

REACH FOR THE STARS

2023–2024

CATALOGUE OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

MORE THAN 130 ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS,
ACTIVITIES, CHALLENGES, COMPETITIONS, EVENTS
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINNESOTA K–12 STUDENTS.



MINNESOTA ACADEMIC LEAGUE COUNCIL

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★ MINNESOTA ACADEMIC LEAGUE AFFILIATES

Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
ArtEFFECT
ARTwalk
BestPrep's Financial Matters
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration –
Community of Learning
Classroom Connection
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls Minnesota
Continental Mathematics League
Discovery Award Competition
Gathering of Champions
Girls Who Code Clubs
LifeSmarts
MAAP STARS
Math Masters
Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary &
Middle Schools
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Program
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
National Geography Challenge
National History Day in Minnesota
National Language Arts League
National Science League
National Social Studies League
Poetry Out Loud
Scholars of Distinction
School Chess Association
Spelling Bee
WordMasters Challenge
YMCA Model United Nations
YMCA Respectful Conversations in Schools
YMCA Student Election Judge Network
YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
YMCA Youth in Government
Youth Environmental Activist Network

REACH FOR THE STARS — EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Reach for the Stars is your guide to high-quality academic enrichment programs and activities to supplement classroom teaching and learning and broaden or increase student performance. The programs featured in this catalogue cover a wide range of subject areas and grade levels from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary. All programs listed have met the criteria for approval set by the Minnesota Academic League Council.

Whether offered outside the school day or embedded within classroom curricula, these programs will help students discover and develop their interests, passions and talents. They will help schools and communities support and integrate programs for students to stretch their abilities, learn new skills and reach new heights in learning!

Find a Program

Programs are listed alphabetically by name and each listing includes a brief description, appropriate grade or age level, skill sets used, curricular area, and contact information to learn more. Programs are also listed by academic content area, category and grade level. Please contact the sponsoring organization directly using the information provided in the listing to participate in the activity or for schedules and program updates.

Accessing and Sharing Reach for the Stars

You can access this great resource electronically as a PDF and/or text-only Word document format at www.synergyexchange.org/reach-for-the-stars. A promotional postcard is available to share with your students, families, and staff and includes the website link to download Reach for the Stars. A limited number of print catalogues are available. Email reach@synergyexchange.org to request your postcards or print copies.

Supported By

Reach for the Stars is published as a public service by Synergy & Leadership Exchange in conjunction with the Minnesota Academic League Council. Preparation of the catalogue is supported in part by the affiliate members of the Minnesota Academic League and by the generous support from The Minnesota Service Cooperatives. Distribution is facilitated through a partnership network including several statewide and regional education organizations and associations as referenced in the catalogue. A special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, organizations and program providers whose combined efforts result in tens of thousands of Minnesota students enjoying challenging, stimulating and entertaining academic enrichment opportunities!

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Minnesota Academic League Strategic Partners

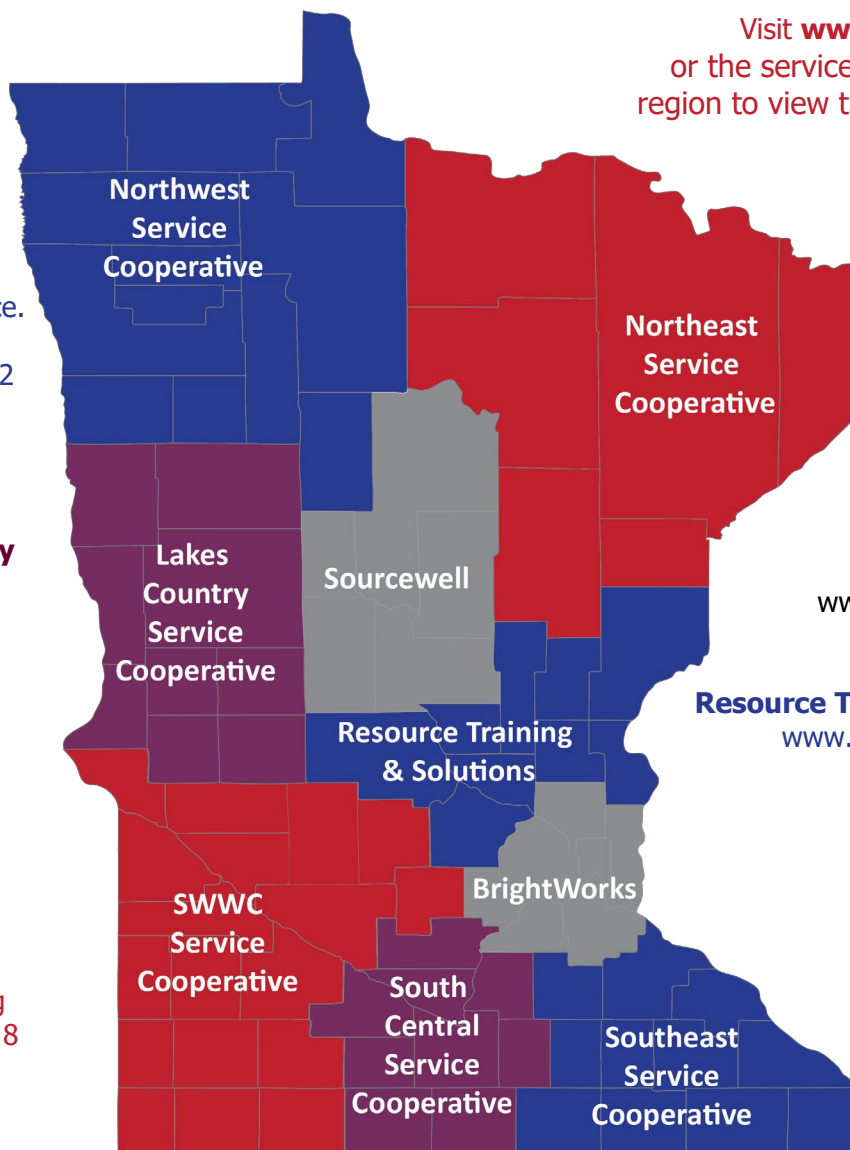
We are proud to be Minnesota Academic League strategic partners, distributing **Reach for the Stars** to schools, educators & families.

Visit www.mnservcoop.org
or the service cooperative in your
region to view the activities offered.

Northwest Service Cooperative
www.nw-service.k12.mn.us
Regions 1 and 2

Lakes Country Service Cooperative
www.lcsc.org
Region 4

SWWC Service Cooperative
www.swwc.org
Regions 6 and 8



Northeast Service Cooperative
www.nescmn.net
Region 3

Sourcewell
www.sourcewell-mn.gov
Region 5

Resource Training & Solutions
www.resourcecoop-mn.gov
Region 7

BrightWorks
www.metroecsu.org
Region 11

Southeast Service Cooperative
www.ssc.coop
Region 10

South Central Service Cooperative
www.mnscsc.org
Region 9

REACH FOR THE STARS WITH SOUTH CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE STUDENT PROGRAMS

Based in North Mankato, South Central Service Cooperative provides a variety of enrichment options for students in south central Minnesota and beyond. Visit the SCSC website to learn more about the academic conferences, activities, challenges and classroom extension opportunities available!

- Academic Decathlon/Pentathlon*
- Career Expo
- Chess Tournaments
- Construct Tomorrow
- CRAVE Culinary Arts
- Education Career Academy
- High-STEP Health Science Academy
- Knowledge Bowl*
- LifeSmarts*
- Math Mania Tournament
- Math Masters*
- Poetry Out Loud*
- Science & Nature Conference
- Scrubs Camp
- SCSC Writing Contest
- SOCRATES Online
- SourceCode Information Technology Academy
- Spelling Bee*
- Tour of Manufacturing
- Transportation Works!
- Young Writers & Artists Conference

* See individual listing for more on these programs.



fb.com/scsc.students



WWW.MNSCSC.ORG/STUDENT



Think outside the classroom.

- Art Show
- Knowledge Bowl
- Math Masters
- Science Fair
- Spelling Bee
- Tech Mobile
- Young Authors Conference

Sourcewell

sourcewell-mn.gov

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LOCAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Some enrichment programs and activities are not listed in Reach for the Stars because the focus is not academic or they are only offered locally and not statewide, a criterion for inclusion. For local program ideas, contact your area school district, community education program, city park and recreation board, public library, university and college, or after school regional network. Find a school or public library at www.education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/lib/.

Examples of after school regional networks:

Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth – www.brooklynallianceforyouth.org

Duluth – www.activityhero.com/in/duluth-mn/activity-providers

Greater St. Cloud Area – www.partnerforstudentsuccess.org/

Itasca Network for Youth – www.getlearning.org/page/2694

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative – www.northfieldhci.org/primetime

Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board – www.ycb.org/wu612

Sprockets of St. Paul – www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/program-finder

ABOVE-GRADE-LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Grades 2–9

Above-Grade-Level Assessment (formally known as NUMATS) is an opportunity for students to take internationally recognized tests such as PSAT, ACT or SAT before the grade levels at which they are normally administered. The assessment identifies academic ability, measures growth, and highlights resources and opportunities for advanced students. It also helps parents and educators better understand their students' educational needs.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content	General
Academic Skills:	Recall, problem solving, critical thinking and writing
Program Provider:	Northwestern University Center for Talent Development
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit website for details.
Website:	https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/above-grade-level-assessment
Email:	ctd-assessment@northwestern.edu
Phone:	(847) 491-3782, ext. 2

★ ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Grades 9–12

A national scholastic competition designed to stimulate intellectual growth and encourage greater respect for knowledge. The format includes students from each GPA category, honor (3.80–4.0), scholastic (3.20–3.799) and varsity (0.0–3.199) competing in 10 curricular areas. Competitions range from local scrimmages to national contests. This year's theme is "Technology and Humanity."



Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, factual recall, interdisciplinary, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, research, teamwork, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	South Central Service Cooperative
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit the website for registration, competition dates and information.
Website:	www.mnscsc.org/decathlon
Email:	adosch@mnscsc.org
Phone:	(507) 386-2966
Contact:	Amy Dosch



CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES WITH THIS FREE RESOURCE!

Reach for the Stars is a great way to connect students with new academic enrichment opportunities — and here are three ways you can help:

1. Include a blurb about Reach for the Stars in your print or e-newsletters or other communications.
2. Add the QR code or embed the link in the catalogue thumbnail to download the PDF.
3. Request free promotional postcards or print catalogues to distribute.

Email reach@synergyexchange.org for support in implementing these ideas!

★ ACADEMIC PENTATHLON

Grades 6–8

Academic Pentathlon, the premier national scholastic competition for middle school students, challenges students to rigorous team and individual competition. Using the USAD curriculum, which addresses several national education content and curriculum standards, students compete in five events: fine arts, literature, mathematics, science and social science. This year's theme is "Technology and Humanity."

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, factual recall, interdisciplinary, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, research, teamwork, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	South Central Service Cooperative
Fees and Deadlines:	School registration and payment deadline: Dec. 8, 2023. School registration and curriculum site license: \$275. Practice competition Jan. 11, 2024; Essay for regional competition Jan. 25, 2024; Regional competition Feb. 15, 2024; Essay for state competition March 7, 2024; State competition March 28, 2024; Essay for national competition April 18, 2024. National competition will be held May 2024.
Website:	www.mnscsc.org/pentathlon
Email:	adosch@mnscsc.org
Phone:	(507) 386-2966
Contact:	Amy Dosch



ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST

Grades 9–12

Academic WorldQuest builds global competency and is the only international knowledge team competition of its kind in the state! Interactive and fun, this event challenges high school students to think globally and quiz locally about critical issues facing the U.S. and the world. The winners go on an all-expense paid trip to compete at the National Competition in Washington, D.C.!

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Social Studies, World Languages & Cultures
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, global citizenship, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Global Minnesota
Fees and Deadlines:	Free to participate. Registration opens in October. Check website for competition details.
Website:	www.globalminnesota.org/education/high-school-programs/academic-worldquest/
Email:	info@globalminnesota.org
Phone:	(612) 625-1662
Contact:	Sylvia Oxenham

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

Grade 11

The program trains young women to be leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism. Participants learn about the democratic process and how the republic works at the state and national level.

Program Category:	Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Cooperation, problem solving and critical thinking
Program Provider:	American Legion Auxiliary
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees paid by American Legion Auxiliary Units (local chapters). Visit website for details.
Website:	www.legion-aux.org/ala-girls-state
Email:	deptoffice@mnala.org
Phone:	(651) 224-7634
Contact:	MN American Legion Auxiliary

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Grade 11

American Legion Boys State is a week-long experience of learning about Minnesota government at the local, county and state levels by “doing.” It is a week of intensive study and involvement. Highlights of the week include political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and announcement of the Boys State Governor and State Constitutional Officers.

Program Category:	Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and creativity
Program Provider:	American Legion Boys State
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees paid by sponsoring American Legion Post. Applications accepted on first-come, first-serve basis if qualified.
Website:	www.mnboysstate.org
Email:	jkelley@mnlegion.org
Phone:	(651) 291-1800 or toll free (866) 259-9163
Contact:	Jennifer Kelley

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS – 8

Grades 6–8

The American Math Competitions (AMC) 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple-choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for middle school students to develop positive attitudes towards analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers. Students apply classroom skills to unique problem-solving challenges in a low-stress and friendly environment.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving
Program Provider:	Mathematical Association of America
Fees and Deadlines:	Please see website for details.
Website:	www.maa.org/math-competitions
Email:	amcinfo@maa.org
Phone:	(800) 527-3690
Contact:	MAA American Mathematics Competitions

AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS – 10 & 12

Grades 9–12

The American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) 10 & 12 are both 25-question, 75-minute, multiple-choice examinations in high school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem-solving skills. The AMC 10 is for students in 10th grade and below and covers the high school curriculum up to 10th grade. The AMC 12 covers the entire high school curriculum including trigonometry, advanced algebra, and advanced geometry, but excluding calculus.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving
Program Provider:	Mathematical Association of America
Fees and Deadlines:	Please see website for details.
Website:	www.maa.org/math-competitions
Email:	amcinfo@maa.org
Phone:	(800) 527-3690
Contact:	MAA American Mathematics Competitions

★ ARTEFFECT

Grades 6–12

DISCOVER extraordinary individuals who positively impacted history yet are not well known. CREATE your own interpretation that honors the legacy of your Unsung Hero. CHANGE the world for the better by using your project to inspire the hero within everyone. Fine Art, Mixed Media, Digital Art and more! Dozens of Prizes!

