



26-27 HS Rulebook

High School Unique to Texas Projects

High School Unique to Texas Projects (UTE-Projects) are events that are unique to the state of Texas and can be competed at the regional and state level.

Projects can be completed either individually or as a team. When registering the project for the Regional Competition, the project will be registered to one student of a team.

Regions may enter up to 5 projects for each UTE-Project event.

If students ONLY have events in this category, they may register as a virtual competitor and attendance is not required.

Students are responsible for reviewing and following the general rules and guidelines established in the:

- General Rules and Regulations
- Copyright Policy
- Student Uniqueness of Work Policy/AI Policy
- Required Documentation

These rules and requirements may be modified at the regional levels to accommodate for space and time constraints, check with your region for more details.

IMPORTANT - Ignorance of the rules and/or misunderstanding of the rules as run at the state conference is not an excuse for a protest or additional consideration.

Graphic Arts, Multimedia, Computer Science and Photography

These events are designed for students using technology to produce graphics, photos, and programs to be used in a variety of ways. All projects must include the required documentation and refer to the High School Event Guidelines for submission directions.

Section 2.0 Graphic Design

Items in this section involve student created projects in which students design elements (such as typography and images) to convey information or create an effect. Projects are limited to 8 ½" x 11" unless otherwise stated in the category details.

For project submission it is recommended that projects are placed in the same clear front portfolio cover as the documentation. For projects such as a t-shirt, place the project and portfolio in a 1 gallon ziplock bag.

Copyright names and images cannot be used. All graphics and pictures must be original work of the student. Use of AI applications are prohibited. Use of Copyrighted information or AI will result in disqualification of entry.

Documentation for these events must include:

- Texas TSA Documentation form
- Additional items as identified in the different sections.

Business Documents

Event	Details	Event #
Business Cards	Provide (4) different design options on 8.5" x 11" paper. Choose (1) Final Design and provide a cardstock version not to exceed 3.5"x3.5". Standard business cards are 3.5"x2".	HP20000
Certificate	Certificate must include Type of Certificate, Reason for Certification, Certificate Recipient, and Certificate Presenter.	HP20001
Flyer - Single Sheet	Provide a printed informational sheet for an event. Example - promotional handout for a benefit concert, CTSO fundraiser, car show, etc.	HP20002
Letterhead	Must include Company Name, Logo, Phone Number, Address, and any other business information.	HP20003
Calendar - Single Sheet	All 12 months on one sheet with a minimum of one picture or image. Size not to exceed 12"x18".	HP20004
Calendar - Multiple Sheets	All 12 months bound using a binding method. Size not to exceed 12"x18".	HP20005
Folded Handout - Any Number of Printed Panels	Max paper size is 8.5 x 11. May include: invitations, greeting cards, menus, etc.	HP20006
Thematic Poster 12 x 18 max size	Must follow the yearly conference theme set by Texas TSA	HP20007
Thematic Portfolio to Promote a Business	Must include letterhead, business card, and flyer (Letterhead, Business Card and Flyer cannot be separately entered in any another category).	HP20008

Safety Poster	A poster designed to display a safety measure related to a specific workplace or classroom procedure. Size not to exceed 18"x24".	HP20009
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Publications

Event	Details	Event #
Bound Multiple Page Document	Instructional manual, memory book, course description, student handbook, etc. that is bound on one edge	HP20100
Yearbook Layout	Student produced single page spread covering school athletics, club organization, or campus event.	HP20101
Newsletter	Must include text wrapping images or graphics on a single sheet.	HP20102
Magazine Layout	Single Page must be submitted on 8.5 x 11 page. All photos and stories must be original work of the student.	HP20103

Marketing

Event	Details	Event #
Product Label	Example could be a soup can label. To avoid copyright issues, use an imaginary product.	HP20200
Product Packaging	Provide packaging for a retail product. Example - Electronic box, toy, or wrapper. To avoid copyright issues, use an imaginary product.	HP20201
Sticker Decal	Provide one final product sticker.	HP20202
Computer Image Transfer	Product Graphic Printing entries must include one printed product in order to judge quality along with content, composition and overall effect. Can Include TSA Club T-Shirt. Product must be in a maximum of 2 gallon Ziploc style clear bag with documentation.	HP20203
Sublimation	Product Graphic Printing entries must include one printed product in order to judge quality along with content, composition and overall effect. Can Include TSA Club T-Shirt. Product must be in a maximum of 2 gallon Ziploc style clear bag with documentation.	HP20204
Screen Print Communication	Should Advertise a Product, Place Or Upcoming Event. Can Include TSA Club T-Shirt (Commercial and Non-Commercial Screen Printing Allowed)	HP20205
Product Advertisement	Provide a printed advertisement for a retail product. Example - ad in a newspaper or magazine. Photos of real products may be used in the graphic design if cited correctly But all photos and graphics must be original student work.	HP20206

Section 2.1 Multimedia

Items in this section involve student created projects in which students used multimedia & animation technology to create 2D and 3D projects.

