



# Round 1 Judging Orientation

January 28, 2026

7:00 PM – 7:45 PM ET

Meeting will be recorded

# Welcome, Judges

- ▶ Thank you for serving as a judge for the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition
- ▶ Your expertise and time are greatly appreciated
- ▶ Today's session will prepare you for a successful judging experience



Eye Understand, K-3



Lost then Found, 4-6



Biometric Surfaces, 7-9



Nano Artertract Plaque Seeker, 10-12

# Agenda



- ▶ About Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition
- ▶ Overview of the Judging Process
- ▶ Judging Platform
- ▶ Questions
- ▶ Important Dates
- ▶ Final Reminders

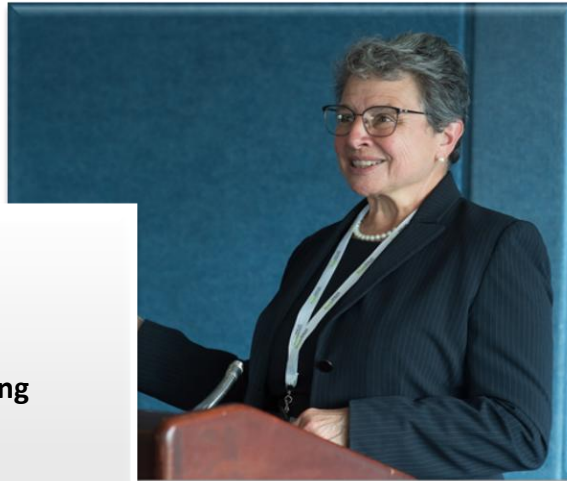
# About Toshiba/ExploraVision Competition

# Meet the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Team



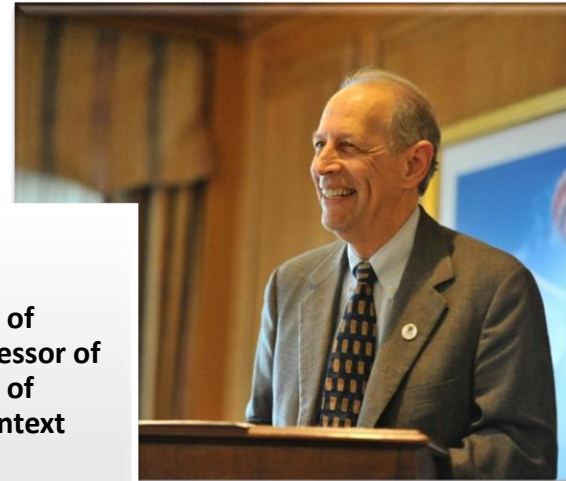
**Sue Whitsett,  
Program Manager**

- National Science Teaching Association



**Arthur Eisenkraft,  
Head Judge**

- Distinguished Professor of Science Education, Professor of Physics Director, Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) University of Massachusetts Boston



**Winnie Boyle,  
Senior Director of  
Competitions**

- National Science Teaching Association



**Kathryn Lasky,  
Director of Competitions**

- National Science Teaching Association



# About ExploraVision



The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision STEM competition challenges K-12 teams competing in grade bands to research a current technology and envision what it could be ten or more years in the future.

## Teams

- 2-4 students
- Coach and mentor (optional)
- Public, private, parochial, home school, virtual, or outside community group

## Awards and Recognition

- All Participants – entry gift and certificate
- Regional Winners (24 teams) – Chromebook and school ceremony
- National Winners (8 teams) – Trip to Washington, D.C. and \$10,000 or \$5,000 (at maturity) savings bonds



