

Youth Empowerment Summit Competition

Theme: *Inspiration • Innovation • Impact*

Program Overview

The Jonesboro Business Association (JBA), in partnership with area schools, is proud to present the **Youth Empowerment Summit Competition**, a team-based showcase of creativity, problem-solving, and community vision.

Our guiding theme, *Inspiration, Innovation, and Impact*, shapes the competition:

- **Inspiration** – Teams explain the motivation and story behind their project.
- **Innovation** – Teams present original, creative, and practical solutions.
- **Impact** – Teams demonstrate measurable benefits for peers, schools, or the broader community.

This program equips students with workforce readiness and leadership skills by requiring them to collaborate, communicate, and innovate as a team.

Participation Tracks

To reflect student strengths across program areas, entries are divided by grade level:

- **Junior High (Grades 7–9):**
 - EAST
 - Robotics
 - **Senior High (Grades 10–12):**
 - STEAM
 - Robotics
 - EAST
 - VoTech (Career & Technical Pathways)
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Rules & Eligibility

- Open to **all participating Northeast Arkansas middle and high schools**.
- **Teams only:** 2–5 members per team (no individual entries).
- Each school may submit **up to 3 projects per program area**.
- Presentations must last **5–7 minutes, including setup**.
- All projects must **demonstrate Inspiration, Innovation, and Impact**.

- Teams are strongly encouraged to use **visual aids** (slides, posters, prototypes, or videos).

Deadlines:

- **Abstract (200–250 words):** Due *two weeks before the event*.
 - **Final Presentation Materials:** Due *one week before the event*.
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Judging Process

- Projects will be evaluated by a **panel of 3–5 judges** representing education, industry, and civic leadership.
- **Conflicts of interest** (e.g., mentoring a competing team) must be declared.
- Judges will score team projects using the **official rubric** (100 points total).
- Written feedback will be provided to all teams.

Awards include:

- Best Overall Team Project
 - Most Inspiring Team Story
 - Most Innovative Team Solution
 - Greatest Community Impact
 - Program-Specific Recognition (e.g., Best Robotics Project, Best Human Services Project)
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Judging Rubric (100 Points)

Category	Criteria	Points
Inspiration	Team explains motivation clearly, showing passion and personal/community connection	0–30
Innovation	Team demonstrates originality, creativity, or a new method of problem-solving	0–35
Impact	Team shows measurable or visible benefit for peers, schools, or community	0–35

Scoring Scale:

- **Excellent** – Strong evidence, highly original, deeply compelling.
 - **Good** – Clear explanation, somewhat original, meaningful benefit.
 - **Developing** – Needs clarity, limited originality, minimal impact defined.
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Teacher & Administrator Preparation

Your leadership is critical to preparing teams for success. Please:

- **Encourage collaboration:** Support the formation of balanced teams with complementary strengths.
 - **Promote personal connection:** Help students tie projects to issues they care about.
 - **Provide rehearsal opportunities:** Allow classroom or club time for teams to practice and refine.
 - **Assist with visuals:** Offer guidance on creating slides, posters, prototypes, or videos.
 - **Monitor deadlines:** Ensure abstracts and final presentation materials are submitted on time.
 - **Share the rubric early:** Give teams a clear picture of how their work will be evaluated.
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Why This Matters

The **Youth Empowerment Summit Competition** mirrors the real-world workforce, where collaboration, creativity, and communication drive progress. By participating, schools are:

- **Inspiring students** to find purpose in their work.
- **Driving innovation** through teamwork and creative problem-solving.
- **Creating impact** that strengthens schools, neighborhoods, and the broader community.

This is more than a competition. It's a platform for students to shine, schools to showcase excellence, and the community to invest in the next generation of leaders and innovators.
