

Registration and Submission Guidelines

AACS National Competition in 2021 will be a virtual event. The AACS Competition Manual (2020 edition) will govern the competition. Only competitors who have won or placed in an AACS certified state or regional competition may participate.

Registration

- Registration will be on the AACS website (aacs.org) under the Competition tab.
- Registration will open on March 1.
- The school must register its entries. Individuals may not enter separately.
- AACS will provide the appropriate judging forms for the virtual competition in 2021. (Exception: Composition categories will submit judging forms with their entries.)
- Following your state competition, gather all required information (see below). Register your school and submit your students' entries (including all required entry submissions and supporting documentation), and complete payment.
- Competition fees for groups and individuals will be paid during the online school registration process. The competition fees are as follows:
 - Individual Competition—\$16 per contestant for each category entered.
 - Group Competition—\$16 per person in each group with a maximum of \$160 per group category entered.
- Once registration is submitted, no substitutions of videos, photos, or supporting documentation will be allowed.
- Registration Deadline—**April 2, 2021, midnight EASTERN.**

School Registration

During the registration process, submit the following information.

- **Before beginning the process, gather all required documentation.**
- **The entire registration must be completed at one time.**
- **Documents or links cannot be added after the registration is completed.**
- Once registration is submitted, no substitutions of videos, photos, or supporting documentation will be allowed.

Enter the following information during the registration process.

- School—Name, city, state; school email; school phone
- Person completing form—Email address, cell phone
- Student information—Complete the Student Information Form for **all students who are competing** this year in any individual or group event. The Student Information Form (Excel file) is on the AACS website on the Competition Registration page. Complete the following information for each competing student: First Name, Last Name; M/F, DOB; Grade; Email Address; Home Address, City, State, Zip; Home Phone.
- Proctors are required for the following categories: Bible Memory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Academic Testing, Spelling, and Composition (Poetry, Essay). For the categories that your students are entering, submit the following information for the proctor(s)—name, email address, cell phone.

General Event Registration Information

- Submit all required supporting documentation as PDFs. Supporting documentation includes the following (see category rules): Artist Idea Statement, Photography Artist Idea Statement, Preaching or Bible Teaching Outline, Script, Original Music (with numbered measures).
- Once registration is submitted, no substitutions of videos, photos, or supporting documentation will be allowed.
- **Naming Format for Submissions and Supporting Documents and Files**
Submissions (videos, PDFs, JPGs, etc.) should follow this naming format.
 - State_School_Category
 - State—Use the state’s 2-letter postal abbreviation, e.g. VA = Virginia
 - School—Use only one word, the school’s main word, e.g. Pilgrim = The Pilgrim Academy, Faith = Faith Baptist Academy; Gloucester = Gloucester County Christian School.
 - Examples:
 - VA_Faith_AABand
 - NJ_Pilgrim_DramaticInterp
 - NJ_Gloucester_ExpositoryPreaching

Events Not Included in Virtual AACCS National Competition 2021

The following categories will **not** be included in the Virtual AACCS National Competition 2021. These categories are not included because there is not a good way to conduct/judge a meaningful competition with the limitations of the event this year.

- **Bible Quizzing**
- **Debate**
- **Science Fair: Biological Sciences and Physical Sciences**

Online Synchronous Events

The following categories will be conducted via Zoom at a specifically scheduled time. The contestant must be registered during the online registration. The meeting link and other details for conducting the event will be emailed to the proctor. Provide the proctor’s email address and cell phone number.

- **Bible Memory, date/time TBD**
- **Spelling, date/time TBD**

Detailed Event Registration Information

The following information details category-specific required registration documentation. For competition rules, refer to the AACCS Competition Manual (2020 edition).

Area One: Bible

Bible Memory

The contestant must be registered during the online registration. Provide the proctor’s email address and cell phone number.

Preaching and Bible Teaching

- Register the subject of lesson/sermon and the title of the lesson/sermon.
- Your video submission should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video. Submit the direct link to the video on your registration form. (Test your unlisted video link by logging out of YouTube and accessing the link.)