# Project Formats

## K-3

- Storyboard
- Standard

## 4-6

- Slide Presentation
- Standard

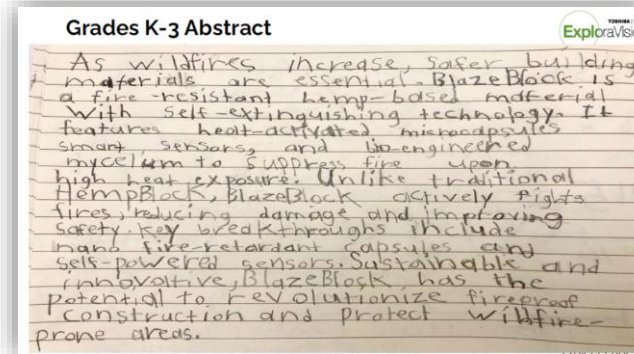
## 7-9

- Standard

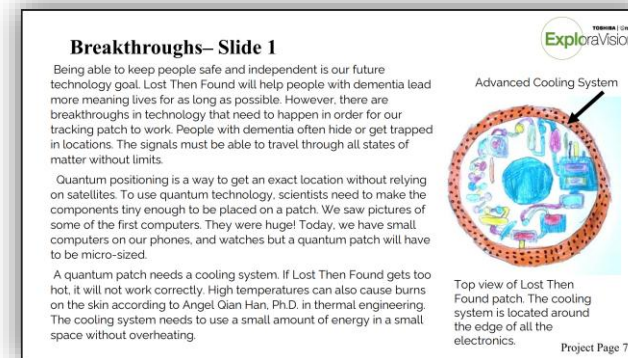
## 10-12

- Standard

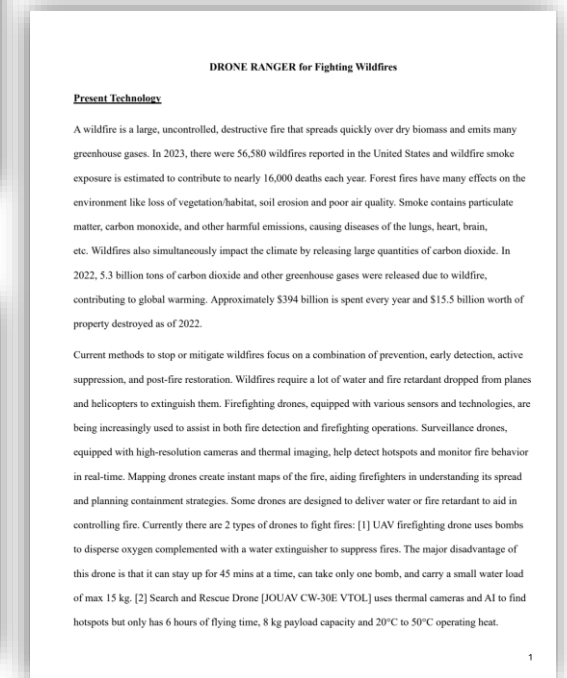
## Storyboard



## Slide Presentation



## Standard



# Overview of Judging Rounds



## Round 1: February 4-18 (Grade band/region specific)

- ▶ Evaluate, score and provide comments
  - Read abstract
  - Read project description, review sample web pages, and check to see all requirements are met
  - Score the project 1-4
  - Provide comments
- ▶ Goal: 4-6 projects with score of 4 that could be winners
- ▶ By February 11, should have ½ judged; by February 18 at noon ET all judged
- ▶ Spend an average of 7 minutes per project

## Round 2: February 19-26 (Grade band/region specific)

- ▶ Review all assigned projects and rank your top 6
- ▶ Take notes to help with the Regional Selection Call on February 28

### Regional Selection Call: February 28

- ▶ Zoom meeting to select top 4 projects to advance to Regional Judging
- ▶ Time is grade dependent

# Judge Team and Project Assignments

- ▶ Each judge will be assigned to a judge team based on their preferred grade band from registration
- ▶ Each judge team is given a region and grade band
  - For example:
    - ▶ Region 1: High School (10-12) or
    - ▶ Region 2: Middle Level (Grades 7-9)
- ▶ Number of projects for a judge team will depend on the number of projects submitted
- ▶ Projects are randomly assigned to judges within a judge team
- ▶ Each project is judged 3 times

Primary Level (Grades K-3)
Upper Elementary Level (Grades 4-6)
Middle School Level (Grades 7-9)
High School Level (Grades 10-12)

# Judging Criteria and Project Requirements

## Judging Criteria

- ▶ Based on creativity, communication, and feasibility of the project’s vision for the future.
- ▶ High scores should be for entries that are unique and meet the requirements of the competition.

