



The Mayor's K-12 Smart City Challenge

Inspired by the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan 

SA Smart 2024 COMPETITION OVERVIEW AND RULES

1. SA Smart opens with the Virtual Launch Announcement in October or November 2023, continues with the Launch Clinic in January or early February 2024, continues with pitch deck deliverables and selection of finalists, more mentoring, and Competition Day/Awards in late May 2024. See www.sa-smart.org/schedule for details.
2. The competition is open to students in grades 6 through 12.
3. The 2022 competition theme is *Environmental Quality*. The full challenge question is listed at www.sa-smart.org.
4. Throughout the competition, student teams progressively develop a pitch deck, proposing a solution to a specific and local environmental quality challenge. Student teams will submit a Proposal Pitch Deck and a Research Pitch Deck. Finalists will submit a Final Pitch Deck. Each submission adds slides to the prior version, with seven slides in the Final Pitch Deck. See the Pitch Deck Template and Pitch Deck and Research presentation at www.sa-smart.org/competition for details.
5. There will be two competition age groups, Middle School (Grades 6 to 8) and High School (Grades 9 to 12).
6. For each age group, one winning team will be awarded the Mayor's Smart City Cup. For each age group, 2nd Place and 3rd Place may be awarded based on the number of participants. Across both age groups, one team will receive the Hitish Nathani Resourcefulness Award. Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the SA Smart Steering Committee.
7. SA Smart is open to all schools in the San Antonio Metropolitan Service Area (MSA) and to organizations in the San Antonio MSA providing education services to students.
8. Registration is accepted by team, and each team may have between 4 and 6 students. Teams must be comprised of all middle school students, or all high school students, always between Grades 6 and 12. The adult sponsor must perform registration.
9. All teams require an adult sponsor approved by their school or organization.
10. Attendance at the Launch Clinic is mandatory. Exceptions may be made for externally mandated and unavoidable activities that involve all participating students. Exception requests must be made in writing to the SA Smart Steering Committee. That committee will determine if the exception will be granted. It is intended that exceptions will be rare.
11. Participation at Competition Day is mandatory to be eligible for awards. No exceptions can be granted.
12. The competition is scored as indicated in the scoring rubric below, with the full rubric at www.sa-smart.org/competition. The full rubric is the authoritative description of scoring.
13. Prior to the Launch Clinic, teams are encouraged to develop a *Proposal Pitch Deck* consisting of three slides: Problem, Solution, and a short narrative/rationale, and to bring that Proposal Pitch Deck to the Launch Clinic. Doing so will maximize a team's learning at the Launch Clinic. A Proposal Pitch Deck is not required to attend the Launch Clinic.
14. Teams are eliminated if they miss deliverable due dates as published at www.sa-smart.org/schedule. Exceptions may be made for externally mandated and unavoidable activities that involve all participating students. Exception requests must be made in writing to the SA Smart Steering Committee. That committee will determine if the exception will be granted. It is intended that exceptions will be rare.
15. The SA Smart Steering Committee will score the Research Pitch Decks based on the rubric. 12 teams total across middle and high school will be named as finalists and will be invited to *Competition Day* in late May. The distribution across middle and high school will reflect the relative number of registrants from those two brackets.
16. Finalists will engage with program mentors, with details to be determined case-by-case reflecting the needs of each team.
17. Judges will be announced before Competition Day and will follow the competition rules and score each team's presentation.
18. On Competition Day, finalists will deliver a 7-minute presentation with 5 minutes of Q&A. Q&A time may be adjusted based on the day's logistics and schedule.
19. Awards will be made on Competition Day as previously described.
20. The SA Smart Steering Committee will make determinations on any questions that arise during the competition. That committee is the final decision maker on issues that arise during the competition.



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Competition Schedule

See an overview of dates above. Detailed dates are published at www.sa-smart.org/schedule.

Scoring Rubric (Summarized)

Mentorship participation	20%
Each slide (Problem, Solution, ...)	40% (for all slides)
Pitch deck overall / story	10%
Verbal presentation	10%
Broad team participation	10%
Creative effort	10%

Full Scoring Rubric

Available at www.sa-smart.org/competition.

Additional Resources

Other resources are available for all teams at www.sa-smart.org/competition.