

STUDENT ECO PROGRAM COMPETITION OFFICIAL RULES

Eligibility. Subject to the additional restrictions below, the **STUDENT ECO PROGRAM COMPETITION** (the “Competition”) is open to legal U.S. residents who are full time students in grades 5-8 at a public or private school in New Jersey. ***Students must participate as teams composed of a minimum of 3 students and a maximum of 5 students (a “Student Team”).***

Sponsor: Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning

Donor: Panasonic Foundation

How to Enter: The Competition Entry Period will begin on January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (EST) and end on May 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. (EST). The Competition period will end on or about June 5, 2025 or the date judging is completed. Each Student Team, comprised of 3-5 students, must maintain a “final project document”. The project document must include specific details of the actions to protect the environment, undertaken by the Student Team, during the time period that the Student Eco Citizenship Program is maintained. The final project document must consist of the following criteria:

- Two-four pages
- Must be in English and typed
- Title of the project
- Each student’s first and last name on the team
- Teacher’s name
- City, State
- What did you learn in your research about the topic? (50-100 words)
- What was the project you did and what actions did you take to create solutions to the problem? (125-250 words)
- Two photos or illustrations (can be hand-drawn illustrations) of the actions your team conducted
- A graph, chart or infographic that reflects your outcomes
- Conclusion and reflection of what your team learned about the topic
- Ideas on how you can contribute to move the project forward

If a classroom has more than one team, each team's project must include different actions. However, the actions can be related to the same environmental topic as others in their class.

Each Student Eco Citizenship Program team’s teacher may submit five of their best entries per class and must complete the online form for each entry. Entries must be uploaded and submitted in PDF format through the competition link on the Program website at www.ecocitizenship.org All entries must be uploaded no later than May 9, 2025.

Sponsor will not be responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected, or illegible entries, or failure to receive entries by the stated deadlines. All entries become property of Sponsor and none will be returned.

Prizes and Odds.

14 student teams and their teacher will be chosen as winners.

Student Winners: \$50 gift card per student on the winning 14 teams, up to five students per team.










Winning team teachers: \$50 gift card per teacher

One student team and their teacher will be chosen as a Grand Prize Winner

Student Winners: \$100 gift card per student on the winning team, up to five students per team

Winning team teachers: \$100 gift card per teacher

Winner Selection. A panel of qualified judges, selected by Sponsor and Panasonic Foundation, will judge all eligible entries according to six (6) categories detailed below. The ratings scale for each category will range from one (1) to fifteen (15), with 15 being the best score. Fifteen (15) Student Teams will be selected as winners based on the highest cumulative scores. In the event of a tie, tied entries will be re-judged on the same criteria listed below. Decisions of judges and Sponsor shall be final and binding in all respects. Judging will be completed on or about June 5, 2025.

Category	Description	Points Earned
Research	Clearly and concisely describes the research and how it informed the decision for the project focus or problem to address.	 /15
Problem Statement and Solution	Clearly states the problem as a claim or belief with evidence supporting the claim.	 /10
	Describes a solution and how it was developed or designed based on careful consideration for its likelihood to successfully mitigate or solve the problem.	 /10
Action Taken	Clearly and articulately describes how the team carried out its action or solution as planned.	 /10
	Describes a creative and innovative approach to achieve positive results.	 /10
Outcomes/Results	Includes quantitative, qualitative data, and/or anecdotal information on project outcomes and how challenges were overcome.	 /15
	Includes longer-term environmental benefits or outcomes of the project.	 /5
Next Steps	Includes a thoughtful and clear plan for next steps.	 /10
Submission Format	Shows a creative and appropriate format for presenting the project.	 /15
	TOTAL POINTS	 /100