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary and research
Program Provider:	Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes
Fees and Deadlines:	Submissions due April 1. Check website for further details.
Website:	https://www.lowellmilkencenter.org/competitions/arteffect
Email:	conardnorm@gmail.com
Phone:	(620) 223-1312
Contact:	Norm Conard

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes
ARTEFFECT



★ ARTWALK

Grades PK–12

Calling all artists! The annual ARTwalk uplifts the creativity of young people through a public art exhibition. Students are invited to submit visual artworks in response to the prompt “I Am Ordway.” Winners will receive an Amazon gift card, have their work displayed on the Ordway’s website and in the Ordway’s front windows during the Family Festival.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, problem solving, and time/budget management
Program Provider:	Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for submission due date; no fees to participate!
Website:	https://ordway.org/festival/artwalk/
Email:	ordwayeducation@ordway.org
Phone:	(651) 282-3115
Contact:	Ordway Education



BESTPREP'S CLASSROOM PLUS

Grades 6–12

Program staff coordinate volunteer speakers, tours, mock interviews and career days to supplement classroom curricula. More than 600 volunteers from across Minnesota bring their business and career expertise into the classroom. They help connect students' classroom learning with real world applications while serving as positive role models. Speakers are available virtually or in-person.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, teamwork, time/budget management and career exploration
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	Program is free. Educators may request speakers for classes of 10 or more students. Please allow four weeks to schedule speakers.
Website:	www.bestprep.org/classroom-plus
Email:	cpinfo@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6320
Contact:	Sarah Hammel

BESTPREP'S EMENTORS

Grades 9–12

eMentors is an online mentoring program that offers high school students the opportunity to develop a relationship with a mentor in a professional field. Over the course of eight weeks, students and mentors discuss topics including college and career experience, interviewing skills, workplace etiquette, and more. eMentors has curriculum specifically created for AVID, STEM and personal finance classes.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, General, Language Arts, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, leadership development and time/budget management
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	No cost to participate. eMentors connections are available throughout the school year.
Website:	www.bestprep.org/ementors
Email:	ementors@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6332
Contact:	Julie Anderson

★ BESTPREP'S FINANCIAL MATTERS

Grades 6–12

BestPrep's Financial Matters program equips students with the tools necessary to develop sound money management skills through industry professionals who help develop and deliver presentations focused on financial literacy. From investing to credit, budgeting to buying a car, the program provides real-life lessons in money management. Speakers are available virtually or in-person.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, teamwork, time/budget management and career exploration
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	Program is free. Educators may request speakers for classes of 10 or more students. Please allow four weeks to schedule speakers.
Website:	www.bestprep.org/financial-matters
Email:	fm@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6320
Contact:	Sarah Hammel



BESTPREP'S MINNESOTA BUSINESS VENTURE

Grades 9–12

Minnesota Business Venture is for students dreaming of starting a business, searching for career direction, heading to college or just eager to get into the workforce. Students spend a week during the summer on a college campus developing leadership, teamwork and communication skills as well as gaining business experience from professionals.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, problem solving, teamwork and time/budget management
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration opens in January 2024 for two different July camp weeks at the University of St. Thomas. Students pay \$300, save \$100 with April early bird discount.
Website:	www.bestprep.org/minnesota-business-venture
Email:	mbv@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6325
Contact:	Janae Olinger

★ BESTPREP'S STUDENT SPOTLIGHT COMPETITION

Grades 9–12

BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition allows all students in grades 9–12 to respond to a prompt with any type of art form: written word, art, sculpture, music and other artforms. The competition prompt is announced in September and the deadline is November. BestPrep hopes for a wide variety of submissions and offers prizes for the top 20 winners and their teacher. This competition is held in conjunction with BestPrep's Educational Forum.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, General, Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking and research
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	No fee to participate; deadline is late November (typically the week of Thanksgiving).
Website:	https://bestprep.org/educational-forum/
Email:	jolinger@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6325
Contact:	Janae Olinger

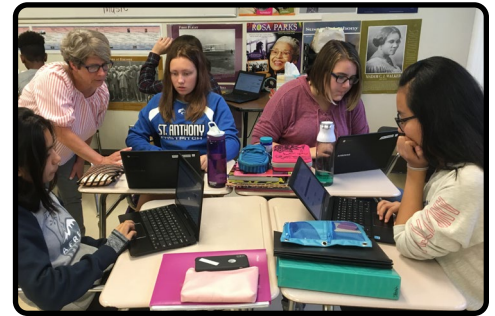


★ BESTPREP'S THE STOCK MARKET GAME

Grades 4–12

Students work in teams of 2–5 to invest \$100,000 in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, managing their portfolios in an online portal. SMG is an experiential learning program and can be used during or after school, every day or once per week. Students gain business, math, economics, and financial literacy skills, collaborating to research and make smart investment decisions.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, General, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, interdisciplinary, problem solving, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	BestPrep
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit bestprep.org for session dates. Registration opens in June. Three-week trials are available for educators. Contact Stephanie directly to waive the fee to participate.
Website:	www.bestprep.org/the-stock-market-game
Email:	smusgrove@bestprep.org
Phone:	(763) 233-6328
Contact:	Stephanie Musgrove



CALENDAR IN THE CLASSROOM

Grades K–5

Calendar in the Classroom provides a series of lessons utilizing information and principles contained in the Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar. With the help of an informative video and complementary workshop, these lessons are presented in such a way that the generalist teacher can teach real science with confidence and ease.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, General, Language Arts, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, environmental stewardship, global citizenship and interdisciplinary
Program Provider:	Jeffers Foundation
Fees and Deadlines:	No cost. Program is ongoing.
Website:	https://jeffersfoundation.org/programs/calendar-in-the-classroom/
Email:	info@jeffersfoundation.org
Phone:	(763) 710-5243

CANCER UNWRAPPED TEEN WRITING CONTEST

Grades 9–12

We invite you to write an essay about your experiences, emotions and realities when dealing with cancer for the opportunity to win one of several \$1,000 cash prizes. Essays can be about your own diagnosis or that of a loved one (e.g., a family member, teacher or friend). Winning essays from this national contest are shared on our website for others to read and know that they are not alone.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, factual recall and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Cancer Pathways
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. See website for contest information and deadline.
Website:	www.cancerpathways.org/programs/cancer-unwrapped/
Email:	info@cancerpathways.org
Phone:	(206) 709-1400
Contact:	Paige Hansen-Shankar

★ CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING AND COLLABORATION – COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

Grades K–6

Learners from around the world are invited to tune in for CILC's free Community of Learning series to learn about interdisciplinary topics from renowned experts. CILC's educational livestreams are focused on a variety of subjects including literacy, art, STEM and history at 12PM CT most weekdays.

Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content: Arts, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills: Creativity, critical thinking, environmental stewardship, global citizenship and interdisciplinary
Program Provider: Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration
Fees and Deadlines: Free. Register anytime for the programs on the website.
Website: www.cilc.org/community
Email: info@cilc.org
Phone: (507) 388-3672
Contact: Tami Moehring



CENTER FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Age 3–Grade 12

Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University is dedicated to helping gifted students, age 3 through grade 12, reach their full potential. CTD offers a myriad of programs from online and hybrid offerings to summer residential experiences. Enrichment and accelerated, credit-bearing courses are available in a range of subject areas.

Program Category: Classroom Enrichment, Leadership Development
Academic Content: Arts, General, Language Arts, STEM
Academic Skills: Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, leadership development and problem solving
Program Provider: Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University
Fees and Deadlines: Visit www.ctd.northwestern.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid for tuition and fees.
Website: www.ctd.northwestern.edu
Email: ctd-admissions@northwestern.edu
Phone: (847) 467-1575
Contact: Admissions and General

★ CLASSROOM CONNECTION

Grades 3–12

Classroom Connection brings the world to your school! It is an interactive program that brings students, teachers and international volunteers together for a series of cross-cultural lessons. It provides global perspectives, introduces positive role models, promotes understanding and respect, and supports Minnesota education standards. Visits can be conducted either in-person or online.

Program Category: Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content: General, Language Arts, Social Studies, World Languages & Cultures
Academic Skills: Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, interdisciplinary and verbal reasoning
Program Provider: Global Minnesota
Fees and Deadlines: Free! Check the website for registration details.
Website: <https://globalminnesota.org/education/elementary-school-program/>
Email: soxenham@globalminnesota.org
Phone: (612) 625-1662
Contact: Sylvia Oxenham



Global **Minnesota**®



CLOSE UP WASHINGTON D.C.

Grades 6–12

Close Up offers transformative programs in Washington, D.C. for middle and high school students. Teacher incentives and free participation with a minimum number of students. Many of Close Up's curriculum components meet or exceed state and national history and social studies standards.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, creativity, cooperation, American history and governmental studies
Program Provider:	Close Up Foundation
Fees and Deadlines:	Call for fees. Registration is rolling; programs run year round.
Website:	www.closeup.org
Email:	info@closeup.org
Phone:	(703) 706-3300 or (800) CLOSE UP

★ CODE SAVVY: TECHNOVATION GIRLS MINNESOTA

Grades 5–12

Code Savvy runs the Minnesota chapter of the Global Technovation Girls Challenge, which is the world's largest all girls entrepreneurship and technology program. This program inspires and enables teen girls to dream up, design, code and pitch mobile phone apps and AI technologies supported by trained mentors in the business community. In May, the Code Savvy Celebrate! event celebrates the girls' success and the Minnesota quarter-finalists are announced.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, STEM
Academic Skills:	Leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Code Savvy
Fees and Deadlines:	The program is free to all girls and non-binary individuals. Registration opens in the fall. Sign up for our Code Savvy newsletter to stay current with the latest information!
Website:	www.codesavvy.org/technovation-girls-mn
Email:	contactus@codesavvy.org
Phone:	(612) 709-5908
Contact:	Valerie Lockhart



COLLEGE DOLLARS & SENSE

Grades 9–12

College Dollars & Sense offers students the personal finance and college preparation skills needed for success after high school and an understanding of how their personal finances will affect their lives. In this one-week summer program, students are introduced to personal finance concepts, learn strategies for affording and saving for college, experience life on a major university campus, and interact with students, professors and business leaders.

Program Category:	Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, General, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, research, time/budget management and personal finance for life after high school
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	Applications for the 2024 program will be open November 2023–April 2024. Participation is free, plus a \$100 stipend is provided.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/MCEE-CDS
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education

CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Ages 2–18

Concordia Language Villages is the premier language and culture immersion program for youth, families and adults. Youth ages 2–18 can learn one of 15 languages. Summer programs include day camps, one- and two-week residential camps and a four-week high school credit option. School groups can attend Village Weekends during the academic year. In addition to language skills, emphasis is placed on cultural awareness.

Program Category:	Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	World Languages & Cultures
Academic Skills:	World language proficiency, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, recall, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, cooperation and leadership
Program Provider:	Concordia College
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for fees, scholarships and dates.
Website:	www.concordiaLanguageVillages.org
Email:	clvregister@cord.edu
Phone:	1-800-222-4750

★ CONTINENTAL MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

Grades 2–9

This program is designed to maximize student opportunities to participate and to improve students' problem-solving skills. Students compete in their own schools with others at the same grade level across the United States. Activities can be held during regular class time. Math books are available. The meets and books provide excellent support to the Common Core Standards program. The program is a Better Business Bureau member with an A+ rating.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and problem solving
Program Provider:	Continental Mathematics League
Fees and Deadlines:	Grades 2–3: \$90 per team; Grades 4–9 and Calculus League for Advanced Placement: \$100 first team and \$85 additional teams. Meet dates: Grades 2–3: Jan. 4, Feb. 11, March 7; Grades 4–9: Nov. 2, 30, Jan. 4, Feb. 1; Calculus League: Nov. 30, Feb. 1, March 7, April 18.
Website:	www.cmleague.com
Email:	hello@cmleague.com
Phone:	(631) 584-2016



CRAZY 8S MATH CLUB

Grades K–5

Crazy 8s is an over-the-top after-school club that is designed to get you fired up about math. You will learn the math behind your favorite activities. It is math gone wild, nothing like your usual math club! You will build glow-in-the-dark structures, crack secret spy codes and play games like the Toilet Paper Olympics.

Program Category:	Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Factual recall, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Bedtime Math Foundation
Fees and Deadlines:	Free!
Website:	https://crazy8sclub.org/
Email:	joy@bedtimemath.org
Phone:	(908) 444-4539
Contact:	Joy Kalfus

CYBERPATRIOT NATIONAL YOUTH CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

Grades 6–12

The CyberPatriot competition puts teams of 6–12 grade students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In a series of online rounds, teams must find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems while maintaining critical services. The top teams in the nation earn all-expenses paid trips to Maryland for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.

Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content: STEM
Academic Skills: Critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider: Air and Space Forces Association
Fees and Deadlines: \$205/high school team (of 2–6 students) and \$165/middle school team. 20% discount for teams registered by July 1. Fees waived for JROTC, Title I and all-girl teams. Registration is open between April 1–Oct. 3, 2023. Visit website for competition schedule.
Website: www.uscyberpatriot.org
Email: info@uscyberpatriot.org
Phone: (877) 885-5716

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Grades K–12, Post-secondary

Destination Imagination inspires and equips students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. The organization is a leader in project-based learning experiences, where students work together in teams to solve open-ended STEM and service learning challenges and then present their solutions at tournaments.

