



THE AMERICAN ROCKETRY CHALLENGE 2021 COMPETITION UPDATES

2021 NATIONAL FINALS

The safety of the American Rocketry Challenge community is our top priority. To protect our teams, teachers, mentors, and their families during the COVID-19 crisis, while still building the next generation of STEM leaders, we are making three key changes to the 2021 National Finals:

- 1. TIMING.** The National Finals will now take place in mid-late June 2021. This extra time will provide teams with more opportunities to build and launch their rockets. This also means that the revised deadline for qualification flights is now May 17, 2021.
- 2. LOCATION.** The 2021 National Finals will occur at ten or more regional launch sites in order to limit the number of people that gather at any one site and to minimize team travel requirements. Regional launch sites will be selected based on the location of this year's finalists.
- 3. PRIZES.** We are reviewing our prize structure for the 2021 contest, given the cancellation of the Paris Air Show. Standby for another update unveiling new categories and cash prizes in the coming weeks. At each National Finals launch site, rocket launches will occur during reserved three-hour launch windows to limit the number of people at the site at any given time. Each launch site will fully comply with all local, state, and federal COVID-19 guidelines.

All finalists and volunteers at National Finals launch sites will be provided with personal protective equipment, including facemasks and hand sanitizer.

2021 VIRTUAL COMPETITIONS

The annual Marketing and Presentation Competitions will continue as planned with extended deadlines.

In this year's **Presentation Competition**, teams explaining their rocket engineering and design choices can win up to \$2,000, including a \$1,000 prize for the best new team competing in the American Rocketry Challenge. Presentation Competition submissions are now due on May 7.

In our **Marketing Competition**, teams can show off their creative side by marketing their rocket team and submitting a video that excites everyone about rocketry and aerospace. Enter for a chance to win up to \$2,000 and a custom-designed logo and swag to outfit your team. Marketing Competition submissions are now due on May 31.

The Kerbal Rocketry Challenge, a video game competition requiring contestants to apply real-world astrophysics and rocket science in a virtual environment, will return for 2021. The competition is only open to 2021 registered teams and will take place in July following the National Finals. Additional details, dates, and cash prizes will be announced for this year's Kerbal Rocketry Challenge in the weeks ahead.

For more information, visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

Updated key dates for the 2021 American Rocketry Challenge are as follows:

May 7

Presentation Competition
submission deadline

May 17

Qualification flight
submission deadline

May 21

Top 100 National Finalists
teams and regional launch
sites announced



May 31

Marketing Competition
submission deadline



**June 12-13 &
June 19-20**

2021 National Finals

June 28

Virtual awards ceremony

SUMMER 2021

Registration opens for the 2nd Annual
Kerbal Rocketry Challenge

Contact Program Manager Jeremy Davis at RocketContest@aia-aerospace.org or 703-358-1000.

Visit RocketContest.org to learn more.

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