## Project Requirements

Present Technology	History	Future Technology	Breakthroughs	Design Process	Consequences	Bibliography	Sample Web Pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the present technology</li> <li>• Includes scientific principles of how the current technology functions</li> <li>• Defines a key challenge or limitation of the technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the history of the current technology from its inception and includes when the current technology began</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes what the vision is for the future technology in 10 or more years</li> <li>• Includes scientific principles needed to develop the technology</li> <li>• If the future technology already exists, this is not a future technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the breakthroughs needed for the future technology to be a reality</li> <li>• Explains why this technology does not exist today</li> <li>• Uses one of the breakthroughs and describes a research project that could be used to test the future technology</li> <li>• Describes the kind of data or measurements that would need to be collected in the proposed research project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes three alternative ideas or features considered for the project (not three different projects)</li> <li>• For each of the three alternatives, descriptions of why they were rejected in favor of the chosen is provided</li> <li>• Describes how the future idea or feature is better than the rejected ideas or features</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes the potential positive consequences of the new technology</li> <li>• Describes the potential negative consequences of the new technology</li> <li>• Has both positive and negative consequences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lists all the resources used in the research</li> <li>• For AI use, the original sources the AI information was generated from are listed</li> <li>• Titles, authors, publisher, and copyright dates are included</li> <li>• Sources for any non-original graphics are cited</li> <li>• For any interviews, the person’s name and date are listed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to material presented in the project description</li> <li>• Illustrates the ideas or features of the technology</li> <li>• Relate to each other to promote the technology</li> <li>• Shows a model or visual representation that could be used to create a prototype (does not have to be a perfect representation)</li> <li>• Highlights key sections such as: Present Technology, Future Technology, Breakthroughs</li> <li>• Engaging and informative</li> </ul>

# Rules - Use of AI in a Project

- ▶ AI and the tool ChatGPT may be used to brainstorm and/or research project ideas. These should be used as a tool, but not as the only resource for the project. Any information generated by these resources must be included in the bibliography with the proper citations from the original resources.
- ▶ AI may not be used to “generate” any part of the submission, including, but not limited to, images of the future prototype.

# Judging Platform

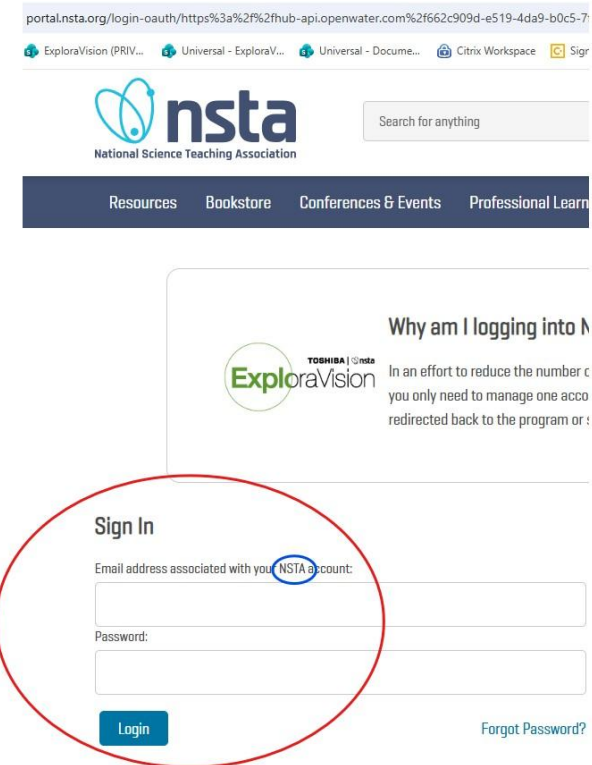
# Getting Started – Signing In



## 1. Click on *Register / Sign In* at [www.exploravision.org](http://www.exploravision.org)



## 2. Sign in at NSTA



# Home Screen



## 1. Click on *My Judging Assignments*

Navigation menu items:

- Welcome Sue Whitsett
- Home
- My Applications
- All (0)
- Submitted (0)
- My Judging Assignments**
- My Profile
- Log Out

## 2. Click on *Open*

Program	Round	# Pending	# Judged	Action
2025-26 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition	Competition Application	18	3	<a href="#">Open</a>

## 3. Click on *Open* to view your judging assignments

Category Name	# Pending	# Judged	Action
Region 1	5	0	<a href="#">Open</a>
---High School Level (10-12)	5	0	<a href="#">Open</a>

# Submissions - Overview



Home / My Judging Assignments / 2025-26 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition: Competition Application

## ExploraVision Contest: Initial Review

Below are submitted projects assigned to you for review. You may use the dropdown to sort project submissions in ascending (ASC) or descending (DESC) order based on certain values. Use the search box to the right to filter your view as needed.