Program Category: Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content: STEM
Academic Skills: STEM concepts, problem solving, critical thinking, time/budget management, creativity, cooperation, improvisation, research and teamwork
Program Provider: Intermediate District 287
Fees and Deadlines: For more information, please visit the website.
Website: www.mndi.org
Email: pfschroeder@district287.org
Phone: (763) 550-7212
Contact: Pamela Schroeder, affiliate director

★ DISCOVERY AWARD COMPETITION

Grades 4–12

DISCOVER extraordinary individuals who positively impacted history, yet are not well known. CREATE a website, documentary, or performance that honors the legacy of your Unsung Hero. CHANGE the world for the better by using your project to inspire the hero within everyone. Participants can submit individual or group projects.

Program Category: Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content: General, Social Studies
Academic Skills: Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary and research
Program Provider: Lowell Milken Center
Fees and Deadlines: Topics can be submitted for approval before February 15th. Submissions due July 1st. See website for further information.
Website: <https://www.lowellmilkencenter.org/competitions/discovery-award>
Email: conardnorm@gmail.com
Phone: (620) 223-1312
Contact: Norm Conard

Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes
Discovery Award



ECONOMICS CHALLENGE

Grades 9–12

In the Economics Challenge, teams of high school students compete in a series of tests on economic problems, theory and current events to demonstrate their critical-thinking abilities. Teams can compete online or at one of the in-person competitions across Minnesota to qualify for the state championship.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	There is no registration cost for teachers or students to participate. Registration opens on January 1 of the competition year; exact dates can be found on the MCEE calendar.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/EconomicsChallenge
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Angela Zappa

ENGINEERING MACHINE DESIGN CONTEST

Grades 5–8 (Junior Division), 9–12 (Senior Division)

Using everyday objects, teams of 3–12 students design and build a complex, multi-step machine that achieves a simple task with the guidance of a coach. Teams showcase and exhibit their machines at a regional contest with the opportunity to advance to the championship. Teams are scored on Team Journal, Team Presentation, and Machine Design and Operation. Each year a competition theme is chosen to guide the machine build and allow for whimsical creativity to flourish.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota State Engineering Center of Excellence
Fees and Deadlines:	Varies by contest site; regional contests: February–April; check website for fees, deadlines and competition theme.
Website:	https://engineering.mnsu.edu/engineering-machine-design-contest/
Email:	melissa.huppert@mnsu.edu
Phone:	(507) 389-2110
Contact:	Melissa Huppert

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

Grades 4–8

FIRST LEGO League encourages young innovators ages 9–14 to build self confidence in STEM while developing critical thinking and team building skills. Teams of 2–10 participants design, build and program an autonomous LEGO robot as well as research and solve a real world problem associated with a yearly theme.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	High Tech Kids
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit the website for detailed information.
Website:	https://hightechkids.org/fl-overview/
Email:	vicki@hightechkids.org
Phone:	(612) 781-2203
Contact:	Vicki Coaty

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE EXPLORE

Grades K–3

FIRST LEGO League Explore teams work together to discover how science and technology impact the world around them. Teams of 2–6 participants between the ages of 6–9 work with LEGO WeDo and LEGO elements to build a motorized model and create a Show Me poster related to their research on a yearly theme.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, public speaking, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	High Tech Kids
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit the website for detailed information.
Website:	https://hightechkids.org/fll-jr-overview/
Email:	vicki@hightechkids.org
Phone:	(612) 781-2203
Contact:	Vicki Coaty

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Grades 7–12

FIRST Tech Challenge is a hands-on and rapid prototyping robotic experience for students. Teams of 3–15 participants in grades 7–12 build and program robots, based on sound engineering principles, to compete in an alliance format. FTC helps kids develop strategic, problem solving and team building skills.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, teamwork, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	High Tech Kids
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit the website for detailed information.
Website:	https://hightechkids.org/ftc-overview/
Email:	vicki@hightechkids.org
Phone:	(612) 781-2203
Contact:	Vicki Coaty

★ GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS

Grades K–12

An annual event to celebrate academic excellence and to honor outstanding K–12 students as Academic All-Stars. Teachers, administrators and/or academic challenge coaches may nominate their top students or those that have made a dramatic improvement in their academic work for recognition as Academic All-Stars. Nominations may be placed online each spring on the website.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions
Academic Content:	General
Program Provider:	Synergy & Leadership Exchange
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Statewide recognition event is held on the first Friday in August.
Website:	https://synergyexchange.org/gathering-of-champions
Email:	goc@synergyexchange.org
Phone:	(507) 389-5115
Contact:	Leah Garry



CALLING ALL STUDENTS . . . DESIGN THE 2024 GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS LOGO!

Submit your original logo design ideas for the 2024 Gathering of Champions, which will appear on the certificates of achievement, T-shirts, banners and other materials. The winner receives \$100 and a framed copy of their winning design. The contest is open to all Minnesota K–12 students. All entries must be designed by a currently enrolled student and be received by May 1, 2024. See complete rules for submission and download the logo contest entry form on the Synergy & Leadership Exchange website. *Teachers make this a classroom activity; celebrate the importance of academics and the arts with your students!*



Congratulations to Tenley Gustitus, winner of the 2023 Gathering of Champions Logo Contest! She is a fifth-grade student at Nicollet Public School.

GENES IN SPACE

Grades 7–12

Students in grades 7–12 pioneer research on the International Space Station by designing DNA experiments for space! Students are invited to propose experiments that address real-life challenges and opportunities of space exploration. One winning experiment will launch to the ISS and be carried out by astronauts. You can work alone or in a team up to two students.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Genes in Space
Fees and Deadlines:	The 2024 contest will open in January and close in April; see website for further details. There is no cost to enter the competition and entry does not require equipment.
Website:	www.genesinspace.org
Email:	genesinspace@minipcr.com
Phone:	(781) 990-8727
Contact:	Katy Martin

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

Grades 7–12

The German Language and Culture Festival brings together students from Minnesota and Wisconsin for a half-day immersion experience in which they engage in level-appropriate activities in German and build a sense of community with other language learners. Additionally, the festival invites students to showcase their talents by submitting projects to a competition based on a predetermined theme.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	World Languages & Cultures
Academic Skills:	Creativity, global citizenship, interdisciplinary and teamwork
Program Provider:	German Studies Program, University of Minnesota Duluth
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Notifications regarding the deadlines will be sent via email.
Email:	hbrining@d.umn.edu
Phone:	(218) 726-8245
Contact:	Holly Brining

★ GIRLS WHO CODE CLUBS

Grades 3–12

Girls Who Code Clubs are free programs for 3–12 grade students of all genders to learn the computer science skills they need to pursue 21st century opportunities. Complete the brief Clubs application on the website to access our free CSTA standards-aligned coding lessons, a \$500 Clubs Fund for supplies, virtual support from a dedicated GWC staff member and Girls Who Code swag. No coding experience required!



Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Girls Who Code
Fees and Deadlines:	Free! No deadline to apply!
Website:	https://girlswhocode.com/programs/clubs-program
Email:	rachel.pierce@girlswhocode.com
Contact:	Rachel Pierce



GLOBAL FOOD CHALLENGE

Grades 9–12

The Global Food Challenge is a unique competition for students to engage in research about food issues around the world and solve problems using their economic knowledge. Participants research a question or issue they are curious about in food trade, markets, safety, or food security. Using this research and their understanding of economics, students communicate their conclusions in a paper that is entered to win cash prizes.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, research and global citizenship
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Project submissions are accepted from January–April of the competition year. Curriculum materials are free upon request.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/GlobalFood
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Angela Zappa

H2O FOR LIFE

Grades K–12

H2O for Life provides free educational resources to classrooms to bring the discussion of the world crisis to life for your students. These resources range from free classroom presentations by our staff to online curriculum and service-learning grants. After your students learn about the issue, they have the opportunity to take on a service-learning project to support a partner school in need of help with a water project.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Environmental stewardship, global citizenship, interdisciplinary, leadership development and problem solving
Program Provider:	H2O for Life
Fees and Deadlines:	All resources provided by H2O for Life are free to participants!
Website:	www.h2oforlifeschools.org
Email:	mitchell@h2oforlifeschools.org
Phone:	(651) 377-1096
Contact:	Mitchell LeGrand

HOBY YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Grade 10

HOBY is a three-day transformative youth leadership training seminar. Areas of focus include communication for understanding, critical thinking, teamwork and individual leadership. High school sophomores explore current issues facing our communities, develop tools for planning and action, and receive access to a world-wide network of HOBY alumni.

Program Category:	Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship and time/budget management
Program Provider:	Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership – Minnesota, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines:	Cost for the first student at each school is \$225; additional students pay the full cost of \$495 per student. Leadership Seminar occurs every June. See packet sent to school guidance counselor or website for more details.
Website:	www.hobyminnesota.org
Email:	jenkrengel@hobyminnesota.org
Phone:	(818) 851-3980

JOSTENS RENAISSANCE EDUCATION

Grades K–12

Jostens partners with educators to renew school climate and culture through Jostens Renaissance Education. Resources such as The Harbor by Jostens weekly video series, The Idea Exchange library of activities that work and the annual Jostens Renaissance National Conference provide a framework for using recognition to connect with students and help everyone feel like part of the school community.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	General
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking and teamwork
Program Provider:	Jostens Renaissance Education
Fees and Deadlines:	No cost for Jostens customers. Visit the website for information on resources and events.
Website:	www.jostensrenaissance.com
Email:	renaissance@jostens.com
Phone:	(800) 624-5534

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT CAPSTONE PROGRAMS

Grades 5–12

Junior Achievement Capstone Programs combine practical applications in real world situations with classroom principles, which allows learning to come to life! Students explore lessons of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness, and put those skills to work in simulated communities and workplace settings. Programs include JA Finance Park, JA Titan, JA Company Program and JA Job Shadow.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, time/budget management and personal development
Program Provider:	Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees vary by location; contact program for details.
Website:	www.jaum.org
Email:	info@janorth.org
Phone:	(651) 255-0055

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT K–12 CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Grades K–12

Junior Achievement Classroom Programs inspire and prepare K–12 students to succeed in school and beyond through relevant, experiential curriculum. Elementary age students learn how they can impact the world around them as individuals, workers and consumers. Secondary age students learn how to take control of their economic success, start and run a business, and prepare for college and a career.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, time/budget management and personal development
Program Provider:	Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees vary by location; contact program for further details.
Website:	www.jaum.org
Email:	info@janorth.org
Phone:	(651) 255-0055

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Grades K–12

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program is a standards-based education program designed to spark interest in habitat conservation through science, art, math and technology. It focuses on wildlife observation, nature journaling, photography, enjoying and exploring the outside world, and investigating the treasures of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, research, environmental stewardship and artistic expression
Program Provider:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fees and Deadlines:	No fee. Entry deadline for the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is March 15 annually.
Website:	www.fws.gov/juniorduck
Email:	lynda_knutsen@fws.gov
Phone:	(218) 449-4115, ext. 202
Contact:	Lynda Knutsen

KNOWLEDGE BOWL COMPETITIONS – JR. AND SR. HIGH

Grades 7–8, 9–12

Knowledge Bowl is an interdisciplinary academic contest for junior and senior high school students. Teams of students answer questions in a variety of academic areas. Senior High Knowledge Bowl students can compete for state championships.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	General
Academic Skills:	Recall, critical thinking, cooperation and problem solving
Program Provider:	Lakes Country Service Cooperative
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees and dates vary by region. Senior High State Knowledge Bowl meets will take place in spring 2024.
Website:	www.lcsc.org/Domain/47
Email:	mthompson@lcsc.org
Phone:	(218) 737-6540
Contact:	Monica Thompson

LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

Grades 4–8, 9–12

The Laws of Life writing program encourages elementary, middle school and high school students to reflect and write about a core value that means the most to them – and why.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development and personal narrative writing
Program Provider:	Character.org
Fees and Deadlines:	Free. Submission deadline in March. Visit website for more details.
Website:	https://character.org/laws-of-life-contest/
Email:	lawsoflife@character.org
Phone:	(202) 296-7743
Contact:	Debra Cohen

★ LIFESMARTS

Grades 9–12

LifeSmarts provides teens with the skills and knowledge they need to evaluate risks and opportunities in order to make informed decisions regarding personal finance, consumerism, health/safety, technology and the environment. Free LifeSmarts curriculum materials and lessons can be used in the classroom or within other student organizations. Students can choose to participate in online and/or live competitions on things they have learned.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, General, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, environmental stewardship, interdisciplinary, problem solving and time/budget management
Program Provider:	South Central Service Cooperative
Fees and Deadlines:	Participation is free. Online competitions take place September–January. In-person state competition is in early February. The national competition is held in April in a major U.S. city.
Website:	www.mnscsc.org/lifesmarts or https://lifesmarts.org/
Email:	lifesmarts@mnscsc.org



MATH MANIA TOURNAMENT

Want more MOEMS? Join us for a live competition! Teams of five students will participate in individual, team and playoff rounds of competition surrounding mathematical thinking and problem solving. Coaches are provided sample problems in advance of the competition and solutions for reviewing with teams afterward. Team and individual awards will be presented at a ceremony following the competition. Schools or other youth groups are invited to form teams, or students can register individually and will be placed on teams for the competition. Visit www.mnscsc.org/math-mania for more information.



★ MAAP STARS

Grades 7–12

MAAP STARS (Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs: Success, Teamwork, Achievement, Recognition, Self-esteem) is a broad-based, vocational-oriented program to help students develop professional employment, academic and social skills. STARS helps students gain self-confidence, increases motivation to graduate and creates a desire for life-long learning. There are regional and three statewide events.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, critical thinking, leadership development, public speaking and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP)
Fees and Deadlines:	MAAP STARS annual membership fee/school and \$50/person for fall Leadership Conference October 5 & 6, 2023 at Lake Beauty Camp in Long Prairie. STARS Legislative Day at the State Capitol in February 2024 is free. 2024 Spring Events Conference is in May. Check the MAAP website for more specifics.
Website:	www.maapmn.org/stars
Email:	maapstarschair@gmail.com
Phone:	(612) 751-2490
Contact:	Patti Haasch



★ MATH MASTERS

Grades 4–6

The Math Masters mathematics competition program challenges fourth, fifth and sixth grade students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills in mathematics. Students compete as individuals and on teams in 6–8 rounds of competition held each March and April at dozens of sites throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Students' academic effort and achievement is recognized with plaques, medallions and ribbons in each competition element: Fact Drill, Individual Round and Team Competition.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, problem solving, teamwork and time/budget management
Program Provider:	Math Masters
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit website for current fee and registration details. Registration opens in September; competitions are held in March–April. Team and individual registration options available.
Website:	www.math-masters.org
Email:	mathmasters@math-masters.org
Phone:	(507) 389-2509
Contact:	Mary Detloff



MATHCEP – SATURDAY MORNING MATH ENRICHMENT

Grades 5–7

Spend your Saturdays delving into what keeps the internet working, takes us to space, lets us talk about infinity and helps us win more games: math! The School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs (MathCEP) at the University of Minnesota offers Saturday Morning Math Enrichment programs during the school year where students in grades 5–7 engage in innovative activities that focus on mathematic topics that go beyond the classroom.