Documentation for these events should include:

- Texas TSA Documentation form
- Additional items as identified in the different sections.

Presentations

Entries must include two or more communication methods which include video, audio graphics, and animation. Use of AI in the creation of the presentation is prohibited. Use of AI will result in disqualification of the entry. Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- 1 page clearly describing the two different communication methods and why they were selected to enhance the presentation.

Event	Details	Event #
Computer Generated Presentation 1-10 slides		HP21000
Computer Generated Presentation 11-20 slides		HP21001

Audio Editing

Event	Details	Event #
Audio Editing - 30 sec max	Must supply original/finished copy	HP21100
Audio Editing - 2 min max	Must supply original/finished copy	HP21101

Video Editing

Student names may be present in credits

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- A storyboard and/or script

Event	Details	Event #
Video Editing - Video Commercial 15 sec precisely		HP21200
Video Editing - Video Commercial 30 sec precisely		HP21201
Video Editing - Video Commercial 60 sec precisely		HP21202
Video Editing - Video with Special Effects 30 sec precisely		HP21203
Video Editing - Video with Special Effects 60 sec precisely		HP21204
Video Editing - Video Promo/Instructional/Demo - 3 min max		HP21206

Video Editing - Video Album - 3 min max		HP21207
Video Editing - Video Newscast - 2 min max		HP21208
Video Editing - Original Short Film - 3 min max		HP21209
Video Editing - Original Musical with Original Student Music - 3 min max		HP21210
Video Editing - Video footage only	This is editing of footage only, no sound, titles, or special effects	HP21211
Video Editing - Drone Videography 60 sec max		HP21212

Computer Generated Graphic

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- Sketches or thumbnails detailing the development of the images

Event	Details	Event #
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Cover Art	This would include the cover for a book, album, or magazine. Single page only	HP21300
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Original Character Turn Around Sheet		HP21301
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Original Landscape, Abstract, or Still Life (B/W)		HP21302
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Original Landscape, Abstract, or Still Life (Color)		HP21303
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Original 3D Sci-Fi Image		HP21304
Computer Generated Graphic Art- Original 3D Other Than Sci-Fi Image		HP21305
Computer Generated Graphic Art - Desktop Wallpaper		HP21306

2D Animation

Student names may be present in credits

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- A storyboard and/or script

Event	Details	Event #
2D Animation - Animatic 60 sec max	This is a line drawing animation - not filled in Should tell a story	HP21400
2D Animation - Story Based Animation 15 sec max		HP21401

2D Animation - Story Based Animation 30 sec max	Should tell a story	HP21402
2D Animation - Story Based Animation 60 sec max	Should tell a story	HP21403
2D Animation - Story Based Animation 3 min max	Should tell a story	HP21404
2D Animation - Commercial 30 sec precisely	An animation to advertise a product, business or event	HP21405
2D Animation - Introduction 60 sec max		HP21406
2D Animation - Stop Motion 30 sec max		HP21407

3D Animation

Student names may be present in credits
 Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- A storyboard and/or script

Event	Details	Event #
3D Animation - Story Based Animation 15 sec max	Should tell a story	HP21501
3D Animation - Story Based Animation 30 sec max	Should tell a story	HP21502
3D Animation - Story Based Animation 60 sec max	Should tell a story	HP21503
3D Animation - Story Based Animation 3 min max	Should tell a story	HP21504
3D Animated Commercial - 30 sec precisely	An animation to advertise a product, business or event.	HP21505
3D Animation - Introduction - 60 sec max		HP21506

Section 2.2 Computer Science

Items in this section involve student created projects in which students design, develop, and document original software applications. Projects may include desktop, web, or mobile applications.

- Definitions:
- Annotated Code - source code that includes extra descriptive notes that allows future developers to understand the purpose and logic of the code.
 - Flow Chart - A visual diagram that maps out the step by step logic, workflow, or algorithm of a program.

Documentation for these events must include:

- Texas TSA Document form
- Additional items as identified in the different sections.