DESC Score ☰ ☲

### test project october

Category: Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

Application # 9238

My Evaluation Winner (4 points)

VIEW APPLICATION

Score:

4

### Test 8

Category: Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

Application # 9450

My Evaluation

VIEW APPLICATION

Score:

-

### Test 10

VIEW APPLICATION

Export Score Summary to Excel

Export Score and Comments to Excel

### Refine your search

▼ Search

Search

▼ Status

Any

Scored

Unscored

Started

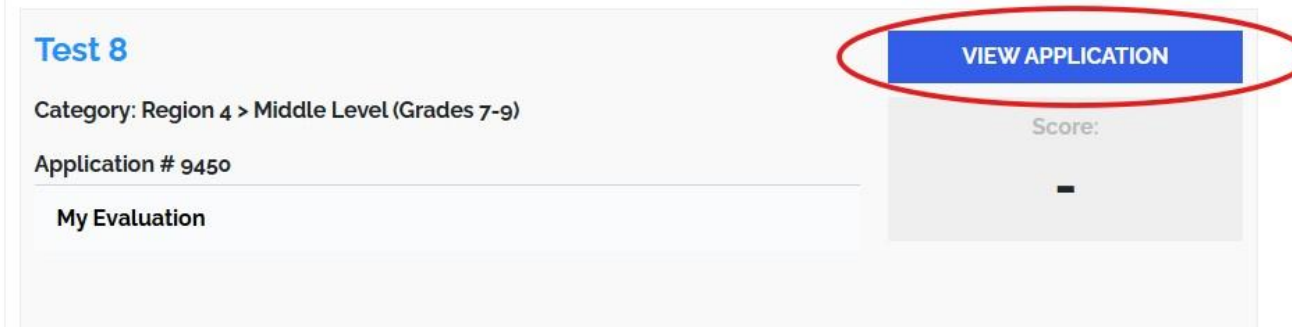
▼ Category

Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

Change | Clear

# Selecting a Submission (aka Application) to Judge

## 1. Click *View Application*



**Test 8**

Category: Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

Application # 9450

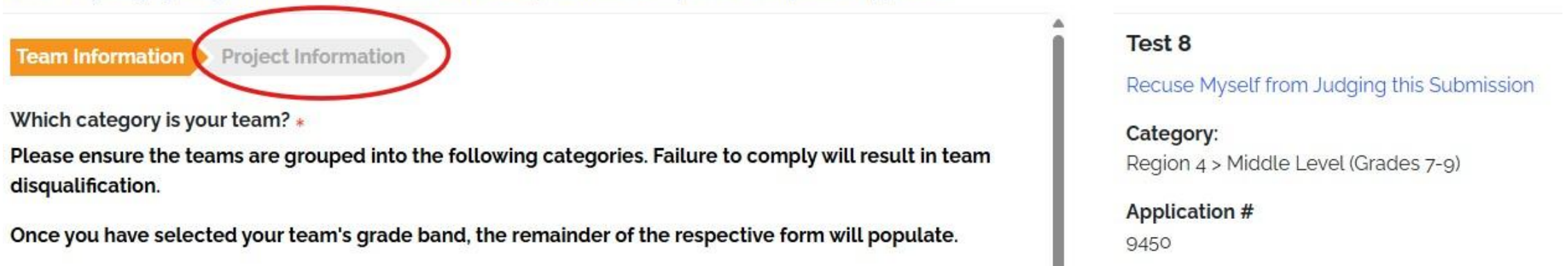
My Evaluation

**VIEW APPLICATION**

Score:  
-

## 2. Click *Project Information*

[Home](#) / [My Judging Assignments](#) / [2025-26 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition: Competition Application](#) / [Test 8](#)



**Team Information** > **Project Information**

**Which category is your team? \***

Please ensure the teams are grouped into the following categories. Failure to comply will result in team disqualification.

