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Howdy, Virginia TSA! I hope you all have been well and have had a smooth transition back to school, whether that is in person, hybrid, or remote! The start of school has always been synonymous with the start of the TSA year and despite what we have been facing the past seven months, that holds true! I am incredibly eager to return to the hectic yet rewarding schedule TSA introduces into my life. With that and in case you have not heard, Virginia TSA is excited to be hosting fall competitions. Since affiliation opened in August, we have released both the Fall and Spring addendums for events. This is available on the homepage of our website. Just like the spring events, fall competitions are now Technosphere qualifiers! All the information you need including themes, problems, and deadlines is available on the addendum, ensure you review it carefully before beginning your event to optimize your time, effort, and success!

Just as school is synonymous with the commencement of the TSA season, fall is synonymous with Leadership Academy! Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions enacted by the Commonwealth and other governing bodies, Leadership Academy will be entirely virtual this year; however, you can be assured that the Executive Council is working diligently to provide informative, interactive, and incredible experience for all members. Through our five officer-run sessions and one special guest session, you will gain all the knowledge and tools necessary in learning to apply your skills in new areas and how to take your leadership skills to the next level as a regional, state, or even national officer! This year, Leadership Academy is open to all members of affiliated chapters, regardless of whether or not you hold a chapter office. More information and the theme release are forthcoming, but for now, be sure to mark your calendars for November 21 and 22 to join us for a Leadership Academy experience where we will better learn how to navigate and prevail through our current adversity.

Finally members, I am directly addressing you here! If you haven’t already, I wholeheartedly encourage you to explore and become involved in our state committees. This is one of the most unique aspects of Virginia TSA and the broad spectrum of committee selection we possess truly distinguishes us from other states. Committee sign ups are still open, so do not hesitate in joining! If you have any questions about the functions of committees, how you can expect to be involved as a member, or anything of that nature, be sure to reach out to me via email or on Instagram @rebecca.collins_!

I am truly looking forward to all that this upcoming year in TSA will bring, and I can’t wait to witness all of the amazing projects, competitions, and camaraderie that we will show forth! Stay safe and see you soon!

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Collins
Virginia TSA President
Fall competitions and how they work

what are fall competitions?

Fall competitions are a brand new competition type that were introduced this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These competitions are completely virtual in an aim to keep TSA members engaged despite any disruptions that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the last TSA competitive year. The competitions also include two new structural design challenges thanks to a partnership between Virginia TSA and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Fall competitions can also qualify you or your team for the Technosphere conference.

what does the timeline look like?

Make sure to read the Virtual Fall Addendum for specific information related to your competitions. Fall competitions started in late September. Between now and your submission deadline, you or your team should be working on your competitive event! The earliest deadlines for submission are in October; the latest are in December.

can I qualify for Technosphere?

Yes! The virtual fall competitions are qualifying competitions for Technosphere. While members can still qualify for Technosphere at the regional conferences later in the year, fall competitions have been introduced as an additional track to reach the state conference.

where can I find more information?

The Virtual Fall Addendum is posted on the Virginia TSA website. You can access the addendum at: http://virginiatsa.org/assets/2020/09/2020-Fall-AddendumRevised.pdf
With the announcement that Harrisonburg City Public Schools would be going all-digital for the foreseeable future, many members in the Harrisonburg High School (HHS) TSA chapter were unsure of the future of the program. Would they be going online? Would they be meeting using social distancing procedures? Most of these questions remained unanswered until August 15th, when the executive officer team (composed of the HHS TSA President and the Vice President) at HHS TSA released the first of many emails. The officer team had been elected in the spring and the officers
had used their summer to plan for the coming competitive season. “We discussed the changes we would have to make this year in order to bring new people in and to bring the chapter forward,” says HHS TSA Vice President Evelyn Sprauge.

“We ultimately want people to feel like when they are members of the HHS TSA chapter that they are members of a community.”

The Harrisonburg High School chapter had small beginnings. In 2015, when the team attended Technosphere they only had six members in total. Today, in 2020, the team has grown to more than 30 members and has evolved over the years. “I remember joining the chapter in 2018 and seeing all the great things that this small chapter had to offer,” said current HHS TSA President Sam Rooker. Since then, the Chapter has offered new programs to encourage participation and outreach, like a bi-monthly raffle in addition to social events. “We ultimately want people to feel like when they are members of the HHS TSA chapter that they are members of a community,” says Rooker.

However, recently it has been more difficult for the HHS TSA chapter to maintain that community. When the Harrisonburg School District went online they did not have a plan for extra curriculars. They had to find new digital solutions to the difficult situation of online school and social distancing. Their solution was to continue having weekly chapter meetings through Google Meets while also creating an unofficial Discord server for chapter members and competition specific work. They also encourage members to find other outlets for communication. “It’s going to be a good opportunity for the chapter as a whole to communicate, get help, and grow as a community. Even if we can’t work together in person,” says Sprauge. The team has also started holding Movie Nights every other Saturday in their Discord server so members can maintain their community. “Every week members suggest movies to watch that are PG-13 or less, and then we stream the movie to Discord,” says Rooker.