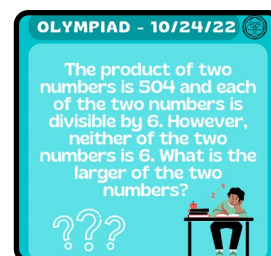
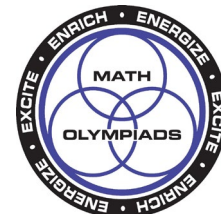
Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, analytic ability, STEM concepts and mathematical skills
Program Provider:	University of Minnesota – MathCEP
Fees and Deadlines:	For fees and calendar dates call or visit the website. Registration opens in August.
Website:	https://cse.umn.edu/mathcep/saturday-morning-math-enrichment
Email:	mathcep@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-2861

★ MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIADS FOR ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Grades 4–6 (Division E), Grades 6–8 (Division M)

Math Olympiads is a series of five contests in each division that run from November–March. Contests may be administered in the classroom or in a before/after school program. The contests can be administered in-person or virtually. We also sponsor tournaments, which are exciting face-to-face competitions that may be offered by any school or professional organization in the spring.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and problem solving
Program Provider:	MOEMS – Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools
Fees and Deadlines:	Early bird fee is \$175 due by June 30. The standard fee to enroll a team is \$200 between July 1–Oct. 15 and \$250 between Oct. 16–31.
Website:	www.moems.org
Email:	info@moems.org
Phone:	(516) 781-2400
Contact:	Meryl Fordin



MATHWORKS MATH MODELING CHALLENGE

Grades 11–12

M3 Challenge is a free, internet-based applied math competition known for inspiring students to pursue STEM majors and careers. Working in teams of 3–5, participants solve an open-ended problem focused on a realistic issue in 14 hours. Teams with the best solution papers receive tuition scholarships for their college education.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Registration opens in November and closes in February. Challenge weekend is in March. Visit website for deadlines.
Website:	https://M3Challenge.siam.org
Email:	m3challenge@siam.org
Phone:	(215) 382-9800
Contact:	Michelle Montgomery

MINNESOTA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Grades K–13

Minnesota 4-H Youth Development programs are found in urban, suburban, tribal and rural communities across Minnesota. There are many ways to participate: 4-H clubs, 4-H afterschool programs, project-based learning, 4-H day and residential camps, and regional and state programs and events.

Program Category:	Leadership Development, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, General, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development and public speaking
Program Provider:	University of Minnesota Extension – Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for details.
Website:	www.extension.umn.edu/4-h
Email:	fourh@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 624-2116

MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE – MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL

Grades 6–8, 9–12

The competition consists of five-person teams buzzing in to answer science and math questions in a fast-paced format. Each team competes in a round-robin tournament with the top teams advancing to a double-elimination championship. The winning team represents Minnesota with a paid trip to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, leadership development, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Academy of Science
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for competition dates and deadlines. \$150 per high school team and \$125 per middle school team.
Website:	www.mnmas.org/science-bowl
Email:	kfowler@mnmas.org
Phone:	(651) 917-3994
Contact:	Kris Fowler

MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE – STATE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

Grades 6–12

Since 1938, Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair has been the pinnacle of project-based STEM education in Minnesota, the culmination of regional science fairs throughout the state with up to 500 students selected to present their research. The four top projects receive an all-expense paid trip to the International Fair with more than 70 countries participating.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, environmental stewardship, problem solving and public speaking
Program Provider:	Minnesota Academy of Science
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for fees, deadlines and competition dates.
Website:	www.mnmas.org/about-science-engineering-fair
Email:	lizbuhmann@mnmas.org
Phone:	(612) 465-9181
Contact:	Liz Buhmann

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Grades K–12

MAITC seeks to improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition. By encouraging teachers to embed agriculture into their curriculum, MAITC cultivates an understanding and appreciation of the food system that we rely on every day.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, environmental stewardship, global citizenship, interdisciplinary and agricultural literacy
Program Provider:	MAITC at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Fees and Deadlines:	All MAITC resources are free except the Children's Literature Book Bundle.
Website:	https://minnesota.agclassroom.org
Email:	Sue.knott@state.mn.us
Phone:	(651) 201-6486
Contact:	Sue Knott

MINNESOTA ARCGIS ONLINE STUDENT COMPETITION

Grades 4–8, 9–12

The competition asks middle and high school students to choose a topic of interest within the borders of Minnesota, research the topic, map geographic findings and present findings in a story map entry. Each school may submit up to five entries to the state competition. The top five receive prizes. The first-place entry in each division represents Minnesota in Esri's national competition.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competition, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, geographic inquiry, problem solving and research
Program Provider:	Minnesota Alliance for Geographic Education (MAGE)
Fees and Deadlines:	There are no competition fees. Each school is required to have a free Esri ArcGIS Online school software bundle account that students use to create entries. Registration opens in November and closes in April. School entries must be submitted for the state competition in May. See the competition website for information on registering and applying for a free account.
Website:	https://mnk12-umn.hub.arcgis.com/pages/competition-home
Email:	jimsoli@mac.com
Phone:	(612) 590-6422
Contact:	Jim Hanson

MINNESOTA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA

Grades 9–12

The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class work force through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic and technological career skills for business and office students. It combines school-based and work-based learning.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Conferences & Institutes
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, research, teamwork, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	MN Business Professionals of America
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for complete details on state and national fees as well as conference dates and locations.
Website:	www.mnbpa.org
Email:	jackie@arvig.net
Phone:	(218) 847-5355
Contact:	Jackie Schiller

MINNESOTA DECA

Grades 9–12

DECA is a school-to-work student organization that provides marketing related activities and leadership development. It combines school-based and work-based learning, focusing on careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Competition is in occupational skills, leadership and management.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Conferences & Institutes
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, research, teamwork, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Minnesota Secondary DECA
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for complete details on state and national fees as well as conference dates and locations.
Website:	www.mndeca.org
Email:	jackie@arvig.net
Phone:	(218) 847-5355
Contact:	Jackie Schiller

MINNESOTA ENVIROTHON

Grades 9–12

The Minnesota Envirothon is an outdoor environmental learning competition where teams of high school students compete in five learning stations including soils, aquatics/wetlands, wildlife, forestry and a current environmental topic. Teams are tested in each area and students also give an oral presentation on the current events topic. It is a one-day event; teams must qualify from an area event to compete at state.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Knowledge of natural resource issues and topics, public speaking, research, critical thinking, problem solving skills, interdisciplinary, creativity and teamwork
Program Provider:	NCF Envirothon (national), Association of Conservation District (state), and Minnesota Area and Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (area events)
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees for regional and state level. Regional events are in late April/early May; State event is the third Monday in May; National event is typically held in July or August.
Website:	www.maswcd.org/envirothon.htm
Email:	judy.johnston@stevensswcd.org
Phone:	(320) 589-4886, ext. 114
Contact:	Judy Johnston

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR PROGRAM TO BE PART OF REACH FOR THE STARS?

The Minnesota Academic League Council reviews and approves applications from academic challenges and competitions, awards and recognitions, classroom enrichment, conferences and institutes, leadership development, and out of school time programs available on a statewide basis in Minnesota for inclusion in the Reach for the Stars catalogue. Applications are available on the Synergy & Leadership Exchange website <https://www.synergyexchange.org/reach-for-the-stars>. Questions? Email reach@synergyexchange.org.

MINNESOTA FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA

Grades 6–12

Minnesota FCCLA is a career and technical student organization where you can learn to be an effective leader in your school and community and explore possible careers. Youth leaders in FCCLA gain confidence, practical knowledge, character development and skills in presenting, working in teams, and creative and critical thinking.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Conferences & Institutes, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, teamwork, leadership development, global citizenship, environmental stewardship, time/budget management and artistic expression
Program Provider:	MN FCCLA
Fees and Deadlines:	Annual individual membership fee is \$20. Middle level chapters pay a lump sum through their school. Membership fee collected in early fall by chapter advisers. Competitive events (STAR Events) are held in January–February for regions and in April for state competition. Check website for more information.
Website:	www.mnfccla.org
Email:	patrick.mitchell@mnfccla.org
Phone:	(651) 330-2950
Contact:	Patrick Mitchell

MINNESOTA FFA

Grades 7–12

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	General
Academic Skills:	Communications, leadership and decision-making skills
Program Provider:	Minnesota FFA
Fees and Deadlines:	Please visit the website for information.
Website:	www.mnffa.org
Email:	lrada@mnffa.org
Phone:	(605) 695-1861
Contact:	Lavyne Rada (interim)

★ MINNESOTA FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

Grades 6–8

Using the Engineering Design Process and project management skills, students showcase their solutions to a citywide sustainability issue. They imagine, design and build a futuristic city! This program has grown to encompass more than 45,000 students annually in the U.S., Canada, China, Egypt and Nigeria.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, problem solving, public speaking, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	SparkPath (formerly Success Beyond the Classroom)
Fees and Deadlines:	Grades 6-8; \$25 per school registration fee, due by 10/31/23
Website:	www.futurecity.org/Minnesota
Email:	colleen.feller@brightworksmn.org
Phone:	(612) 638-1511
Contact:	Colleen Feller



★ MINNESOTA FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM

Grades K–12

Teaching students how to think, not what to think; learning lifelong problem-solving skills. Critical and creative thinking skills are applied to real topics. The 2023–24 topics are: Tourism, Urban Shift, Antarctica, and Autonomous Transportation. Classroom curriculum is available for grades K–9. Competitive opportunities for grades 4–12 include Global Issues Problem Solving, Community Problem Solving, Scenario Writing, Visual Arts and Scenario Performance.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM, World Languages & Cultures
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Future Problem Solving Program
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit our website for fees and deadlines.
Website:	www.mnfpsp.org
Email:	cheryl@mnfpsp.org
Phone:	(507) 450-4227
Contact:	Cheryl Whitesitt



MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC LISTENING CONTEST

Grades 9–12

The Music Listening Contest assists teachers in their efforts to expand the music experiences of students. Students gain understanding and appreciation of other cultures through listening and learning about music from various areas and time periods. They also develop teamwork skills as they work in teams of three to compete in the regional and championship contests.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Active listening, artistic expression, critical analysis, factual recall and teamwork
Program Provider:	Music Listening Contest Board
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration opens in September and closes in November. See website for specific dates. Fees: \$110 per three-member team (includes study guides, MPR Playlist guide and practice test).
Website:	www.musiclisteningcontest.com
Email:	musiclisteningcontestinfo@gmail.com
Phone:	(952) 848-3080
Contact:	Paul Kile

★ MINNESOTA INSTITUTE FOR TALENTED YOUTH

Grades 1–12

Our mission is to inspire and challenge intellectually curious students to pursue their passions within a diverse, inclusive community and empower them by building skills and relationships for lifelong success. MITY offers unique STEM, humanities and fine arts courses in three academic programs. Students engage in hands-on, inquiry-based learning during the summer or on Saturday mornings during the school year. Older students can live in the dorms at Macalester College.

Program Category:	Leadership Development, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Institute For Talented Youth
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for details.
Website:	https://mity.org/in-person-programs/
Email:	info@mity.org
Phone:	(651) 243-2221
Contact:	Erica Brewinski



MINNESOTA JUNIOR HIGH MATH LEAGUE

Grades 6–8

Minnesota Junior High Math League encourages students to participate in math contests, enables students to meet mathletes from other schools and provides recognition for students excelling in mathematics. The program also serves as preparation for the annual MATHCOUNTS competition. The meet topics are based on the MATHCOUNTS topics.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, factual recall, problem solving and teamwork
Fees and Deadlines:	First team: \$150, each additional team \$50. Competitions run from October–February (five meets). Fee due at time of registration.
Website:	www.mnjhml.com
Email:	mnjhml1@gmail.com
Phone:	(651) 252-1766
Contact:	Judy-Ann Ehrlich

MINNESOTA MATHCOUNTS

Grades 6–8

We build confidence, improve attitudes towards math and problem solving, and we have fun! MATHCOUNTS is for ALL middle school math students. Educators, please use our free resources in your classrooms and math clubs. Through three distinct programs, middle school students are empowered to reach their full potential in mathematics: MATHCOUNTS Competition Series, The National Math Club and the Math Video Challenge.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota MATHCOUNTS/MN Society of Professional Engineers
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration opens in August. Chapter competitions held in February. The Club and Video Challenge programs are free. Competition program fees will be released each August: mathcounts.org .
Website:	www.mathcountsmn.org
Email:	mathcountsmn@gmail.com
Phone:	(651) 457-2347
Contact:	Katie Jamieson

MINNESOTA MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

Grades 4–12

Minnesota Mathematics League encourages student interest and confidence in mathematics through solving worthwhile problems. There are contests for students in grades 4–8, Algebra 1 and high school. Every contest has questions from different areas of mathematics. Schools compete in statewide or multi-state league competitions.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking and creativity
Program Provider:	The Math League
Fees and Deadlines:	Please see website for contest dates, fees and deadlines.
Website:	www.themathleague.com
Email:	dan@mathleague.com
Phone:	(201) 568-6328
Contact:	Daniel Fleger