Web Design

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- A flowchart or road map detailing the development of the site

Event	Details	Event #
Webpage Design - Individual Webpage	Student name is permitted in this event.	HP22000
Webpage Design - School Related Webpage	School names, mascot and logos are permitted in this event.	HP22001
Webpage Design - Commercial Related Webpage	All graphics and pictures must be original work of the student.	HP22002

Video Game Design

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- Annotated code of the game
- URL link to a video of the game being played not to exceed 1 minute in length

Event	Details	Event #
Video Game 2D	The game should be web based and not require running an executable file to run. Project will be submitted as a URL	HP22100
Video Game 3D	The game should be web based and not require running an executable file to run. Project will be submitted as a URL	HP22101

Programming

Project Documentation must also include the following items:

- Flowchart detailing the planning of the program
- Annotated code of the program

Event	Details	Event #
Program with text-based interface	A video (Max 2 minutes) demonstrating how the program operates will be submitted for the project	HP22200
Program with graphical user interface	A video (Max 2 minutes) demonstrating how the program operates will be submitted for the project	HP22201
Program made with a drag and drop language	Students must submit: 1) A URL link to a video of the program running not to exceed 1 minute in length. 2) The code in PDF for the program.	HP22202

Section 2.3 Photography

Items in this section involve students demonstrating mastery of camera operations, composition, lighting, and post-production photo editing techniques to create images that capture a moment in time. Students may use a traditional film camera, digital camera or phone camera.

Students must submit both the original (unaltered/raw) photo and the final edited photo.

Allowed Photo Edits:

- Post-click editing, color adjustments, white balance, contrast, exposure, cropping, sharpening, and stylistic edits (such as color-to-black-and-white conversion or filter adjustments) are permitted.
- Students are encouraged to use editing software to enhance lighting, focus, and artistic composition.

Photography Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policies:

Allowed AI Use: AI-assisted editing tools may only be used to remove or delete items from a photo (e.g., content-aware spot healing, object removal, background object deletion).

Prohibited AI Use: AI cannot be used to generate, add, or insert new photographic elements or subjects into an image. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Generative Fills (adding elements via text prompts or AI generation)
- Generative background replacement or sky replacement generated by AI
- Text-to-image or image-to-image AI extensions

Any entry utilizing AI to generate new visual elements or objects will be disqualified.

Originality & Copyright:

All photograph submissions must be captured entirely by the student entrant.

Copyrighted graphics, logos, or stock imagery cannot be composite-edited into the photo.

Documentation for these events must include:

- Texas TSA Document form
- Both the original (unaltered/raw) photo and the final edited photo

Advertising

Event	Details	Event #
Advertising - Fashion (Color)	Featuring clothing, other fashion items/accessories, makeup or styling in color.	HP23000
Advertising - Fashion (B/W)	Featuring clothing, other fashion items/accessories, makeup or styling in black and white.	HP23001
Advertising - Food	Photography featuring food for the purpose of advertisement. This is for the photograph only.	HP23002
Advertising - Product	Images that accurately and attractively represent products for commercial purposes	HP23003

Architecture

Event	Details	Event #
Architecture - Aerial/Drone	Photographs taken from an aircraft, with a drone, or other flying object, either by hand or remotely	HP23100
Architecture - Bridges	Images of bridges, arches, piers, or other similar structures or parts thereof	HP23101
Architecture - Buildings	Photographs featuring buildings and structures, or any aspects of a building's architectural features. This category is for residential and commercial buildings. Architectural elements such as doors, windows, steps, etc. are allowed to be the subject	HP23102
Architecture - Cityscapes	The physical aspects of a city or urban area.	HP23103
Architecture - Industrial	Buildings and structures serving commerce and/or industry such as a factory or warehouse. Other examples could include inside of a manufacturing plant, oil drilling, refineries, or production assembly.	HP23104
Architecture - Interior	Photographs of the interior spaces focusing on the use of colors, textures, patterns and layouts.	HP23105
Architecture - Street Art (Includes Graffiti)	Photography conducted for art or inquiry that features unmediated chance encounters and random incidents within public places, usually with the aim of capturing images at a decisive or poignant moment by careful framing and timing. Street Art can also include graffiti on buildings.	HP23106

Event

Event	Details	Event #
Event - Social Cause	Photographs covering events focused around social issues and causes. Examples could include cancer walks, political demonstrations, or charity ball.	HP23200
Event - Life Events	Images featuring people and activities capturing a life moment such as a wedding ceremony, birthday celebrations or traditions.	HP23201
Events - Live Entertainment	Photographs that could include music concerts or similar live events.	HP23202

Nature

Event	Details	Event #
Nature - Aerial/Drone	Photographs taken from an aircraft, with a drone, or other flying object, either by hand or remotely to capture an element of nature.	HP23300

