

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

2009 INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY COMPETITION THEME

**“Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation:
Preparing Our Youth for the 21st Century Economy”**

The Internet proved vital in electing President Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America, crowning an improbable two-year climb that owes much of its success to his command of the Internet as a fundraising and organizing tool. Millions of Americans powered President Obama’s journey to the White House by taking advantage of the Internet and securing its role in shaping our country’s future.

We must upgrade education to meet the needs of the 21st century. Throughout his campaign, President Obama emphasized the importance of being technology literate, ensuring that all youth are equipped with the necessary science, technology, and mathematical skills to succeed in the 21st century economy and beyond.

You are hired by President Obama’s Technology Team to design and develop a website that presents the issues and proposed solutions to address at least three of the following five items on the White House’s agenda for Technology (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/technology/>) directed at improving our youth’s educational skills, ensuring their competitiveness throughout the country, and ensuring that the United States of America remains the world’s leader in technology.

- **Make Math and Science Education a National Priority:** Recruit math and science degree graduates to the teaching profession and support efforts to help these teachers learn from professionals in the field. Work to ensure that all children have access to a strong science curriculum at all grade levels.
- **Improve and Prioritize Science Assessments:** Work with governors and educators to ensure that state assessments measure higher order thinking skills including inference, logic and data analysis, not just rote memorization of facts.
- **Address the Dropout Crisis:** Provide funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies in middle school -- strategies such as personal academic plans, teaching teams, parent involvement, mentoring, intensive reading and math instruction, and extended learning time.
- **Pinpoint College Aid for Math and Science Students:** Launch an online database to give potential future scientists access to information about financial aid opportunities available in science and technology fields through the federal government and public or private resources.
- **Increase Science and Math Graduates:** Improve science and math education in K through 12 to prepare more students for these studies in college. Work to increase our number of science and engineering graduates and encourage undergraduates studying math and science to pursue graduate studies. Increase the representation of minorities and women in the science and technology pipeline, tapping the diversity of America to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce.

What will you design, develop, and deliver to the Technology Team?



2009 Information Superhighway Student Competition

Topic:

*“Science, Technology, and
Innovation for a New Generation”*

*BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT PROMOTES EQUITY IN ALL
ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE, EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO, AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS*

For More Information Contact:

Name: Mr. Brian D. Smoot

Phone: (443) 691-3769

E-Mail Address: brian.smoot@bignet.org

Youth in Grades
9 - 12 Compete for
Awards and Scholarships

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2009

*Application
for
Information Superhighway
Student Computer Competition*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Teacher/Sponsor: _____

BIG Chapter Representative

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Mr. Brian D. Smoot
2 Raccoon Run Court
Hanover, Maryland 20176

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2009

*Blacks In Government (BIG)
is a national response to the
need for African Americans
in public service to organize
around issues of mutual
concern and to use their
Collective strength to
address workplace and
community
concerns.*

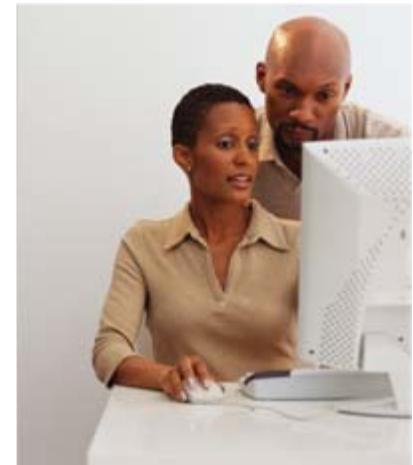
*BIG's Goals are to promote
equity in all aspects of
American life, excellence in
all we do, and opportunity
for all Americans.*

*Blacks In Government
3005 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
<http://www.bignet.org>*

(202) 667-3280



**2009
INFORMATION
SUPERHIGHWAY
STUDENT
COMPETITION**



*“Science, Technology, and
Innovation for a New
Generation”*

What is the Purpose of the Computer Competition?

The Blacks In Government (BIG) Information Superhighway Student Competition provides students the chance to develop computer skills and demonstrate their expertise and creativity on the information superhighway. Students design Web Site presentations that show their knowledge of new technology.

"Commitment, discipline, and desire to achieve are all tools for success."

Who May Participate?

Students in Grades 9-12 are eligible to participate. Each student must complete a Web Site as required in the official Information Superhighway Student Competition Guidelines.

How Do I Sign Up?

To enter the competition, contact the Blacks In Government Representative listed on this pamphlet.

You can also contact the BIG National Office at (202) 667-3280 and ask for the nearest BIG chapter.

What Kind of Projects are Required?