MINNESOTA PTA REFLECTIONS

Grades K–12

Reflections arts program encourages students to explore their artistic talent and is designed to promote expression and creativity. Students create their artwork based on an annual theme. Students are able to show the world how they matter through their visual artwork, photography, music composition, film production, dance and literature.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity and critical thinking
Program Provider:	Minnesota PTA
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees, but school or student must have MN PTA membership. Entry deadline is February 2024. See website for annual theme and other details.
Website:	https://mnpta.org/reflections/about/
Email:	reflections@mnpta.org
Phone:	(952) 767-4909
Contact:	Lori Ortega

MINNESOTA SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Grades 7–12

Minnesota high school students, grade 7–12, are invited to enter a juried art exhibition. Award winners are recognized and honored at an award ceremony and reception, either in person or virtually.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, creativity and problem solving
Program Provider:	Co-sponsored by Art Educators of Minnesota, The University of Minnesota's Art Department & Regis Art Center and the Weisman Art Museum
Fees and Deadlines:	Submissions open in September and are due the first week in December.
Website:	www.artandwriting.org/affiliate/MN001A/ or https://www.aem-mn.org/student-opportunities-2/scholastics
Email:	dscully94@gmail.com
Phone:	(612) 834-6881
Contact:	Diane Scully

MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION A)

Grades 3–6

The Minnesota Science Olympiad is devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement. Team competition includes challenging and motivational events ranging from earth science to physics. The winning team from each division will be invited to the National Science Olympiad.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, factual recall, critical thinking and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Science Olympiad
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration: \$50 per team (15 students per school) covers both the national and state fees. Check website for registration link.
Website:	www.minnesotasoo.org
Email:	MnSciOly@gmail.com
Contact:	Michael Huberty

MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION B)

Grades 6–9

Science Olympiad is a nationwide organization dedicated to improving science education through competitions like academic track meets of team events. Each year, students prepare for competition by studying a wide range of STEM topics with an emphasis on group participation. Through Science Olympiad, participants bond together and work toward shared goals.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, environmental stewardship, factual recall, interdisciplinary, problem solving, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Science Olympiad
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration fee of \$150 per team (15 students per school) covers both the national and state fees. The fee registers your team with the National Science Olympiad allowing the team to advance to the state and national tournaments. Each additional team from a school is \$100. Check website for the registration link.
Website:	www.minnesotaso.org
Email:	hans1355@isd194.org
Phone:	(952) 232-3877
Contact:	Brandi Gordon

MINNESOTA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (DIVISION C)

Grades 9–12

The Minnesota Science Olympiad offers competitions to encourage students to solve problems and become proficient in a variety of topic areas. Participants compete as a team. The winning team from each division at the state competition will be invited to the National Science Olympiad held in May.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Science Olympiad
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration fee of \$150 per team (15 students per school) covers both the national and state fees. The fee registers your team with the National Science Olympiad allowing you to advance to the state and national tournaments, covers the cost of awards, rule books and helps cover costs for the Science Olympiad. Each additional team from a school is \$100. Check website for registration link.
Website:	www.minnesotaso.org
Email:	kfoley@edenpr.org
Phone:	(612) 597-2499
Contact:	Katie Foley

MINNESOTA SKILLSUSA

Grades 6–12, Post-secondary

SkillsUSA helps students become future leaders by developing their personal, workplace and technical skills. Students engaged in technically skilled courses and programming as well as those looking for career exploration activities and opportunities can benefit!

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, problem solving, teamwork and communication
Program Provider:	Minnesota SkillsUSA
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for fees and deadlines.
Website:	www.mnskillsusa.org
Email:	executive.director@mnskillsusa.org
Phone:	(612) 405-3404
Contact:	Tim Friedrich

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS LEAGUE

Grades 6–12

Schools send students to five meets in their geographic region with both individual and team competitions. Top teams in geographic regions and top 50 scoring students participate in a state tournament. Top individuals in the state are invited to join the All-State Team that represents Minnesota in national competitions. The Summer Math Institute, a residential summer camp, is held in June.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Augsburg University
Fees and Deadlines:	\$600 per school, unlimited number of students from the school may participate. Individual students may participate if the school does not have a team, cost is \$100. Registration deadline is Sept. 1; payment is due Sept. 30. Meet dates are November–February. State tournament is held in March.
Website:	www.mnmathleague.org
Email:	mathleague@augsborg.edu
Phone:	(612) 330-1788
Contact:	Tom Young

MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONDALE-QUIE ESSAY CONTEST

Grades 11–12

The Mondale-Quie Essay Contest provides Minnesota high school juniors and seniors with an opportunity to compete for up to \$1,000 in scholarship money by writing essays that analyze and take a position on a current topic relevant to Minnesota's judicial system.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, global citizenship, problem solving and research
Program Provider:	Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. The essay contest topic and other contest information is posted on the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society website in the fall. The online essay submission deadline is in the winter each year. Check website for topic information and deadlines.
Website:	https://mncourthistory.org/Essay-Contest
Email:	director.mschs@gmail.com
Phone:	(612) 492-6178
Contact:	Brian Bell

CHECK OUT THE ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF THE CATALOGUE!

Did you know Reach for the Stars is available electronically both as a full-color PDF or a text-only Word document? To download, visit www.synergyexchange.org/reach-for-the-stars or scan the QR code.



MINNESOTA YOUTH INSTITUTE

Grades 9–12

The Minnesota Youth Institute challenges high school students to solve local and global food security issues. MNYI is a half-day program where high school students from across Minnesota share research, participate in interactive experiences and network with research/industry leaders in agricultural/food/natural resource fields. Participating students are eligible for scholarships, international and domestic internships, and an opportunity to represent Minnesota at the Global Youth Institute and World Food Prize International Borlaug-Dialogue Symposium.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	General, Social Studies, STEM, World Languages
Academic Skills:	Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, public speaking, leadership development, global citizenship and environmental stewardship
Program Provider:	University of Minnesota
Fees and Deadlines:	No fee. Visit website for registration and essay deadline details.
Website:	www.mnyi.cfans.umn.edu
Email:	mnyi@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 624-1745
Contact:	Mary Buschette

MN CUP COMPETITION – YOUTH DIVISION

Grades K–12

The Minnesota Cup is an early-stage business competition. Through the Youth and Student divisions, young entrepreneurs are provided a supportive environment to start a new business and compete for prize money. More information about the competition is available on the website.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, problem solving, public speaking, verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship, University of Minnesota
Fees and Deadlines:	The competition is free to enter. Applications available starting in March. Check the website for more information.
Website:	www.mncup.org
Email:	hellomncup@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-4772
Contact:	Jessica Berg

MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

Grades 7–12

The program gives students an insider's look at the American legal system while helping them develop critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills. A volunteer attorney works with each team to prepare for the simulated trials held in actual courtrooms in January/February. The state tournament is held in March; the state champion competes at the national tournament in May.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking, teamwork and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Minnesota State Bar Association
Fees and Deadlines:	\$275 per team; registration deadline is October 2023.
Website:	www.mnbar.org/public-resources/mock-trial
Email:	kbasting@mnbars.org
Phone:	(612) 278-6306
Contact:	Kim Basting

MSHSL DEBATE, SPEECH

Grades 7–12

For each program, see Fine Arts Rules and Policies manual available on the MSHSL website. Debate is a MSHSL winter activity. Competition events in policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, public forum debate and congressional debate. Speech is a MSHSL spring activity. Contests are held in creative expression, discussion, duo interpretation, extemporaneous reading, extemporaneous speaking, great speeches, humorous interpretation, informative speaking, original oratory, serious drama interpretation, serious poetry interpretation, serious prose interpretation and storytelling.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Program Provider:	MSHSL
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees vary by school. Registration deadline is Dec. 1.
Website:	www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/debate ; www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/speech
Email:	adoherty@mshsl.org
Phone:	(763) 560-2262
Contact:	Amy Doherty

MSHSL MUSIC, ONE ACT PLAY, VISUAL ARTS

Grades 7–12

For each program, see Fine Arts Rules and Policies manual available on the MSHSL website. Music is a spring MSHSL activity. The contest events provide for competition in major groups (choir, orchestra and band), special groups, ensembles and solos. One Act Play is a winter MSHSL activity. Visual Arts is a spring MSHSL activity. Artwork may be submitted in the categories of drawing, painting, sculpture, film-based photograph, digital photography, video art, computer-based artwork, crafts, printmaking, ceramics, 2D mixed media/collage and graphic design.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts
Program Provider:	MSHSL
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees vary by school. Registration deadline is Dec. 1.
Website:	www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/music ; www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/one-act-play ; www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/visual-arts
Email:	tleighton@mshsl.org , adoherty@mshsl.org , jnickleby@mshsl.org
Phone:	(763) 560-2262
Contact:	Tim Leighton (Music, Visual Arts), Amy Doherty (One Act Play)

MSHSL/FIRST ROBOTICS

Grades 9–12

MSHSL/FIRST Robotics is an extracurricular opportunity for students with an interest in engineering and robotics.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	STEM and communications
Program Provider:	MSHSL/FIRST
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees vary by school. FIRST Kickoff events start in January; Regional Events are in March; State Championship is in May. See website for full schedule and details.
Website:	https://www.mshsl.org/sports-and-activities/robotics
Email:	kr71@aol.com
Phone:	(952) 884-5169
Contact:	Ken Rosen

MTEEA SUPER MILEAGE COMPETITION

Grades 7–12

This program joins classroom learning with imagination, ingenuity and teamwork to produce the most fuel-efficient vehicle. Ideas are tempered with calculation to produce optimum design. Students are in charge of this project from the vehicle's conception to planning, fabrication and testing.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, interdisciplinary, research, teamwork, leadership development and time/budget management
Program Provider:	Minnesota Technology & Engineering Educators Association
Fees and Deadlines:	Register by November. The Supermileage Challenge takes place annually in May. Visit website for fees and specific dates.
Website:	www.mteea.net/index.php/competitions/supermileage
Email:	mteegasupermileage@gmail.com
Phone:	(320) 396-3393
Contact:	Luke Becker

★ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Grades 2–12

National geography contest that takes place in the classroom. Five levels: grade(s) 2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–9 and 10–12. Contests reflect the main themes of geography, appropriate to each grade level. The program is a Better Business Bureau member with an A+ rating.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and factual recall
Program Provider:	Continental Mathematics League, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines:	First team \$85, additional teams \$60; Registration through March; Meet date: between April–May.
Website:	www.cmleague.com
Email:	hello@cmleague.com
Phone:	(631) 584-2016



★ NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MINNESOTA

Grades 6–12

National History Day is a co-curricular academic fair in which students learn academic research, analysis and effective presentation of ideas with the help of staff and partnership organizations. Students are eligible to compete in school, regional, state and national contests. The 2023–2024 theme is “Turning Points in History.”

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, factual recall, interdisciplinary, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Historical Society
Fees and Deadlines:	Regional events take place in March and registration fees begin at \$12 per student. There is no classroom fee to participate and program materials are sent to teachers free of charge.
Website:	www.mnhs.org/historyday
Email:	samantha.papas@mnhs.org
Phone:	(651) 259-3439
Contact:	Sammi Jo Papas

national
historydayMN



★ NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS LEAGUE

Grades 2–12

National language arts contest that takes place in the classroom. Multiple-choice questions appropriate for grades 2 and 3–4. Multiple-choice questions based on spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, analogies and grammar available for grades 5–6, 7–9 and 10–12. The program is a Better Business Bureau member with an A+ rating.



Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and factual recall
Program Provider:	Continental Mathematics League, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines:	\$110 for the first two teams, \$60 for additional teams. Registration through March. Meet date: between April–May.
Website:	www.cmleague.com
Email:	hello@cmleague.com
Phone:	(631) 584-2016

★ NATIONAL SCIENCE LEAGUE

Grades 2–12

National science contest that takes place in the classroom. Contests in general science for grades 2, 3–4 and 5–6. Contests for middle and high school levels in life science, physical science, earth science, biology, chemistry and physics. Questions based on both factual knowledge and students' understanding of scientific processes. The program is a Better Business Bureau member with an A+ rating.



Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and factual recall
Program Provider:	Continental Mathematics League, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines:	\$110 for the first two teams, \$60 for additional teams. Registration through March. Meet dates: between April–May.
Website:	www.cmleague.com
Email:	hello@cmleague.com
Phone:	(631) 584-2016

★ NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES LEAGUE

Grades 2–12

National social studies contest that takes place in the classroom. Questions for grades 2–9 based on topics appropriate to each grade level in American Studies, U.S. Geography and U.S. Government. Two contests available for grades 10–12 in American History and World History. The program is a Better Business Bureau member with an A+ rating.



Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking and factual recall
Program Provider:	National Social Studies League
Fees and Deadlines:	\$110 for the first two teams, \$60 for additional teams. Registration through March. Meet date: between April–May.
Website:	www.cmleague.com
Email:	hello@cmleague.com
Phone:	(631) 584-2016

NCTE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS IN WRITING

Grade 10–11

The National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing encourages high school sophomores and juniors to write and to publicly recognize the best student writers. Students who have been nominated by their schools may submit a “Themed” writing that is up to 10 pages in length. Electronic submissions only.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, verbal reasoning and writing
Program Provider:	National Council of Teachers of English
Fees and Deadlines:	Submissions due March 1. See website for yearly prompt theme and further program details. No fee.
Website:	https://ncte.org/awards/achievement-awards-in-writing/
Email:	aa@ncte.org
Phone:	(217) 328-3870 or (877) 369-6283

NCTE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM

Grade 8

The purpose of the Promising Young Writers Program is to stimulate and recognize the writing talents of eighth-grade students and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among them. Students who have been nominated by their schools may submit a “Themed” writing that is up to 10 pages in length. Electronic submissions only.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, critical thinking, verbal reasoning and writing
Program Provider:	National Council of Teachers of English
Fees and Deadlines:	Submissions due March 1. See website for yearly prompt theme and further program details. No fee.
Website:	https://ncte.org/awards/promising-young-writers/
Email:	pyw@ncte.org
Phone:	(217) 328-3870 or (877) 369-6283

NOBEL CONFERENCE AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Grades 9–12

Join nearly 1,000 high school students at the 2023 Nobel Conference, “Insects: Little Body, Big Impact.” Nobel Conference 59 will address the disproportionate effects insects have on humans and the earth.