Nature - Animal/Pet (Color)	Photographs featuring domesticated animals, including animals kept on a farm, in a zoo, or anywhere outside their natural habitat. This photo is in color.	HP23301
Nature - Animal/Pet (B/W)	Photographs featuring domesticated animals, including animals kept on a farm, in a zoo, or anywhere outside their natural habitat. This photo is in black and white.	HP23302
Nature - Astrophotography	Photographs of astronomical objects, celestial events, and areas of the night sky (landscapes with astronomical objects are included).	HP23303
Nature - Flowers	Photographs where the main subject is floral in any form.	HP23304
Nature - Landscape (Color)	Photographs that capture elements of nature and the natural features of land, sky and water. Photographs of artificial scenery, such as farm fields, orchards and gardens, can be entered here as well. This category is for color photographs.	HP23305
Nature - Landscape (B/W)	Photographs that capture elements of nature and the natural features of land, sky and water. Photographs of artificial scenery, such as farm fields, orchards and gardens, can be entered here as well. This category is for black and white photographs.	HP23306
Nature - Macro	Macro photography is extreme close-up photography, usually of very small subjects and living organisms like insects, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is greater than life-size.	HP23307
Nature - Seasons	Images with a focus on the natural seasons and their effect on nature. An example could be a field of fresh snow.	HP23308
Nature - Sunrise/Sunset	Photographs showing the rich colors and dramatic lighting of the sunrise or sunset.	HP23309
Nature - Trees	Photography focusing on the subject of trees and forestry.	HP23310
Nature - Wildlife	Photographs documenting animals and other wildlife in their natural habitat (NOTE: animals NOT in their natural habitat, such as farm animals or those kept in a zoo, should be entered in the "Animal/Pets" category).	HP23311

Panoramic

Event	Details	Event #
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Panoramic - Horizontal	A type of photography with elongated horizontal fields of view.	HP23400
Panoramic - Vertical	A type of photography with elongated vertical fields of view.	HP23401

People

Event	Details	Event #
People - Children	Photographs capturing the essence of children and youth in a spontaneous moment.	HP23500
People - Culture	A single image that tell a story about a people and their culture or traditions.	HP23501
People - Family	Photograph highlighting family and what it means to the photographer.	HP23502
People - Newborn/Baby	Photographs of newborns, babies, and/or toddlers.	HP23503
People - Portrait	Artistic images capturing the personality of a person or group of people in a staged setting.	HP23504
People - Self Portrait	Photographs representing the artist taken by the artist.	HP23505
People - Street Photography	Photographs that capture the essence of the urban lifestyle, random moments, real life, and chance encounters. These photographs capture candid moments on the streets of a city. People DO have to be present in the photograph.	HP23506

Photojournalism

Event	Details	Event #
Photojournalism - Single Photo	This category is for images usually meant to accompany text, illustrate a story, article, or an idea within the context of a publication, and can cover a wide range of subjects.	HP23600
Photojournalism - 2 or More Photos	This category is for images usually meant to accompany text, illustrate a story, article, or an idea within the context of a publication, and can cover a wide range of subjects.	HP23601
Photojournalism - Travel Collage	This category is for images usually meant to accompany text, illustrate a story, article, or an idea within the context of a publication, and can cover a wide range of subjects. Limited to one 8 1/2"x11" sheet.	HP23602

Photomanipulation

Event	Details	Event #
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Photomanipulation - Background Manipulation	Photograph edits applied only to the background of an image that does not include focus subject matter.	HP23700
Photomanipulation - Subject Manipulation	Photograph edits applied only to the focus subject matter while leaving the background unchanged.	HP23701

Sports

Event	Details	Event #
Sports - Extreme Sports	Photographs documenting sports and recreational activities perceived as involving a high degree of risk.	HP23800
Sports - Motor Sports	Images covering competitive sporting events that primarily involve the use of motorized vehicles. An example could be a car or boat race.	HP23801
Sports - Indoor Individual/Team Sports	A photograph featuring any sport in which opposing Individuals/teams compete indoors to win. Some examples could be a basketball game, gymnastics meet, or volleyball match.	HP23802
Sports - Outdoor Individual/Team Sports	A photograph featuring any sport in which opposing Individuals/teams compete outdoors to win. Some examples include football game, track meet, or a baseball game.	HP23803

Transportation

Event	Details	Event #
Transportation - Automobile	A photograph where the focus of the subject is a car, truck, motorcycle, bus, etc.	HP23900
Transportation - Railway	A photograph where the focus of the subject uses a rail system to travel a distance such as trains and trolleys.	HP23901
Transportation - Nautical	A photograph where the focus of the subject uses water as a means of travel such as a sailboat, cruise ship, tug boat, or cargo ship.	HP23902
Transportation - Aerospace	A photograph where the focus of the subject uses air for their method of travel like an airplane, helicopter, space shuttle or glider.	HP23903