

Curtis Kinetic Science Competition Requirements



April 11, 2026

Deadline for Submissions: February 3, 2026

The **Curtis Kinetic Science Competition** is a fun way to learn the science behind kinetic systems, as well as the skills required to plan, execute, document, reflect, and present a science project in a higher-level science competition. The 2026 Kinetic Competition will be open to any middle school, science club and home school group in the 9 surrounding counties (Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia). There will be **ONE** division and students may work in teams of up to five.

This year's awards will be as follows:

- **Best in Fair:** An individual medal to each team member, \$500 to the team, and \$250 to the team's teacher/coach
- **Best Use of Science:** An individual medal to each team member and \$250 to the team
- **Most Innovative/Creative:** An individual medal to each team member and \$250 to the team

Please note that the award money will be distributed evenly among all registered team members. After awards are announced, all winning team members will need to fill out a W-9 prior to leaving the Science Center.



ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

777 East Princeton Street, Orlando, FL 32803 • 407.514.2000 • osc.org

Curtis Kinetic Science Competition Requirements

Requirements

Goal: Teams build a **kinetic** system with multiple energy transformations. The system may be free-standing or designed for a tabletop. All purchased parts for the system must not exceed \$100, and any found object may not exceed \$20. The system should not exceed 30 inches deep, 72 inches wide, or 108 inches high (as measured from the floor). Each member of the team will participate in the oral explanations to the judges.

Kinetic systems must:

- Include at least 3 energy transformations that perform a selected task or goal.
- The system must run successfully within the first 3 tries.
- The system must run for a minimum of 30 seconds.
- Teams must be able to reset the system within 5 minutes.
- The system must be able to run at least 3 times.
- Not exceed the measurements of 30"x72"x108".

All entries will also be judged on:

- Laboratory notebook and project board detailing the project (requirements for these are listed in the Resource Guide).
- Presentation of kinetic system to the judges (each team member will participate).
- Innovation of the project: did students create a new system or change an existing system in a creative and innovative way

The following items are prohibited:

- Explosive or effervescent chemicals (including soda and Mentos)
- Balloons
- Live animals

In addition, the following items may be used in creating the project, but teams are not permitted to bring them on the competition day:

- Paint
- Hot glue
- Water
- Glitter



ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

777 East Princeton Street, Orlando, FL 32803 • 407.514.2000 • osc.org

Curtis Kinetic Science Competition Requirements

Resources for Projects

A **Resource Guide** has been created to assist with the creation of the kinetic system. Information about the scientific principles, rules, forms, project board and notebook, tips for building, and judging can be found in this resource guide. The resource guide can be found in the resources folder on the competition webpage on our website.

Abstract

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two, limited to a maximum of 250 words, highlighting and/or summarizing the major points or most important ideas about your project. An abstract allows judges to quickly determine the nature and scope of a project. Abstracts must include a brief overview of the following:

- Purpose of the experiment
- Procedure
- Data gathered
- Conclusions

Avoid including in the abstract:

- Acknowledgments of any brand names, or self-promotions, and external endorsements
- Work or procedures done by a mentor
- Extraneous details and discussions
- Long, descriptive, exhaustive sentences
- Jargon
- Incomplete sentences

If mentors or students have questions on the abstract, notebooks, or any other requirements for this year's competition, please do not hesitate to contact the competitions team at competitions@osc.org or 407.514.2155.



ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

777 East Princeton Street, Orlando, FL 32803 • 407.514.2000 • osc.org