



September 14, 2020

Dear Respected Educator,

The University of Louisville, National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the United States Armed Forces would like to extend an invitation to your students to apply for participation in the 2021 Kentucky Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). **The program supports and recognizes high school students who engage in original research in a variety of scientific disciplines.** The regional symposium is where students present their work in a professional conference-style setting and compete for scholarships and recognition. The top-5 KY Regional finalists will earn a spot to attend and present their work at the National Symposium, tentatively set for April 14th-17th, 2021 in Boston, Massachusetts. All travel expenses are provided for top-5 regional finalists.

The **Kentucky Regional JSHS** will take place **February 19th-20th, 2021**, tentatively scheduled onsite at the University of Louisville. **There is no cost to apply or participate!** We will pivot to an online presentation mode if necessary and all students will be offered an online presentation option depending on student's preference.

We first ask that **students interested in participating complete an Intent to Submit Form** (<https://forms.gle/bOa4qT3rqmBqeFfh7>) **by November 20th, 2020**. *Note: this VERY short form does not commit students to topic or even participation, this simply allows us to provide more direct communication about the science research competition and focused resources that better suit the needs of each student.*

Students should prepare their research papers and abstracts as per the JSHS guidelines. Guidelines can be found on the JSHS website at <http://www.jshs.org/guidelines.html>. **Final abstracts and papers need to be submitted for review by January 15th, 2021.** A panel of university faculty, researchers and industry experts will review the research papers and determine papers to participate in the KY JSHS regional symposium.

All participating students will have their registration and meals provided by the conference. In the case of teachers/students traveling long distances, JSHS will organize a one-night stay. All travel to/from Louisville is the responsibility of the students and/or school districts. An online participation option will also be available for 2021, pending necessity.

New this year, we are offering a poster session for prospective student researchers to share their ideas for research. Posters can present concepts and substantive plans for research not yet completed as well as completed research. ***If you have a student with the potential to conduct original research in STEM topics, please encourage them to complete an intent to submit form!*** We will follow up on tips on preparation and an invitation to present in our first prospective student researcher poster presentations.

This is a wonderful opportunity for KY students to gain academic presentation experience within a welcoming environment. ***We hope that you will encourage your students to participate in this exciting event.*** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Please pass this information along to other interested colleagues-we hope to expand this opportunity to all KY students!

Sincerely,

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