Program Category:	Conferences & Institutions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, environmental stewardship, global citizenship and interdisciplinary
Program Provider:	Gustavus Adolphus College
Fees and Deadlines:	The 59th Nobel Conference will be held Oct. 3–4. High school delegations are FREE but need to register in advance.
Website:	www.gustavus.edu/nobelconference
Email:	nobelconference@gustavus.edu
Phone:	(507) 933-7520
Contact:	Office of Marketing and Communication

NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTEST

Grades 2–8

The Noetic Learning Math Contest is a semiannual problem-solving contest for elementary and middle school students. The goal of the competition is to encourage students' interest in math, to develop their problem-solving skills and to inspire them to excel in math. During the contest, students have 45 minutes (50 minutes online) to solve 20 creative problems independently without a calculator. The contest is offered in both paper-pencil form and online.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, problem solving
Program Provider:	Noetic Learning LLC
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for details.
Website:	www.noetic-learning.com/mathcontest
Email:	info@noetic-learning.com
Phone:	(913) 735-4088
Contact:	Li Kelty

PERENNIAL MATH ONLINE MATH COMPETITION

Grades 3–12

Math is COOL! The goal of this competition is to stimulate students' enthusiasm for problem solving. Students can join the online competition (grades 3–8), travel to an on-site tournament (grades 3–8) or compete in WebEx virtual tournaments (grades 3–12). Visit the website or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/perennialmath for more information.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Mathematics
Program Provider:	Perennial Math
Fees and Deadlines:	\$100 team membership (up to 30 students at one competition level); \$25 for individual student membership. Homeschool teams are also welcome.
Website:	www.perennialmath.com
Email:	info@perennialmath.com
Phone:	(888) 835-2366

PERSONAL FINANCE DECATHLON

Grades 9–12

The Personal Finance Decathlon is an exciting competition for high school students to practice real-world skills in managing money and solving problems. Teams of students compete online to demonstrate their knowledge of fundamental personal finance topics, with the top teams being invited to the state competition to showcase their talent in solving problems and communicating effectively.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Business/Career Education, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking, teamwork and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	There is no registration cost for teachers or students to participate. Registration opens on Jan. 1 of the competition year; exact dates can be found on the MCEE calendar.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/PFDecathlon
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Angela Zappa

★ POETRY OUT LOUD

Grades 9–12

Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Educator resources are provided free of charge. Contests begin at the classroom level and progress through the all-expenses-paid national competition.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Public speaking
Program Provider:	South Central Service Cooperative in partnership with the Minnesota State Arts Board, National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation
Fees and Deadlines:	Free! Registration is in the fall; please check website for details.
Website:	www.mnscsc.org/poetry-out-loud or www.poetryoutloud.org
Email:	mhillmann@mnscsc.org
Phone:	(507) 389-2509
Contact:	Mary Hillmann



POSTER CONTEST

Grades K–8

Unleash your students' creativity, imagination and talent by exploring economic ideas and competing in the Poster Contest. Using our topics and guides, teachers can support students in connecting economic concepts to their own lives while encouraging student self-expression through visual art. Teachers may submit the excellent work done by their students and possibly be selected for recognition.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity and critical thinking
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	There is no registration cost for teachers or students to participate. Registration opens on Jan. 1 of the competition year; exact dates can be found on the MCEE calendar.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/PosterContest
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education

FREE OPPORTUNITIES FROM POETRY OUT LOUD

Learn more through the virtual workshop that was compiled by the Minnesota Poetry Out Loud participants, educators and competition judges to help educators and students increase knowledge about the program and to improve poetry presentation skills. Check out the other events offered at <https://mnscsc.org/poetry-out-loud>

REAL WORLD DESIGN CHALLENGE

Grades 9–12

Real World Design Challenge is a competition that provides students the opportunity to work on real world engineering challenges in a team environment. Teams address a challenge that confronts our nation's leading industries. Students utilize professional engineering software to develop their solutions and generate business-style presentations. RWDC provides students with opportunities to apply the lessons of the classroom to the technical problems that are being faced in the workplace.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, problem solving, teamwork and time/budget management
Program Provider:	Real World Design Challenge
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for fees and deadlines.
Website:	www.realworlddesignchallenge.org
Email:	bryan.farmer@isd832.net
Phone:	(651) 762-5934
Contact:	Bryan Farmer

ROCKONOMIX

Grades 6–12

Economics is often taught using many different examples, some more realistic than others. Rockonomix helps teachers encourage student creativity and imagination in exploring economic ideas. Using our topics and guides, teachers can support students in connecting economic concepts to their own lives while encouraging student self-expression through performing art (music video).

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, public speaking and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education
Fees and Deadlines:	There is no registration cost for teachers or students to participate. Registration opens on Jan. 1 of the competition year; exact dates can be found on the MCEE calendar.
Website:	https://z.umn.edu/Rockonomix
Email:	mcee@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-3727
Contact:	Minnesota Council on Economic Education

★ SCHOLARS OF DISTINCTION

Grades 11–12

Scholars of Distinction is a significant capstone project in a student's academic area of interest, which is recognized by their high school and the Minnesota Department of Education. This project creates an ideal opportunity for students to develop and refine skills that are increasingly required in today's world. Through the project students will exercise their creativity, stretch what they have learned and challenge themselves.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Computer Science, Cultural Studies, Environmental Leadership, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Independent and critical thinking at complex levels, creative problem solving, learning across disciplines, and synthesizing/integrating a variety of viewpoints.
Program Provider:	Minnesota Department of Education
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Deadlines, scoring rubrics and project consultants are listed on the website.
Website:	www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/fam/gifted/sod/index.htm
Email:	Wendy.Behrens@state.mn.us
Phone:	(651) 582-8786
Contact:	Wendy A. Behrens

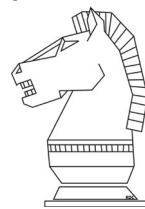


★ SCHOOL CHESS ASSOCIATION

Grades K–12

Learn a lifetime activity - CHESS! The School Chess Association sponsors tournaments, matches, instruction, camps and clubs at school. The Tournament of Champions takes the top 16 players in primary, elementary and middle school sections of the statewide tournament to compete in a United States Chess Federation rated tournament. The winner of each of the sections will earn the title of School Chess Association Primary and Elementary and Middle School Champion.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving and critical and analytical thinking
Program Provider:	School Chess Association
Fees and Deadlines:	Call for fees and dates or check the website for more information.
Website:	www.schoolchess.org
Email:	lorene@schoolchess.org
Phone:	(763) 593-1168
Contact:	Lorene Lampert



SCIENCE AND NATURE LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Grades K–12

These 45-minute virtual programs are designed to connect your students with a museum educator online for a live, interactive program about our natural world and the universe around us. Hybrid cohort groups, distance learners, and in-person classrooms are all possible with our virtual field trips. We are happy to meet your learners where they are!

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, environmental stewardship, global citizenship and problem solving
Program Provider:	Bell Museum, University of Minnesota
Fees and Deadlines:	Fees are \$125 for the first program and \$90 for each additional program for the same group. Limited scholarships are available for schools with 50 percent of the student population receiving free and/or reduced lunch. See website for more details.
Website:	https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/virtual-k12/
Email:	bellinfo@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 626-9660

SHOW US YOUR MUSSELS

Grades 6–12

Almost half of Minnesota's native freshwater mussels are in trouble. This project provides opportunities to talk about mussels while also addressing water quality in our area and seeking solutions. It also has an interwoven element of community service and local engagement. In addition, creating a digital media campaign can be a powerful hands-on strategy to help students highlight their science research projects, retain content knowledge and even increase learning goals.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Language Arts, STEM
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, environmental stewardship, interdisciplinary and research
Program Provider:	Minnesota Zoo
Fees and Deadlines:	No cost to participate; Registration open August–December 2023. Challenge/Voting Begins Feb. 1–28, 2024. Check website for more information and important dates.
Website:	https://mnzoo.org/mussels-challenge-2/
Email:	digitalmussels@mnzoo.org
Phone:	(952) 431-9200
Contact:	Gina Goralski

★ SPELLING BEE

Grades 5–8

In addition to improving students' spelling skills and increasing their vocabularies, spelling bee participation provides valuable experience in developing poise—a necessary skill for success in public speaking, performing arts and other activities.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Factual recall and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Spelling sponsors vary by region.
Fees and Deadlines:	Visit the website for details.
Website:	www.spellingbee.com



STUDENT TELEVISION NETWORK

Grades 7–12

STN is committed to supporting teachers and students with curriculum materials that enhance the classroom experience. Affiliate members have access to STN national standards, lesson plans, training videos, and various webinars that teach television and film production.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Business/Career Education
Academic Skills:	Artistic expression, creativity, leadership development, public speaking and teamwork
Program Provider:	Student Television Network
Fees and Deadlines:	Affiliate membership is required, see website for more details. STN Convention will be held March 14–17, 2024 in Long Beach, CA.
Website:	www.studenttelevision.org
Email:	info@studenttelevision.com
Phone:	(760) 692-2299

SUMDOG

Grades K–8

Sumdog provides engaging learning and practice in numeracy for children aged 5–14, and literacy for children aged 5–11. The online learning service adapts to each individual, using engaging game-based learning to motivate and build confidence. A learning engine reports progress to student's teachers and parents.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Language Arts, STEM
Academic Skills:	Numeracy and literacy
Program Provider:	Sumdog, Inc.
Fees and Deadlines:	Free login. Family membership and school subscription available for additional access.
Website:	https://learn.sumdog.com/
Email:	support@sumdog.com
Phone:	(877) 978-6364

TEAMS

Grades 7–12

TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science) is a one-day competition for middle school and high school students. Focused on a new theme each year, TEAMS challenges students to collaboratively solve real-world engineering issues by applying their STEM knowledge in practical and creative ways. Teams of two to four students work together on multiple choice, essay and design/build components.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking and cooperation
Program Provider:	Technology Student Association (TSA)
Fees and Deadlines:	Online registration opens in September. Registration fees are determined by the competition site. Statewide competitions take place during February and March.
Website:	https://tsaweb.org/competitions-programs/programs/teams
Email:	awilliams@tsaweb.org
Phone:	(888) 860-9010
Contact:	Amber Williams

THINKING CAP QUIZ BOWL

Grades 5–8

Fun scholastic team competition for students in their own school. All quizzes are self-scoring, online contests of 100 multiple-choice questions. Areas covered include math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science, literature, language arts, history, general information and fun trivia. An adult is needed to monitor but no adult help can be given. See website for details.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	General
Academic Skills:	Factual recall, problem solving, critical thinking, research, teamwork, leadership development, time/budget management and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	Harvey Kimble, owner
Fees and Deadlines:	Check website for entry forms, information fees and deadlines.
Website:	www.thinkingcapquizbowl.com
Email:	thinkcap5@gmail.com
Phone:	(682) 593-6336
Contact:	Harvey Kimble

TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION AWARDS

Grades K–12

ExploraVision is a science competition which challenges students to envision and communicate new technology 20 years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology. Students enter as a team of two to four with a teacher/coach and optional mentor (no individual entries). Students may submit only one project online per year.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and cooperation
Program Provider:	Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision
Fees and Deadlines:	No entry fee. Projects must be received online; deadline for project entry is Jan. 31, 2024. See website for details.
Website:	www.exploravision.org
Email:	exploravision@nsta.org
Phone:	1-800-explor-9

U.S. ACADEMIC TRIATHLON

Grades 5–8

Established more than 30 years ago, U.S. Academic Triathlon is an extra-curricular academic and creativity competition encouraging students to think outside the box to solve problems while promoting teamwork and leadership. Teams of five students compete in three round robins to build up to the regional and state competitions. Each competition includes three parts: Face-Off!, Mind Sprints and PARTY in a Box.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, General, Language Arts, Social Studies, STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	U.S. Academic Triathlon
Fees and Deadlines:	Season runs December–April. Check website for fees, registration and competition dates. Discounts available for new districts.
Website:	www.usacademictriathlon.com
Email:	mbarrett@ourcatholicschool.org
Phone:	(302) 224-4143
Contact:	Michaela Barrett

U.S. NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Grades 9–12

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad is a multi-tiered competition sponsored by the American Chemical Society. Participants compete in a series of qualifying events and the top four students of the national competition represent the United States in the annual International Chemistry Olympiad.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Problem solving, chemistry and mathematical skills
Program Provider:	American Chemical Society
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Local event: March–April; National exam: April; Study Camp: June; International event: July (location changes every year). Visit website for rules and eligibility.
Website:	www.acs.org/olympiad
Email:	USNCO@acs.org
Phone:	(202) 872-6328 or (800) 227-5558, ext. 6328

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Grades 11–12

Two student leaders from each state will spend a week experiencing their national government in action and be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. The 62nd annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week will be held in person in Washington, D.C. March 2–9, 2024. The national deadline for all states to submit their delegate selections is Dec. 1, 2023.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Leadership, critical thinking and cooperation
Program Provider:	Minnesota Department of Education
Fees and Deadlines:	For more information and eligibility requirements visit www.education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/youth .
Website:	www.ussenateyouth.org
Email:	mde.USSYP@state.mn.us
Phone:	(651) 582-8615
Contact:	Leigh Nida

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TALENTED YOUTH MATH PROGRAM

Grades 6–12

UMTYMP provides a challenging alternative for Minnesota’s talented mathematics students in grades 6–12. The highly accelerated courses are specially designed to provide students with an intense academic experience that will stimulate their mathematical interest and abilities.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, analytic ability, STEM concepts and mathematical skills
Program Provider:	UMTYMP – MathCEP
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration for the entrance exam begins in mid-December for admission the following fall; fee varies per University of Minnesota campus (Twin Cities, Rochester, Duluth). Check the website for exam registration and fees. Scholarships are available for students with financial needs.
Website:	www.mathcep.umn.edu/umtymp
Email:	mathcep@umn.edu
Phone:	(612) 625-2861

UNsung HERO PROJECTS

Grades K–12

The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes works across diverse academic disciplines to discover and share the stories of individuals who have made a profound and positive impact in history. Through a unique project-based learning approach, students produce documentaries, plays, websites and visual arts projects that champion unsung heroes.