Once you have selected your team's grade band, the remainder of the respective form will populate.

**Test 8**

[Recuse Myself from Judging this Submission](#)

**Category:**  
Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

**Application #**  
9450

# Step 1: Review Project Abstract

Home / My Judging Assignments / 2025-26 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition: Competition Application / Te

Team Information **Project Information**

**Project Information**

Judge-Only: Regional Winner Storyboard/Website URL

Judge-Only: Regional Winner Video URL

Title of Project \*

Test 8

Please select your team's topic area. \*

Transportation Tech

**Project Abstract \***

Our idea is to make ecofriendly tires because car tires are a huge factor in pollution. Thousands are filled up with car tires each year. Our product is creating a new material to replace typical rubber tires. Our creation uses Ganoderma Ludium which is a mushroom to mimic rubber. It will also be stronger and not need to be replaced in the future. These mushroom tires can also be recycled and turned into other products. To make the tires we will genetically modify to mushroom to create a more durable tire. The genetic modifications will make a stronger mushroom.

Read the *Project Abstract* in the **Project Information** section

- ▶ If missing, it may be part of the *Description Upload* in the **Project Materials** section below
- ▶ If missing in both places, score the project as a 1 and add a note “Abstract missing” in the *Areas of Improvement: Optional Comments* box on the right side.

# Step 2: Read the Project Description or Storyboard Project

## Project Materials

### Which project format are you uploading? \*

K-3 teams may provide a storyboard project or a standard manuscript project (I.e... Description).

- Storyboard Project
- Standard manuscript (Description)

### Storyboard Project Upload \*

Please upload your team's Storyboard by clicking "Choose File".

If there are multiple files, please collate them into a single file and upload them here.

File may not exceed 100 MB.

hospital Guest Carrier.pdf

View in Fullscreen

## Project Materials

### Description Upload \*

Please upload your team's Description (Present Technology, History, Future Technology, Breakthroughs, Design Process, Consequences and Bibliography) by clicking "Choose File".

Accepted file types: pdf, doc, docx

File may not exceed 100 MB in size.

Project - 7240 Car Tires\_ Mushroom All Lasting Tires .pdf

View in Fullscreen

Project # 7240 Car Tires\_ Mushroom All Lasting Tires

Car Tires  
Mushroom All Lasting Tires

## Read the *Description Upload* or *Storyboard Project Upload* in **Project Materials**

- ▶ To open, click on the file name in blue or "View in Fullscreen"
  - To exit the Fullscreen, press ESC
- ▶ Check to see that the major parts of the project are present (each section is required to be labeled in the following order):
  - Present Technology
  - History
  - Future Technology
  - Breakthroughs
  - Design Process
  - Consequences
  - Bibliography
- ▶ If any of the above sections are missing, score as a 1, in the *Areas of Improvement: Optional Comments* box add "missing [insert title of what is missing]".
- ▶ If all are present, score as a 2, 3 or 4. To help score, use the rubric.

# Step 3: Review Sample Web Pages

## Sample Web Pages Upload

If your team needs to upload the sample webpages for this project separately, you may upload as a single document by clicking "Choose File".

**Accepted file types:** pdf, doc, docx

File may not exceed 10 MB in size.

KEY DATES YR 34.pdf

View in Fullscreen

Review the *Sample Web Pages Upload* in the section below the *Description Upload* or *Storyboard Project Upload*.

- ▶ To open, click on the file name in blue or "View in Fullscreen"
  - To exit the Fullscreen, press ESC
- ▶ If missing, it may be part of the *Description Upload* above.
- ▶ If missing in both places or no link, score the project as a 1 and add a note "Sample Web Pages missing" in the *Areas of Improvement: Optional Comments* box on the right side.
- ▶ If present, there should be 5 separate web pages. If less than 5 pages, score should be lower and a note added in the *Areas of Improvement: Optional Comments* box on the right side.
- ▶ If present, score as a 2, 3 or 4. To help score, use the rubric.

