge 2019 Run-off Competition General Rules and Procedures**

## **Mission Statement**

The Student Astronaut Challenge is an open, nonprofit event that is dedicated to providing schools with the ability to foster interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This contest promotes creativity, teamwork, the understanding and application of STEM subjects, and the sharing of ideas.

## **Run-off Competition**

The Run-off Competition will consist of a 100 multiple-choice-question test based on the Student Astronaut Challenge 2018/2019 Student Manual. Students will compete as a five-person team, each individually taking a different version of the test and then the team score will be calculated as the average score of the team members.

The 2018/2019 student textbook can be found in the [Run-off Information](#) and the [Reference Material](#)>[Run-Off Competition](#) sections on the Student Astronaut Challenge website:  
[www.studentastronautchallenge.com](http://www.studentastronautchallenge.com)

Fifteen teams will be selected to participate in the high school finals competition (grades 9-12) and 15 teams will be selected to participate in the middle school (grades 6-8) finals competition held at the Kennedy Space Center in February. Twelve teams will be selected for each competition based on their score in the Run-off Competition regardless of location. The remaining three “wildcard” teams for each competition will be selected by the Astronaut Challenge Competition Committee based on a combination of their scores and geographic location. The Astronaut Challenge maintains a policy of ONLY accepting one team from each school which includes the three “wildcard” slots.

In the finals, competition teams will compete in events that focus on the demonstration of knowledge and understanding of the field of aerospace science as well as problem-solving skills and performance within a space shuttle flight simulator.

## **Eligibility and Teams**

This competition was developed for middle and secondary educational institutions. Any high school and middle school may enter this competition whether they are public, charter or private. This competition is open to any school that wishes to participate. Applications from Homeschool teams or club-based teams are reviewed and approved on a case by case basis by the Competition Committee.

All run-off teams are limited to five members. All five members must be present to test on the day of the Run-off Competition. If a team member is not present, the remaining team members may test, but the missing member will be assigned a grade of zero for the team average.

All members of the team must be attending the school they represent. Although each team is restricted to five members, it is recommended that each team have an alternate available in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

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## Multiple Entries

There is no restriction on the number of teams that may register for the Run-off Competition from any single school. The more teams that test from any individual school, the better chance a school has in participating in the Finals competition. Each team must pay a separate registration fee for the Run-off Competition.

## Registration

Registration for the Student Astronaut Challenge Run-off Competition is available only online through the contest website and is open from 12:01 a.m. on August 5, 2019 through 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2019. To register:

1. Go to the Student Astronaut Challenge website and access the Run-off Registration page.
2. Fill in all the required information; **ensure** your contact e-mail address is correct.
3. Make sure you register for either the High School or Middle School competition.
4. Make sure you register for the appropriate location you will be testing in.
5. The contact person provided on the form will receive an email confirmation of your successful pre-registration within three days.
6. **ALL teams must pay on the website using a credit or debit card.** The Astronaut Challenge will **no longer** accept checks or purchase orders from schools.
7. The contact person provided on the form will receive an email confirmation of your successful registration once your registration fee has been received.

For further details, check the Student Astronaut Challenge website: [studentastronautchallenge.com](http://studentastronautchallenge.com)

## Registration Deadline

You must register for the contest between 12:01 a.m. on August 5, 2019, and 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2019; otherwise your team will not be in the Run-off Competition. There are **NO** exceptions. Therefore, we recommend you register early! The Astronaut Challenge will **NO LONGER** accept registration at the testing site on the day of the test.

## Fees

A non-refundable registration fee of \$50.00 is required for each team entered in the Run-off Competition. For the Georgia testing date, the fee must be received no later than Sunday, September 15, 2019. For the Florida testing date, the fee must be received no later than Wednesday, September 18, 2019. If you want to enter more than one team, you may combine the Run-off Competition registration fees. Fees must be paid online. Remember registration fees are non-refundable.

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## Testing Dates and Locations

This year's Run-off Competition will occur on September 21, 2019 for the Florida testing sites and on September 17, 2019 for the Georgia testing site. All members of each team must test at the same location. Teams may test at any of the Run-off Competition testing sites listed on the web site (see the [Run-off Information](#) or the [Reference Material>Run-Off Competition](#) section).

## Test Scoring and Results

Each team's Run-off Competition score will be calculated as the average score of the five team members. Any missing member will be assigned a score of zero which will be calculated into the team average.

All tests will use a "Scantron" style answer form and will be electronically graded. The test will begin promptly at 9:00 AM (5:00PM for the Georgia site) and students will be required to bring a number 2 pencil. Students will be given 60 minutes to take the exam. Since this is a voluntary competition, additional exam time will not be permitted for any reason, and no modifications can be provided for testing. No reference material or electronic devices will be permitted at the Run-off Competition testing site, and no calculators will be needed.

After each team is scored, they will be ranked according to their average composite score. Only one team, from any single school, may qualify for the Finals Competition. The final ranking for the Run-off Competition will be posted on the Astronaut Challenge website: [studentastronautchallenge.com](http://studentastronautchallenge.com)

The Student Astronaut Challenge **DOES NOT** publish scores or provide feedback on individual student/team performance. Please **DO NOT** contact the competition staff requesting this information; no exceptions will be made. After all test scores are verified, all tests are kept on file for fourteen days and then immediately destroyed. Only authorized Student Astronaut Challenge staff members are permitted to view completed testing material. By participating in the Run-off Competition, all teams accept and agree to abide by all the rules and guidelines established by the Student Astronaut Challenge competition.