The team is continuing to look for more solutions regarding tools and supplies, but the officer boards mindset seems overwhelmingly positive. The chapter will continue to meet virtually and Sprauge says she is excited for the program’s new format. “It gives me, and the chapter in general, a way to work on competitions in a new way throughout the year, as well as opportunities for us to have new experiences.” says Sprauge.
crossword break!
answers on page 15

Horizontal
4. TSA robotics competition
5. An annual camp typically held in November by Virginia TSA to promote leadership.
8. What the 'T' in TSA stands for
9. The state competition for Virginia TSA

Vertical
1. The Virginia TSA president
2. A TSA competitive event where members are tested on Robert's Rules of Order.
3. Virginia TSA's newsletter.
6. Where you can find competitive event information specific to a regional or state competition.
7. The Virginia TSA advisor (last name)
officer profiles
Rebecca Collins
President

Favorite TV show:
Designated Survivor

Favorite music artist:
A lot - Billie Eilish, John Mayer, ZBB, Luke Combs, COIN - there are too many to choose from!

Favorite joke:
Two drums and a cymbal fell off a cliff - ba dum tssss

Favorite TSA competitive event:
Chapter Team

Allie Quach
Vice President

Favorite TV show:
Avatar the Last Airbender

Favorite music artist:
Keshi

Favorite joke:
What kind of music does Toph like?
Rock and Roll.

Favorite TSA competitive event:
Prepared Presentation
Ashley Sooklal
Secretary

**Favorite TV show:**
Gossip Girl

**Favorite music artist:**
Beyoncé

**Favorite joke:**
The numbers 19 and 20 got into a fight. 21.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Chapter Team

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Sahil Jaiswal
Treasurer

**Favorite TV show:**
Breaking Bad

**Favorite music artist:**
Joji

**Favorite joke:**
I hope Elon Musk doesn't get into a scandal. Elongate would be really drawn out.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Tech Bowl
**Ryan Stinson**
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Favorite TV show:**
Daybreak

**Favorite music artist:**
AJR

**Favorite joke:**
My ex still misses me... but her aim is getting better!

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Chapter Team

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**Neda Rehan**
Reporter

**Favorite TV show:**
Code Geass

**Favorite music artist:**
Bring Me the Horizon

**Favorite joke:**
I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Digital Video Production
Simran Kohli
Historian

**Favorite TV show:**
Mandalorian

**Favorite music artist:**
Blackbear

**Favorite joke:**
Why do we tell actors to “break a leg?”
Because every play has a cast.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Biotechnology

Cecelia Johnson
Parliamentarian

**Favorite TV show:**
Friends

**Favorite music artist:**
Khalid

**Favorite joke:**
What’s E.T. short for? Because he’s only got little legs!

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Digital Video Production
Luke Hendershot
Blue Ridge Region President

**Favorite TV show:**
The Office

**Favorite music artist:**
Tom Petty

**Favorite joke:**
Why don’t Math majors go to parties? ...Because it isn’t safe to drink and derive.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Forensic Science

Neha Kulshreshtha
Northern Region President

**Favorite TV show:**
New Girl

**Favorite music artist:**
Aminé

**Favorite joke:**
Why was the farmer standing outside? Because he was an outstanding farmer.

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Debating Tech Issues
Joshua Alexander
South Central Region President

**Favorite TV show:**
Law and Order: SVU

**Favorite music artist:**
Polo G

**Favorite joke:**
Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side xD

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Systems Control

William Collins
Southwestern Region President

**Favorite TV show:**
The Flash

**Favorite music artist:**
Don’t have one

**Favorite joke:**
What’s the best thing about Switzerland? Not sure, but that flag is a big plus!

**Favorite TSA competitive event:**
Chapter Team
Lane Strahan  
Tidewater Region President

**Favorite TV show:** Rick and Morty  
**Favorite music artist:** Cordae  
**Favorite joke:** What did the ocean say to the beach  
Nothing it just waved  
**Favorite TSA competitive event:** Biotechnology Design

Alexis Blankenship  
Valley Region President

**Favorite TV show:** Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.  
**Favorite music artist:** Taylor Swift  
**Favorite joke:** There's two windmills standing in a field, and one says, "What kind of music do you listen to?" And the other says, "Well, I'm a huge metal fan."  
**Favorite TSA competitive event:** Photographic Technology
don't miss out on our

S O C I A L
M E D I A

ig: @virginiatsa

officer takeovers every Monday and Friday

livestream every other Wednesday

updates on Virginia TSA activities
crossword break!

answers

**Horizontal**
4. TSA robotics competition (vex)
5. An annual camp typically held in November by Virginia TSA to promote leadership. (leadershipacademy)
8. What the ‘T’ in TSA stands for (technology)
9. The state competition for Virginia TSA (technosphere)

**Vertical**
1. The Virginia TSA president (rebeccacollins)
2. A TSA competitive event where members are tested on Robert's Rules of Order. (chapterteam)
3. Virginia TSA's newsletter. (virginiascene)
6. Where you can find competitive event information specific to a regional or state competition. (addendum)
7. The Virginia TSA advisor (last name) (scott)