Program Category:	Awards & Recognitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts, Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, interdisciplinary, research and teamwork
Program Provider:	Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes
Fees and Deadlines:	Free. See website for program details.
Website:	www.lowellmilkencenter.org/programs/projects
Email:	info@lowellmilkencenter.org
Phone:	(620) 223-1312
Contact:	Norm Conard

WALKER ART CENTER ART TODAY TOURS

Grades K–12

The Walker offers virtual and onsite tours for schools and students. Content is interactive, learner-centered, and inquiry-based explorations of the galleries and/or the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. These tours are led by our professional museum educators and can be customized to focus on specific themes and exhibitions.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Arts
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, creativity and art appreciation
Program Provider:	Walker Art Center
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for details.
Website:	https://walkerart.org/visit/tours-group-visits/tours-for-schools-and-kids/
Email:	tours@walkerart.org
Phone:	(612) 375-7609

★ WORDMASTERS CHALLENGE

Grades 3–8

Students use vocabulary they have studied in advance to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Competitions are held three times per year at your school. Aligns perfectly with CCSS ELA Literacy standards for Vocabulary Acquisition and Use. More than 125,000 students participate annually. Now enrolling teams for the 37th year of competition!

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, problem solving, verbal reasoning and vocabulary enrichment
Program Provider:	WordMasters, LLC
Fees and Deadlines:	\$105 per team (same grade/division; no limit to number of students on a team). Discounts available to schools that enroll 5+ teams or districts that enroll 5+ schools. Competition begins Oct. 1, register by Sept. 30 to maximize preparation time for your students. Check website for the Challenge Schedule and discount details.
Website:	www.wordmasterschallenge.com
Email:	lisa.lombardi@wordmasterschallenge.com
Phone:	(888) 385-5656
Contact:	Lisa Lombardi



WORLD SAVVY

Grades K–12

World Savvy envisions a K–12 education system that prepares all students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions for success and active engagement in the global community. Our Comprehensive School Partnerships are tailored to meet the needs of each school, and collaboratively designed with school leaders to align with each building's strategic vision and goals.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment, Conferences & Institutions
Academic Content:	General
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, interdisciplinary, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	World Savvy
Fees and Deadlines:	See website for more information.
Website:	www.worldsavvy.org/our-programs/schools/
Email:	adriana@worldsavvy.org
Phone:	(612) 699-3247
Contact:	Adriana Matzke

YES! (YOUTH ECO SOLUTIONS)

Grades 7–12

Join YES! and be part of a statewide network of students working to create solutions for today's ecological challenges. Students work in teams to build solar boats, grow produce for their school, plant pollinator gardens, restore shorelines, design supermileage cars and more! The year culminates in a state championship event at a Minnesota Twins game.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, environmental stewardship, leadership development, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Ney Nature Center and Laurentian Environmental Center
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration: early fall; Competition dates: spring; fees vary.
Website:	www.yesmn.org
Email:	prairiewoods@prairiewoodselc.org
Phone:	(320) 354-5894
Contact:	Mari Klebe

★ YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Grades 7–12

Model United Nations gives students the opportunity to gain an international outlook on issues that affect the way we live, while playing a role as an international diplomat. Student delegates form alliances, debate resolutions and seek solutions to world problems, all from another country's perspective. Focus is placed on diplomacy and cooperation among diverse opinions and worldviews.

Program Category:	Conferences & Institutions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development, public speaking and teamwork
Program Provider:	YMCA Center for Youth Voice
Fees and Deadlines:	Approximately \$375 (includes lodging) plus local expenses. Registration is in December/January. Conference is in April (see website for exact dates).
Website:	www.ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/programs
Email:	youthvoice@ymcanorth.org
Phone:	(612) 330-3045
Contact:	Amy Anderson

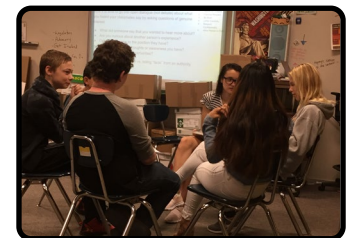


★ YMCA RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS IN SCHOOLS

Grades 6–12

The Respectful Conversations in Schools protocol is designed to provide teachers and students with tools for approaching controversial public issues that are responsive to the current political climate, particularly the increase in political polarization.

Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	General, Language Arts
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, leadership development, public speaking and social emotional skills
Program Provider:	YMCA Center for Youth Voice
Fees and Deadlines:	Workshop fees are determined by the number of teacher participants.
Website:	www.ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/programs
Email:	youthvoice@ymcanorth.org
Phone:	(612) 330-3045
Contact:	Amy Anderson



★ YMCA STUDENT ELECTION JUDGE NETWORK

Ages 16+

The YMCA Center for Youth Voice works with Minnesota cities, counties and high schools to help recruit and coordinate student election judges.

Program Category:	Leadership Development, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	General, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, research, teamwork and civic awareness
Program Provider:	YMCA Center for Youth Voice
Fees and Deadlines:	No fees. Students get paid by the election offices for both training and for working as an election judge.
Website:	www.ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/programs
Email:	youthvoice@ymcanorth.org
Phone:	(612) 330-3045
Contact:	Amy Anderson



★ YMCA STUDENTS VOTING MINNESOTA

Grades K–12

The YMCA and the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State work together to help students statewide discover the importance of elections and the power of their voice – and their vote – in our democracy. Students Voting gives teachers at all grade levels the tools and resources to expose their students to a realistic voting experience that includes learning about candidates and issues, voter registration, and casting a ballot on or before Election Day.



Program Category:	Classroom Enrichment
Academic Content:	General, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, global citizenship, research, teamwork and civic awareness
Program Provider:	YMCA Center for Youth Voice and Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Fees and Deadlines:	Free. Registration opens in spring for the presidential election.
Website:	www.ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/programs
Email:	youthvoice@ymcanorth.org
Phone:	(612) 330-3045
Contact:	Amy Anderson



★ YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Grades 8–12

Students form groups through local YMCAs and high schools. They research and discuss state issues, draft legislation and develop legal opinions. The culmination is a four-day model state government session at the State Capitol and a conference hotel. Focus is on state government with an emphasis on leadership development, personal skill building and developing friendships with peers from across Minnesota.



Program Category:	Conferences & Institutions, Leadership Development
Academic Content:	Language Arts, Social Studies
Academic Skills:	Critical thinking, leadership development, public speaking, teamwork and verbal reasoning
Program Provider:	YMCA Center for Youth Voice
Fees and Deadlines:	Approximately \$450 (includes lodging) plus local expenses. Registration is in early October via local school or YMCA group. State conference is in January.
Website:	www.ymcanorth.org/locations/center_for_youth_voice/programs
Email:	youthvoice@ymcanorth.org
Phone:	(612) 330-3045
Contact:	Amy Anderson



★ YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST NETWORK

Grades 9–12

We provide the support and co-mentorship you need to step into climate leadership in your community. Attend our youth-led meetings, apply for funding for a project of your own or get involved in YEA! Campaigns to lead your own effort rooted in environmental justice to shift public will and practice civic engagement.

Program Category:	Leadership Development, Out of School Time Enrichment
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, environmental stewardship, global citizenship, leadership development and teamwork
Program Provider:	Climate Generation
Fees and Deadlines:	Registration in September 2023. Meet Dates in October 2023–May 2024. No fees; student leaders are paid.
Website:	https://climategen.org/youth-environmental-activists/
Email:	yea@climategen.org
Phone:	(612) 278-7147
Contact:	Ramiro Vazquez, Jr.

ZOOMS STEM DESIGN CHALLENGE

Grades 3–12

The ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge offers students a chance to develop a solution to a ‘real’ problem faced by zookeepers and staff at the Minnesota Zoo. From designing an animal enrichment, to building a model of a renovated animal exhibit, the problem will challenge students to use their science and math knowledge, creativity, problem solving and research skills to best solve the problem and present a solution.

Program Category:	Challenges & Competitions
Academic Content:	STEM
Academic Skills:	Creativity, critical thinking, environmental stewardship, problem solving and teamwork
Program Provider:	Minnesota Zoo
Fees and Deadlines:	Free to participate! Register by Sept. 14, 2023; Free in-person or virtual teacher training available in late September.
Website:	https://mnzoo.org/zooms-stem-challenge/
Email:	stem@mnzoo.org
Phone:	(952) 431-9243
Contact:	Kristi Berg

LISTING OF PROGRAMS BY GRADE LEVEL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K–5)

Above-Grade-Level Assessment
ARTwalk
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Calendar in the Classroom
Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University
Classroom Connection
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls MN
Concordia Language Villages
Continental Mathematics League
Crazy 8s Math Club
Destination Imagination
Discovery Award Competition
Engineering Machine Design Contest
FIRST LEGO League Challenge
FIRST LEGO League Explore
Gathering of Champions
Girls Who Code Clubs
H2O for Life
Jostens Renaissance Education
Junior Achievement Capstone Pgms.
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
Laws of Life Essay Contest
Math Masters
MathCEP – Saturday Morning Math Enrichment
Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools
Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota Mathematics League
Minnesota PTA Reflections
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division A)
MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
National Geography Challenge
National Language Arts League
National Science League
National Social Studies League
Noetic Learning Math Contest
Perennial Math Online Math Competition
Poster Contest
School Chess Association
Science and Nature Live Virtual Programs
Spelling Bee
Sumdog
Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards

U.S. Academic Triathlon
Unsung Hero Projects
Walker Art Center Art Today Tours
WordMasters Challenge
World Savvy
YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6–8)

Above-Grade-Level Assessment
Academic Pentathlon
American Mathematics Competitions – 8
ArTEFFECT
ARTwalk
BestPrep's Classroom Plus
BestPrep's Financial Matters
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University
Classroom Connection
Close Up Washington D.C.
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls MN
Concordia Language Villages
Continental Mathematics League
CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition
Destination Imagination
Discovery Award Competition
Engineering Machine Design Contest
FIRST LEGO League Challenge
FIRST Tech Challenge
Gathering of Champions
Genes in Space
German Language and Culture Festival
Girls Who Code Clubs
H2O for Life
Jostens Renaissance Education
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
Knowledge Bowl Competitions – Jr. and Sr. High
Laws of Life Essay Contest
MAAP STARS
Math Masters
MathCEP – Saturday Morning Math Enrichment
Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary & Middle Schools
Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Minnesota Academy of Science – Middle & High School Science Bowl
Minnesota Academy of Science –

State Science & Engineering Fair
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student Competition
Minnesota Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
Minnesota FFA
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota Junior High Math League
Minnesota MATHCOUNTS
Minnesota Mathematics League
Minnesota PTA Reflections
Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division A)
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division B)
Minnesota SkillsUSA
Minnesota State High School Mathematics League
MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
Mock Trial Program
MSHSL Debate, Speech
MSHSL Music, One Act Play, Visual Arts
MTEEA Super Mileage Competition
National Geography Challenge
National History Day in Minnesota
National Language Arts League
National Science League
National Social Studies League
NCTE Promising Young Writers Program
Noetic Learning Math Contest
Perennial Math Online Math Competition
Poster Contest
Rockonomix
School Chess Association
Science and Nature Live Virtual Programs
Show Us Your Mussels
Spelling Bee
Student Television Network
Sumdog
TEAMS
Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
U.S. Academic Triathlon
University of Minnesota Talented Youth Math Program
Unsung Hero Projects
Walker Art Center Art Today Tours
WordMasters Challenge
World Savvy
YES! (Youth Eco Solutions)
YMCA Model United Nations
YMCA Respectful Conversations in Schools

YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
YMCA Youth in Government
ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9–12)

Above-Grade-Level Assessment
Academic Decathlon
Academic WorldQuest
American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
American Legion Boys State
American Mathematics Competitions –
10 & 12
ArtEFFECT
ARTwalk
BestPrep's Classroom Plus
BestPrep's eMentors
BestPrep's Financial Matters
BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Cancer Unwrapped Teen Writing Contest
Center for Talent Development at
Northwestern University
Classroom Connection
Close Up Washington D.C.
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls MN
College Dollars & Sense
Concordia Language Villages
Continental Mathematics League
CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber
Defense Competition
Destination Imagination
Discovery Award Competition
Economics Challenge
Engineering Machine Design Contest
FIRST Tech Challenge
Gathering of Champions
Genes in Space
German Language and Culture Festival
Girls Who Code Clubs
Global Food Challenge
H2O for Life
HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar
Jostens Renaissance Education
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
Knowledge Bowl Competitions –
Jr. and Sr. High
Laws of Life Essay Contest
LifeSmarts
MAAP STARS
MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge
Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Minnesota Academy of Science –
Middle & High School Science Bowl
Minnesota Academy of Science –

State Science & Engineering Fair
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student
Competition
Minnesota Business Professionals
of America
Minnesota DECA
Minnesota Envirothon
Minnesota Family, Career and
Community Leaders of America
Minnesota FFA
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota High School Music Listening
Contest
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota Mathematics League
Minnesota PTA Reflections
Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division B)
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division C)
Minnesota SkillsUSA
Minnesota State High School
Mathematics League
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Soci-
ety Mondale-Quie Essay Contest
Minnesota Youth Institute
MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
Mock Trial Program
MSHSL Debate, Speech
MSHSL Music, One Act Play, Visual Arts
MSHSL/FIRST Robotics
MTEEA Super Mileage Competition
National Geography Challenge
National History Day in Minnesota
National Language Arts League
National Science League
National Social Studies League
NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing
Nobel Conference at Gustavus
Adolphus College
Perennial Math Online Math Competition
Personal Finance Decathlon
Poetry Out Loud
Real World Design Challenge
Rockonomix
Scholars of Distinction
School Chess Association
Science and Nature Live Virtual Programs
Show Us Your Mussels
Student Television Network
TEAMS
Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad
United States Senate Youth Program
University of Minnesota Talented Youth
Math Program
Unsung Hero Projects

