

FUTURE SCIENCE INNOVATORS COMPETITION



FORMED EST. 2025



# **FUTURE SCIENCE INNOVATORS COMPETITION**

**EVENT HANDBOOK**

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# OVERVIEW

## Purpose

The Future Science Innovators (FSI) competition empowers grade school students to combine knowledge across multiple scientific disciplines to address real-world medical or health-related issues. The goal is to nurture critical thinking, creativity, and evidence-based problem solving while sparking early interest in health sciences.

## Mission

To inspire future leaders in medicine and science by encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation grounded in research.



## KEY DATES & DEADLINES

Date	Milestone
March 31	Registration closes. All other interested must email <a href="mailto:information.formed@gmail.com">information.formed@gmail.com</a>
April 1	Link for submission will be emailed out to all participants and posted under new tab on website.
June 21	At midnight, the link for submission will close and no late submissions will be accepted after this point.
July 1	Announcement of semifinalists on the website. Individual students who move on will receive an email.
TBA	All semifinalists participate at in-person competition and presentation of their submission, followed by awards/

# ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM FORMATION

## Eligibility and Participation

Participation is open to all confirmed grade school students (5-12) who complete the individual registration forms by the stated deadline (March 31). This is an **individual event**. Group or team submissions will not be accepted.

Each participant competes independently and is responsible for all aspects of their project, including research, design, writing, and presentation materials.

A teacher, parent, or adult mentor is **recommended but not required**. Mentors may provide general guidance and feedback but *may not directly create or edit* competition submissions.

Participants registered for the competition are not affiliated with a school unless registered through an official ForMed chapter.

## REQUIRED COMPONENTS

### A. Video Presentation

- I. Length: Maximum of 4 minutes with a minimum of two minutes. Any submissions exceeding or underachieving this requirement will receive a point deduction of 20% for each 5 second increment.
- II. Format: The video must be downloaded as an MP4 file and submitted to the dropbox provided by the competition staff. Other file types will not be judged (if it can't be opened, it will not be graded).
- III. Content
  - i. The idea should be introduced clearly and concisely so that anyone can understand it.
  - ii. Explain the science behind your solution.
  - iii. Demonstrate creativity — visuals, animations, or storytelling encouraged.
  - iv. Must be the student's original work and images not created by the student should be referenced at the end (included in time limit)

# COMPETITION STAGES

- A. Registration & Orientation
  - I. The challenge guidelines will be available on the website on March 9. The theme will be on the website too.
  - II. Registration will open on February 1 and will run until March 31.
  - III. Preliminary materials will not be due and the dropbox will not be open for submission until registration has closed.
- B. Preliminary Round
  - I. Dropbox and submission instructions will be released on April 1 and will be due on June 21 at midnight.
  - II. The video must be submitted as a MP4 file to the dropbox required.
  - III. Any late submissions will not be accepted unless there are outstanding circumstances that need to be communicated with ForMed.
- C. Semifinalist Review
  - I. After the completion of the necessary materials, the semifinalists will be released on July 1. This date may be adjusted depending on the volume of entries received.
  - II. All semifinalists will be contacted individually to confirm their attendance and continued participation.
  - III. A standard rubric will be used to grade the preliminary submissions and no names and team details will be released to the judges.
  - IV. Each judge is a trusted arbiter and a professional. Their verdict will be final and non-negotiable.
  - V. Feedback will be distributed from the preliminary round to all participating teams.
- D. Final Round & Showcase
  - I. The final round will take place in-person on TBA at the designated venue.
  - II. Presentations and Q&A will take place during this time, in front of a panel of judges.
  - III. Names will not be released, but participants will be required to wear ID cards with a participant code.
- E. Awards
  - I. After deliberation by the judges, awards will be announced on the in-person event day. Top three winners will be recognized and special superlatives will be recognized as well.

# JUDGING CRITERIA

## Preliminary Round

Category	Points Possible	Description	Points
Understanding of theme and scientific principles.	25	The project submission demonstrates an accurate and interdisciplinary understanding of the theme. A specific sub-topic is chosen and clearly identified by the contestants.	
Innovation of solution	40	The submission demonstrates originality and integration of multiple scientific fields into a strong and innovative solution.	
Research Depth & Evidence	20	Scientific reasoning and sufficient amounts of research and evidence is provided to support the given solution. The rationale is clear and backed with depth and research.	
Feasibility of solution	30	The solution is feasible and the submission has shown a clear concept with methods to execute the idea and easily integrate it into society. Higher-order thinking is clearly shown in the submission.	
Presentation Quality of Video	40	The video is clear and shows the concept. It is made with good taste in mind and has many graphics and is visually appealing.	

Comments:

# JUDGING CRITERIA

## Semifinal Round

Category	Points Possible	Description	Points
Organization	10	The presentation is logical, well organized, and easy to follow. The problem and the solution is clearly communicated in a concise and organized manner.	
Articulation	10	Communication of the solution is clear, concise, and logical. Leadership skills are evident in the presentation.	
Delivery	20	Individual is well-spoken and contributes to the strength of the presentation through their posture, gestures, and eye contact. The delivery is polished and effective.	
Knowledge	30	Participant shows a clear understanding of the problem, scientific principles, their solution, and is able to quickly and properly answer questions.	

Comments:

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

After the final round, the scores from both the preliminary and final round will be added together. Students will be ranked in order from highest to lowest score, and the top three students will be announced. The first place student will be awarded the **ForMed Innovator Award**, the grand prize for most outstanding project, which comes with a \$300 grand prize. Below are more commendations that will be presented:

Award	Description
Scientific Excellence	Most rigorous research and incorporation of scientific fields.
Creative Concept	Most original or imaginative proposal.
Health Impact Award	Most promising for real-world benefit or medical application

# LOGISTICS AND OPERATIONS

## Event Format Options

- Virtual Submissions for early rounds
- Hybrid or In-Person Finals at designated host venue

## Staffing Roles

Event Director	Oversees all logistics and communications.
Judging Coordinator	Manages scoring, feedback, and judge training.
Mentor Coordinator	Schedules mentor support and virtual sessions.
Media Coordinator	Handles submissions, recordings, and social media updates.
Volunteer Team	Assists during event day and tech setup.

# COMMUNICATION

- A. Confirmation Email (Post-Registration):
  - a. Thank you for registering for the 2026 Future Science Innovators Competition! You are now officially part of this year's challenge: "The Technological Future of Health." Keep an eye out for upcoming orientation materials and submission links.
- B. Submission Reminder (Two Weeks Before Deadline):
  - a. Friendly reminder that all preliminary components — the theoretical proposal and 2-minute video — are due June 21. Late submissions cannot be accepted.
- C. Semifinalist Notification:
  - a. Congratulations! Your project has been selected as a semifinalist in the 2026 Future Science Innovators Competition. Please review attached details for your final presentation and interview schedule.

# SAMPLE EVENT SCHEDULE

8:00–8:30 AM – Registration & Setup

8:30–8:45 AM – Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:00 AM–12 PM – Final Presentations (5–7 mins each + Q&A)

12 PM–1 PM – Lunch Break

1 PM–1:45 PM – Keynote Talk: "Technology Transforming Medicine"

1:45 PM–2:00PM – Break

2:00–2:30 PM – Awards Ceremony & Closing