Winner Notification and Acceptance. The teachers of the winning Student Teams will be notified, by the Sponsor on Sponsor on or about June 6, 2025. Sponsor will contact the teachers of the Student Teams by phone at the number included with the entry form. Sponsor will call during regular business hours at the number provided on entry form. Failure to reach the respective teachers by phone, after 3 attempts, may result in disqualification of winners, forfeiture of their interest in all prizes, and selection of a substitute winner from among all remaining eligible entries. The teachers will be required to notify each of their winning students. Winners may waive their right to receive prizes. Prizes are non-assignable and non-transferable. No substitutions allowed by winner. Prizes and individual components of prize packages are subject to availability and Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal or greater value. Winners are solely responsible for reporting and payment of any taxes on prizes. Winners will be required to complete an affidavit of eligibility/liability certifying that the entrant's submission is entrant's original work, that entrant owns right to the work, that the submission has not previously won an award or prize in a competition and has not previously been published, and that entrant has complied with the Official Rules of the Competition, and a liability and publicity release (except where prohibited by law) which must be returned as instructed. Failure to sign and return the affidavit or release, or to comply with any term or condition of these Official Rules, may result in a winner's disqualification, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the prize, and the award of the prize to a substitute winner. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to parent or legal guardian who must sign any affidavit or release required by Sponsor. Except where prohibited, acceptance of any prize constitutes each winner's consent to the publication of his or her name, biographical information and likeness in any media, (including the Internet) for any commercial or promotional purpose, without limitation, or further compensation. Prizes not won and claimed by eligible winners in accordance with these Official Rules will not be awarded and will remain the property of Sponsor.

Participation. By participating, students and teachers shall be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of Sponsor and Panasonic Foundation. Sponsor and Panasonic Foundation reserve the right to disqualify persons found tampering with or otherwise abusing any aspect of this Competition, as solely determined by Sponsor and Panasonic Foundation. In the event the Competition is compromised by tampering or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor which corrupts or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper operation of the Competition, Sponsor reserve the right in its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Competition. Should the Competition be terminated prior to the stated expiration date, Sponsor reserves the right to award prizes based on the entries received before the termination date. Any questions regarding the number of entries submitted shall be determined by Sponsor, in its sole discretion. Sponsor further reserves the right to disqualify any entry that is alleged to infringe on any third-party's intellectual property rights, or that Sponsor deems obscene, offensive or otherwise inappropriate for viewing by a general audience. By participating in the Competition, the entrants, winners, and their parents and legal guardians hereby release Sponsor, and Panasonic Foundation and each of their respective affiliated companies, and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all claims, complaints, disputes, and liabilities in connection with this Competition or the availability of or use of any prize ("Released Parties").

Copyright. Sponsor and Panasonic Foundation shall have exclusive, royalty-free and irrevocable right and license to publish, print, edit, display, broadcast or otherwise use the

Student Teams' final document, in whole or in part, (including any photographs or videos submitted in connection with the Competition) for any purpose and in any manner or media (including, without limitation, the Internet) throughout the world in perpetuity, and to license others to do so, all without limitation or further compensation. Each student, whose entry is selected by Sponsor as a winning entry, may be required to sign any additional license or release that Sponsor or Panasonic Foundation may require. and will not publicly perform or display his or her submission without the express permission of Sponsor.

Construction. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. In the event that any such provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, these rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the invalid or unenforceable provision was not contained therein. Any disputes or complaints regarding this Competition will be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia without regard to its choice of laws provision.

Sponsor. The decisions of Sponsor and the judges regarding the selection of winners and all other aspects of the Competition shall be final and binding in all respects. Sponsor will not be responsible for typographical, printing or other inadvertent errors in these Official Rules or in other materials relating to the Competition. For a list of winners (available after June 5, 2025) or a copy of these Official Rules, visit: ecocitizenship.org or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Winners List/Official Rules" (as applicable), Student Eco Citizenship Program Competition c/o Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning, P.O. Box 4144, Broadlands, VA 20148. If you have any questions regarding this Competition, please contact: Kim@fill.foundation

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING. SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.