Walker Art Center Art Today Tours
World Savvy
YES! (Youth Eco Solutions)
YMCA Model United Nations
YMCA Respectful Conversations in
Schools
YMCA Student Election Judge Network
YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
YMCA Youth in Government
Youth Environmental Activist Network
ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

LISTING OF PROGRAMS BY ACADEMIC CONTENT

ARTS

Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
ArtEFFECT
ARTwalk
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
Calendar in the Classroom
Center for Interactive Learning and
Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at
Northwestern University
Engineering Machine Design Contest
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
MAAP STARS
Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota High School Music Listening
Contest
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota PTA Reflections
Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards
Mock Trial Program
MSHSL Music, One Act Play, Visual Arts
Poetry Out Loud
Poster Contest
Rockonomix
Student Television Network
U.S. Academic Triathlon
Unsung Hero Projects
Walker Art Center Art Today Tours

BUSINESS/CAREER EDUCATION

Academic WorldQuest
BestPrep's Classroom Plus
BestPrep's eMentors
BestPrep's Financial Matters
BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls Minnesota
College Dollars & Sense
Economics Challenge
Engineering Machine Design Contest
Girls Who Code Clubs
Global Food Challenge
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
LifeSmarts
MAAP STARS
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota Business Professionals of
America
Minnesota DECA
Minnesota Family, Career and Community

Leaders of America
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota SkillsUSA
MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
Mock Trial Program
Personal Finance Decathlon
Poster Contest
Rockonomix
Student Television Network

GENERAL

Above-Grade-Level Assessment
BestPrep's eMentors
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Calendar in the Classroom
Center for Interactive Learning and
Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at
Northwestern University
Classroom Connection
College Dollars & Sense
Discovery Award Competition
Gathering of Champions
H2O for Life
Jostens Renaissance Education
Knowledge Bowl Competitions –
Jr. and Sr. High
LifeSmarts
MAAP STARS
Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota FFA
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota Youth Institute
Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
U.S. Academic Triathlon
World Savvy
YMCA Respectful Conversations in Schools
YMCA Student Election Judge Network
YMCA Students Voting Minnesota

LANGUAGE ARTS

Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
BestPrep's eMentors
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
Calendar in the Classroom
Cancer Unwrapped Teen Writing Contest
Center for Interactive Learning and
Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at
Northwestern University

Classroom Connection
H2O for Life
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Laws of Life Essay Contest
MAAP STARS
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical
Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest
Mock Trial Program
MSHSL Debate, Speech
National Language Arts League
NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing
NCTE Promising Young Writers Program
Poetry Out Loud
Show Us Your Mussels
Spelling Bee
Sumdog
U.S. Academic Triathlon
Unsung Hero Projects
WordMasters Challenge
YMCA Model United Nations
YMCA Respectful Conversations in Schools
YMCA Youth in Government

SOCIAL STUDIES

Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
Academic WorldQuest
American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
American Legion Boys State
Being the Change
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Center for Interactive Learning and
Collaboration – Community of Learning
Classroom Connection
Close Up Washington D.C.
College Dollars & Sense
Discovery Award Competition
Economics Challenge
Global Food Challenge
H2O for Life
HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgm.
Laws of Life Essay Contest
MAAP STARS
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student
Competition
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.

Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
 Minnesota Supreme Court Historical
 Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest
 Minnesota Youth Institute
 Mock Trial Program
 National Geography Challenge
 National History Day in Minnesota
 National Social Studies League
 Personal Finance Decathlon
 Poster Contest
 Rockonomix
 Scholars of Distinction
 U.S. Academic Triathlon
 United States Senate Youth Program
 Unsung Hero Projects
 YMCA Model United Nations
 YMCA Student Election Judge Network
 YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
 YMCA Youth in Government

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH)

Academic Decathlon
 Academic Pentathlon
 American Mathematics Competitions – 8
 American Mathematics Competitions –
 10 & 12
 BestPrep's eMentors
 BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture
 BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
 Calendar in the Classroom
 Center for Interactive Learning and
 Collaboration – Community of Learning
 Center for Talent Development at
 Northwestern University
 Code Savvy: Technovation Girls Minnesota
 Continental Mathematics League
 Crazy 8s Math Club
 CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber
 Defense Competition
 Destination Imagination
 Engineering Machine Design Contest
 FIRST LEGO League Challenge
 FIRST LEGO League Explore
 FIRST Tech Challenge
 Genes in Space
 Girls Who Code Clubs
 H2O for Life
 Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
 Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
 Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
 LifeSmarts
 MAAP STARS
 Math Masters
 MathCEP – Saturday Morning Math
 Enrichment

Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary &
 Middle Schools
 MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge
 Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
 Minnesota Academy of Science –
 Middle & High School Science Bowl
 Minnesota Academy of Science –
 State Science & Engineering Fair
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student Comp.
 Minnesota Envirothon
 Minnesota Future City Competition
 Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgms.
 Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
 Minnesota Junior High Math League
 Minnesota MATHCOUNTS
 Minnesota Mathematics League
 Minnesota Science Olympiad (Div. A)
 Minnesota Science Olympiad (Div. B)
 Minnesota Science Olympiad (Div. C)
 Minnesota SkillsUSA
 Minnesota State High School Mathematics
 League
 Minnesota Youth Institute
 MSHSL/FIRST Robotics
 MTEEA Super Mileage Competition
 National Science League
 Nobel Conference at Gustavus
 Adolphus College
 Noetic Learning Math Contest
 Perennial Math Online Math Competition
 Real World Design Challenge
 Scholars of Distinction
 School Chess Association
 Science and Nature Live Virtual Programs
 Show Us Your Mussels
 Sumdog
 TEAMS
 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
 U.S. Academic Triathlon
 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad
 University of Minnesota Talented Youth
 Math Program
 YES! (Youth Eco Solutions)
 Youth Environmental Activist Network
 ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Academic WorldQuest
 Classroom Connection
 Concordia Language Villages
 German Language and Culture Festival
 Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgm.
 Minnesota Youth Institute

LISTING OF PROGRAMS BY CATEGORY

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ArtEFFECT
ARTwalk
Discovery Award Competition
FIRST LEGO League Challenge
FIRST LEGO League Explore
FIRST Tech Challenge
Gathering of Champions
Jostens Renaissance Education
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
MAAP STARS
Math Masters
Minnesota Academy of Science –
State Science & Engineering Fair
Minnesota PTA Reflections
Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical
Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest
NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing
NCTE Promising Young Writers Program
Real World Design Challenge
Scholars of Distinction
United States Senate Youth Program
Unsung Hero Projects

CHALLENGES & COMPETITIONS

Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
Academic WorldQuest
American Mathematics Competitions – 8
American Mathematics Competitions –
10 & 12
ArtEFFECT
ARTwalk
BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture
BestPrep's Student Spotlight Competition
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Cancer Unwrapped Teen Writing Contest
Code Savvy: Technovation Girls Minnesota
Continental Mathematics League
CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber
Defense Competition
Destination Imagination
Discovery Award Competition
Economics Challenge
Engineering Machine Design Contest
FIRST LEGO League Challenge
FIRST Tech Challenge
Genes in Space
German Language and Culture Festival
Global Food Challenge
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Knowledge Bowl Competitions –
Jr. and Sr. High

Laws of Life Essay Contest
LifeSmarts
MAAP STARS
Math Masters
Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary &
Middle Schools
MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge
Minnesota Academy of Science –
Middle & High School Science Bowl
Minnesota Academy of Science –
State Science & Engineering Fair
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student Comp.
Minnesota Business Professionals of
America
Minnesota DECA
Minnesota Envirothon
Minnesota Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America
Minnesota FFA
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgms.
Minnesota High School Music Listening
Contest
Minnesota Junior High Math League
Minnesota MATHCOUNTS
Minnesota Mathematics League
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division A)
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division B)
Minnesota Science Olympiad (Division C)
Minnesota SkillsUSA
Minnesota State High School Mathematics
League
Minnesota Supreme Court Historical
Society Mondale-Quie Essay Contest
Minnesota Youth Institute
MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
Mock Trial Program
MSHSL Debate, Speech
MSHSL Music, One Act Play, Visual Arts
MSHSL/FIRST Robotics
MTEEA Super Mileage Competition
National Geography Challenge
National History Day in Minnesota
National Language Arts League
National Science League
National Social Studies League
Noetic Learning Math Contest
Perennial Math Online Math Competition
Personal Finance Decathlon
Poetry Out Loud
Poster Contest
Real World Design Challenge
Rockonomix
School Chess Association
Show Us Your Mussels

Spelling Bee
Student Television Network
TEAMS
Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards
U.S. Academic Triathlon
U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad
WordMasters Challenge
YES! (Youth Eco Solutions)

CLASSROOM ENRICHMENT

Above-Grade-Level Assessment
Academic Decathlon
Academic Pentathlon
Being the Change
BestPrep's Classroom Plus
BestPrep's eMentors
BestPrep's Financial Matters
BestPrep's The Stock Market Game
Calendar in the Classroom
Center for Interactive Learning and
Collaboration – Community of Learning
Center for Talent Development at
Northwestern University
Classroom Connection
Close Up Washington D.C.
Continental Mathematics League
Engineering Machine Design Contest
FIRST LEGO League Explore
Girls Who Code Clubs
H2O for Life
Junior Achievement Capstone Programs
Junior Achievement K–12 Classroom Pgms.
Junior Duck Stamp Conservation Program
Laws of Life Essay Contest
LifeSmarts
MathCEP – Saturday Morning Math
Enrichment
Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary &
Middle Schools
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Minnesota ArcGIS Online Student
Competition
Minnesota Future City Competition
Minnesota High School Music Listening
Contest
Minnesota MATHCOUNTS
Minnesota Youth Institute
Mock Trial Program
National History Day in Minnesota
Perennial Math Online Math Competition
Poetry Out Loud
Science and Nature Live Virtual Programs
Show Us Your Mussels
Spelling Bee

Student Television Network
 Sumdog
 TEAMS
 Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl
 University of Minnesota Talented Youth
 Math Program
 Unsung Hero Projects
 Walker Art Center Art Today Tours
 WordMasters Challenge
 World Savvy
 YMCA Respectful Conversations in Schools
 YMCA Students Voting Minnesota
 ZOOMS STEM Design Challenge

CONFERENCES & INSTITUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
 American Legion Boys State
 HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar
 Minnesota Business Professionals of
 America
 Minnesota DECA
 Minnesota Family, Career and Community
 Leaders of America
 Nobel Conference at Gustavus
 Adolphus College
 World Savvy
 YMCA Model United Nations
 YMCA Youth in Government

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

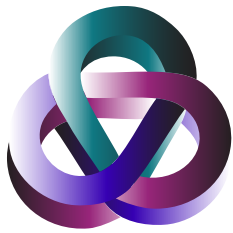
American Legion Auxiliary Girls State
 American Legion Boys State
 BestPrep's eMentors
 BestPrep's Minnesota Business Venture
 Center for Talent Development at
 Northwestern University
 H2O for Life
 HOBY Youth Leadership Seminar
 Jostens Renaissance Education
 Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
 Minnesota Family, Career and Community
 Leaders of America
 Minnesota FFA
 Minnesota Future Problem Solving Pgms.
 Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
 Minnesota SkillsUSA
 Scholars of Distinction
 United States Senate Youth Program
 YMCA Model United Nations
 YMCA Student Election Judge Network
 YMCA Youth in Government
 Youth Environmental Activist Network

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME ENRICHMENT

Code Savvy: Technovation Girls Minnesota
 College Dollars & Sense
 Concordia Language Villages

Crazy 8s Math Club
 German Language and Culture Festival
 Girls Who Code Clubs
 MathCEP – Saturday Morning Math
 Enrichment
 Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary &
 Middle Schools
 Minnesota 4-H Youth Development
 Minnesota Academy of Science –
 Middle School and High School
 Science Bowl
 Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth
 Minnesota PTA Reflections
 MN Cup Competition – Youth Division
 Sumdog
 U.S. Academic Triathlon
 University of Minnesota Talented Youth
 Math Program
 YES! (Youth Eco Solutions)
 YMCA Student Election Judge Network
 Youth Environmental Activist Network





Synergy & Leadership
Exchange



@SynergyExchange

COLLABORATE

MINNESOTA CHARACTER COUNCIL

The role of the council is to advise, assist and advocate for programs and activities in Minnesota that promote and celebrate positive character and ethical leadership development.



**HELPING MINNESOTANS BE THEIR
BEST THROUGH COLLABORATION,
EDUCATION AND CELEBRATION**

EDUCATE

MINNESOTA ACADEMIC LEAGUE

Synergy & Leadership Exchange provides administrative support for the Minnesota Academic League Council, which reviews and approves programs and activities that meet the criteria to appear in the Reach for the Stars catalogue, as well as advocates for academic enrichment opportunities.

REACH FOR THE STARS

This free guide lists more than 120 academic enrichment programs and activities that have been approved by the Minnesota Academic League Council. It is created, published and distributed as a public service by Synergy & Leadership Exchange with support from The Minnesota Service Cooperatives and other partners.

CELEBRATE

CHARACTER RECOGNITION AWARDS

This event celebrates the statewide achievements of schools and community programs in their efforts to improve achievement, behavior and climate. Recognitions include the Minnesota Schools of Character, Minnesota Promising Practices Awards and Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award.

GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS

Each year K-12 students who are consistent top academic performers; have shown significant improvement in achievement or have overcome barriers to academic achievement; or are local, regional or state champions in a Minnesota Academic League Council approved event are named Minnesota Academic All-Stars and recognized at a free event hosted by Synergy and its partners.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS PROGRAM

Synergy administers the Outstanding Educator Award in support of teachers and their important role in helping all students achieve academically and seeks to bring recognition to the often "unsung heroes" who meet the challenges of teaching in a variety of settings. Educators, administrators, academic challenge coaches and athletic coaches from Minnesota public or non-public schools and educational institutions are eligible.



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