- The YouTube video should be labeled following the general naming format specified above.
- Ensure your submission has good audio and video quality.
- The video recording must have been made no earlier than August 1, 2020.
- The video should be recorded in one unedited take from one camera angle.
- Do not include fade-outs or video transitions.
- No sound editing is allowed. The recording must be honest and acoustic. As much as possible, it needs to be as if the viewer was in the room listening to you preach/teach.
- The video should be in the spirit of a live preaching/teaching event. It may be shot in a school, church, recital hall, or some other appropriate location, with or without an audience.
- You are required to introduce yourself and your passage (or sermon/lesson title) at the start of the video—either verbally or with a title slide. This introductory portion of the video entry must be limited to the following: Student's Name, School/City/State, Passage Reference or Sermon/Lesson Title.
- Submit your outline as a PDF for the judges along with your registration.
- Once a video and outline are submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.

Area Two: Music

- Your video submission should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video. Submit the direct link to the video on your registration form. (Test your unlisted video link by logging out of YouTube and accessing the link.)
- The YouTube video should be labeled following the general naming format specified above.
- Ensure your submission has good audio and video quality. The video recording must have been made no earlier than August 1, 2020.
- For individual performers, the individual's face, hands, (and feet for keyboard competition categories) should be clearly visible throughout the recording.
- The video must be recorded in one unedited take from one camera angle. Any evidence of multiple takes or of audio that does not match the performance will result in disqualification. **If a specific contest category requires two separate selections, they should be recorded in one continuous unedited take.**
- Do not include fade-outs or video transitions.
- The performance recorded for the video entry must be acoustic and not amplified. The only microphone(s) involved should be for recording. Monitors may not be used.
- No sound editing is allowed, and no reverb may be added to the recording. The recording must be honest and acoustic. As much as possible, it needs to be as if the judges were in the room listening to you perform live.
- The video should be in the spirit of a recital or audition. It may be shot in a school, church, recital hall, or some other appropriate location, with or without an audience.
- You are required to introduce yourself and your selections at the start of the video—either verbally or with a title slide. This is a simple introduction in the spirit of an audition. This introductory portion of the video entry must be limited to the following: Performer/Group Name, School/City/State, Composer(s), and Title(s) of your selection(s).
- Submit as a PDF an original of your music (with the measures numbered beginning with the first full measure) for the judges along with your registration. All music used must be originals. See AACs rules. Note: JotForm limits PDF size to 10 pages. If your music exceeds 10 pages, upload each 10-page segment as a separate file. Label the files, P1, P11, P21; examples: ST_School_Category_Song1P1; ST_School_Category_Song1P11; ST_School_Category_Song2P1.
- Once a video and music are submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.

Area Three: Speech

- Your video submission should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video. Submit the direct link to the video on your registration form. (Test your unlisted video link by logging out of YouTube and accessing the link.)
- The YouTube video should be labeled following the general naming format specified above.
- Ensure your submission has good audio and video quality. The video recording must have been made no earlier than August 1, 2020.
- The video must be recorded in one unedited take from one camera angle. Any evidence of multiple takes or of audio that does not match the performance will result in disqualification.
- Do not include fade-outs or video transitions.
- The only microphone(s) involved should be for recording. Recordings must be acoustic and not amplified. The only microphone allowed is for recording. Monitors may not be used.
- No sound editing is allowed. As much as possible, it needs to be as if the judges were in the room watching you perform live.
- The video may be recorded in a school, church, recital hall, or some other appropriate location, with or without an audience.
- You are required to introduce yourself and your selections at the start of the video—either verbally or with a title slide. This is a simple introduction in the spirit of an audition. This introductory portion of the video entry must be limited to the following: Performer/Group Name, School/City/State, Author(s), and Title(s) of your selection(s). See Speech rule 7d for additional information about introductions and transitions.
- Submit your script as a PDF for the judges along with your registration.
- Once a video and script are submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.
- **Extemporaneous Speaking:** Provide the proctor’s email address and cell phone number. Topics will be sent to the proctor along with rules for the preparation and recording the presentation. The contestant must be registered during the registration process, but his video will be submitted per instructions included with the topics.

Area Four: Art

2-D Guidelines—Digital image files must meet the following specifications.