# Step 4: Enter Score

## Project Evaluation

For your convenience, you may use the linked spreadsheet file to guide you in your ranking of this application. Click the link below to download a copy of this file:

- [2025-26 ExploraVision Guidance Rubric \(xlsx\)](#)

Please evaluate this project. \*

Select

- Select
- Excellent (4 points)
- Very Good (3 points)
- Needs Improvement (2 points)
- Disqualified (1 point)

Select the score from the *Please evaluate this project* dropdown in **Project Evaluation**

- ▶ Excellent (4 points) – fantastic, possible winner
- ▶ Very Good (3 points) – meets all requirements
- ▶ Needs Improvement (2 improvement) – poor
- ▶ Disqualified (1 point) – missing sections

# Step 5: Comments

## ► Personal comments not seen by team

- Make notes for your use during Round 2 judging

### Comments / Remarks

This section is for you to record any personal notes or remarks you have for this project. These comments are for your use only and will not be shared with the team nor other judges.

## ► Team Comments that will be seen

- Provide one success or strength (required) and one improvement (optional)
- A coach may have multiple teams, try to not use the same and/or generic comments

### Feedback: Successes

#### Areas of Success \*

Check all that apply. This feedback will be shared with the teams.

- ALL Project Components Completed
- Abstract
- Present Technology
- History
- Future Technology
- Breakthroughs
- Design Process
- Consequences
- Bibliography
- Sample Web Pages

#### Areas of Success: Comments \*

Please provide commentary on areas this team succeeded.

Please note: This feedback will be shared with the teams.

### Feedback: Improvements

#### Areas of Improvement

Check all that apply. This feedback will be shared with the teams.

- Abstract
- Present Technology
- History
- Future Technology
- Breakthroughs
- Design Process
- Consequences
- Bibliography
- Sample Web Pages

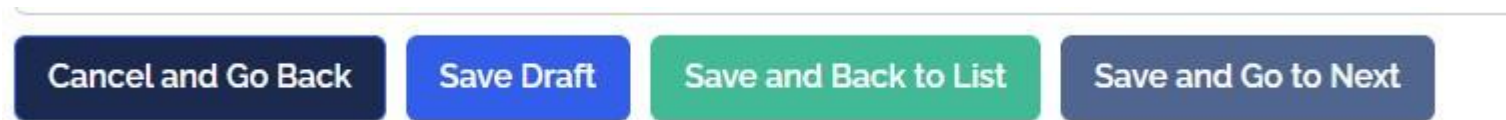
#### Areas of Improvement: Optional Comments

If you have commentary you wish to share on areas this team can improve, you are welcome to provide them here.

Please note: This feedback will be shared with the teams.

# Step 6: Save and Submit

- ▶ Two options once you are finished scoring and commenting
  - “Save and Back to List”
  - “Save and Go to Next”
- ▶ If you need to pause and finish later, click “Save Draft”



# View All Scores and Comments



Home / My Judging Assignments / 2025-26 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Competition: Competition Application

**ExploraVision Contest: Initial Review**

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DESC Score [grid icon] [list icon]

**test project october**

Category: Region 4 > Middle Level (Grades 7-9)

Application # 9238

---

**My Evaluation** Winner (4 points)

Score:

**4**

[VIEW APPLICATION](#)

[Export Score Summary to Excel](#)

[Export Score and Comments to Excel](#)

**Refine your search**

▼ Search

Search

▼ Status Any

Scored

Unscored

Started

▼ Category

- ▶ Recommend you export a copy of your scores and comments to excel
- ▶ Use for reference during Round 2 judging and Regional Selection call

Application #	Application	Please evaluate this	Please evaluate	Comments / Remarks	Areas of Success	Areas of Success: Comments	Areas of Improvement	Areas of Improvement	Sum of Individual	Rank	%
9238	test project october	Winner (4 points)	4	very good project - great	Organization	followed correct format	Project Description	this is optional - though	4	1	100
9450	Test 8	Some Hope (3 points)	3	some hope because	Organization	share this information with team	Project Description	more details needed	3	2	89
9451	Test 10								Started but Not Fin	3	78