- Entry
 - JPG file only.
 - Photograph the artwork without glass. You may photograph the artwork with a mat if applicable. The quality of the image submitted will necessarily be a factor in evaluating the work of art. Poorly lit, out-of-focus, or poorly cropped images will detract from the competitive nature of the artwork. Do not send images containing watermarks. (See “Recommendations for Taking Photos of Artwork” below.)
- Artist Idea Statement
 - PDF
 - Include source photo if used (JPG). Label: ST_School_Category_SourcePhoto
 - **Digital Media:** Entry (PDF or JPG); Process document (PDF); software program used; software type (PC, MAC)
- The labeling of your images is very important. Label your image files as required in the file upload field on the Registration Form. Do not include any special characters or symbols.
- Complete the entire form and load one (1) image, the Artist Idea Statement PDF, the source photo (if used) with the registration.
- Once submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.

Photography Categories Submission Guidelines—Digital image files must meet the following specifications.

- Entry—JPG file only.
- Photography Artist Idea Statement—PDF
- The labeling of your images is very important. Label your image files as required in the file upload field on the Registration Form. Do not include any special characters or symbols.
- Complete the entire form and load one (1) image and the Photography Artist Idea Statement (PDF) with the registration.
- Once submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.

3-D Guidelines—Digital image files must meet the following specifications.

- Entry
 - JPG file only.
 - Photograph the artwork from several different angles. Show **up to five** views of the artwork. (See “Recommendations for Taking Photos of Artwork” below.) The quality of the image submitted will necessarily be a factor in evaluating the work of art. Poorly lit, out-of-focus, or poorly cropped images will detract from the competitive nature of the artwork. Do not send images containing watermarks. Please refer to the tips for photographing artwork below.
 - **Woodworking:** Submit **3–10 images** taken from different angles. Photos must demonstrate judging criteria for judges to evaluate—joints, woodgrain, finishes, and other judging criteria should be represented in photos.
- Artist Idea Statement
 - PDF
 - Include source photo if used (JPG). Label: ST_School_Category_SourcePhoto
 - **Sculpture:** Photo of mold if used (JPG). Label: ST_School_Category_Mold
 - **Garment Construction, Textiles, Crafts:** Pattern or Plan if used (PDF). Label: ST_School_Category_Pattern
 - **Crafts:** State competition permission if required (PDF).
 - **Woodworking:** Required Plan (PDF)
- The labeling of your images is very important. Label your image files as required in the file upload field on the Registration Form. Do not include any special characters or symbols.
- Complete the entire form and load 3–5 images (Woodworking, up to 10 images) taken from different angles with the registration.
- Once submitted, no substitutions will be allowed.

Recommendations for Taking Photos of Artwork

- Use a DSLR camera. Phone camera images are not recommended and may not compete well.
- Use a tripod—do not shoot artwork using a handheld camera.
- Set file type to “Large JPG.”
- Set camera to Autofocus.
- For 2D work, use two lights angled at 45° to the artwork. This eliminates glare and fully illuminates the work of art.
- For 3D work, use the two-light method above with a possible third light source positioned high and aimed at the back or front of the work of art.
- Shoot against a black, white, or neutral gray solid cloth or other material. This is especially important for 3D entries.
- Use a gray card to set light balance.
- Use Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom, or a similar image editing software to crop, correct color cast, light balance, etc. Attempt to get your image to appear as similar to the original as possible.
- Save or export as a JPG file.

Area Five: Academics

Academic Testing

Contestants must be registered during the online registration. Instructions for proctors are posted on the AACs website. The password will be emailed to the proctor. Tests must be taken during the testing window. Communications regarding tiebreakers (if required) will be sent to the proctor's email address. Provide the proctor's email address and cell phone number.

Spelling

The contestant must be registered during the online registration. Provide the proctor's email address and cell phone number.

Composition

Creative Writing (Poetry) and Expository Writing (Essay) contestants must be registered during the online registration. The prompt (topic) and submission guidelines will be available on the AACs website on March 29, 2021. The entry and judging form must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. **Eastern** time zone on April 8, 2021.