# Questions



# Important Dates

# Key Dates



# Save the Dates

**Feb 18**

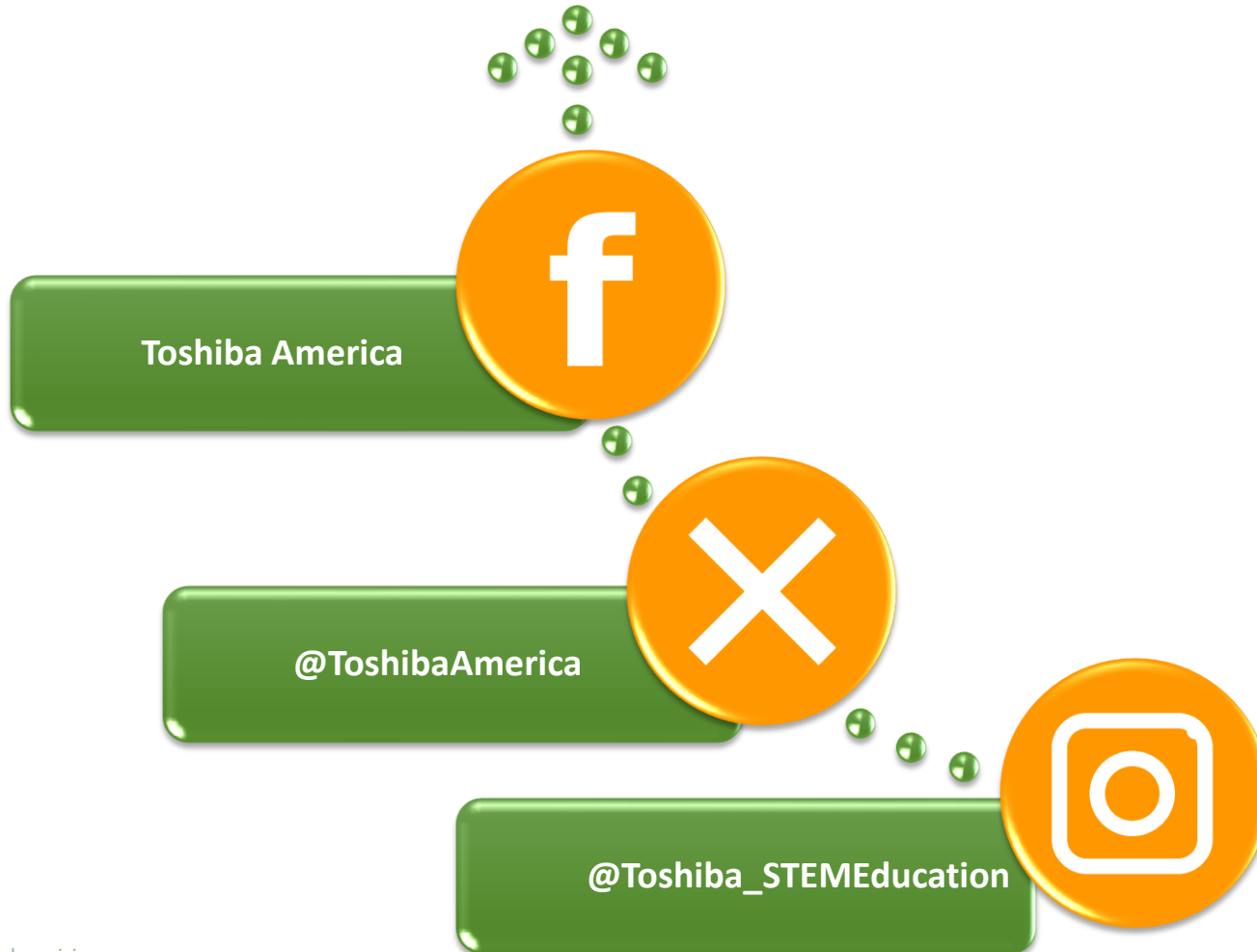
**Round 2  
Orientation  
7 PM ET**

**Feb 28**

**Regional Selection  
Call  
9 AM - 5 PM ET**

# Final Reminders

# Follow us on social media





# Contact

**Sue Whitsett**

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703-312-9256