Ninth/Tenth Grade Project:

Design and/or develop a Web Site, consisting of six web pages with links to each other on a subject related to some aspect of the competition topic:

"Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation "

Web pages must be able to run on Internet Explorer or Netscape. Web page presentations must be submitted on IBM compatible CD

Eleventh/Twelfth Grade Project:

Design and/or develop a Web Site with 12 pages, Hyperlink, and a Search Engine linked to the Internet. Project must explore some aspect of the competition topic:

"Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation "

Web pages must be able to run on Internet Explorer or Netscape. Web page presentations must be submitted on IBM compatible CD.

How Will Projects Be Evaluated?

Projects will be judged based on:

- Demonstration of expertise
- Display of creativity
- Narrative of page creation
- Usefulness of project after completion
- Presentation of Web Site

What are the Prizes?

Chapter Awards:

Certificates of participation and chapter-determined awards will be presented for first, second, and third place winners.

Regional and National Awards:

Winners will receive additional awards at the regional and national levels.

Regional first place winners will compete in the national competition during BIG's 31st National Training Conference in Baltimore, Maryland August 2009.



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Official Entry Form for Information Superhighway Student Competition (ISSC)

Information on Contestant 2009

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Grade _____ School _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Social Security Number _____

Statement of Conformity to Rules

I have studied the Official Rules of the ISSC and fully understand and agree to be bound by them. I understand that the final ruling on all protests will be made by the Contest Chairperson.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____

The following section is to be completed by the ISSC Chairperson and President

Chapter Statement

We submit the enclosed entry form in full compliance with the Official Rules of the Information Superhighway Student Competition.

Chapter Name _____

Chapter President (Signature) _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Chapter ISSC Chair (Signature) _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Regional Council Statement

Regional Council Statement

We submit the enclosed entry form in full compliance with the Official Rules of the Information Superhighway Student Competition.

Regional Council (i.e., Region I) _____

Council President (Signature) _____

Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

ISSC Chair (Signature) _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____



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*****Provide these rules to all contestants*****

The official topic is: “**Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation.**” Students must understand the rules and guidelines of the Computer Competition. They should also be made aware of the guidelines for scoring.

1. The Blacks In Government Computer Competition is divided into three levels: chapter, regional, and national. You must compete at the chapter and regional level in order to compete at the national level. If a chapter or region has only ONE entrant, the chapter president or the regional council president (as appropriate) must submit a written endorsement to the Regional Chair or National Program and Planning Committee Chair (as appropriate). Chapters and Regions must also provide the Judge’s Score Sheets and Master Score Sheet to the Regional Chair and National Program and Planning Committee Chair, as appropriate.
2. Contestants must be in grades nine through twelve and must be in good academic standing. Students in grades 9 and 10 will compete with each other and students in grades 11 and 12 will compete with each other.
3. Contestants must give a 4-6 minute (time limit) presentation on how they developed their web site pages during the competition at the local, regional, and national level. **Contestants will be deducted 15 points based on the scoring procedure for not providing an on-site presentation.**
4. Contestants must prepare the following Web Site based on their award category.
5. Contestants must check all links to various sites for appropriateness.
6. Birth certificate and two (2) typed copies of narrative describing how students developed their Web site “MUST” be presented to the Chapter, Regional, and National Committee Chairs prior to the competition.

******CONTESTANTS WILL ALSO BE DEDUCTED 5 POINTS FOR GOING OVER 6 MINUTES or UNDER THE 4 MINUTES ******

POINTER FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

In developing your projects, use college computer labs and libraries to research how to use and manipulate software to create your Web Site.



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9th - 10th Grade Projects:

Design and/or develop a Web Site, consisting of six web pages. The Web Site must contain graphics in either jpg/gif format, audio file, Hyperlinks and the web pages must be relate to the ISSC competition topic: **“Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation”**. Web pages and graphics must fit on one IBM compatible CD. The initial and/or beginning web page URL must be either: “index.htm or index.html.” Any student’s submission must *have at least six web pages and no more than six web pages and the data on the CD, which is submitted, cannot exceed 20.0 MB.*

PENALTIES

Each student will be penalized **10** points for the following reasons:

1. If the student does not have at least six web pages.
2. If the student has more than six web pages.
3. If the student submission is on more than one IBM compatible CD or the CD is not IBM compatible.
4. If the student web page submission, including any special software program or other documentation, exceeds 20.0 MB.
5. If the student web pages, audio file, video file, animation files and graphics are not all on one CD.
6. If the student web page does not run on either IE or Netscape without connection to the internet.
7. If the student fails to provide a one or two-page written narrative describing how his or her web site was developed.
8. If the student required written entry document does not follow the national guidelines for entry.
9. If the student web pages does not include, at the bottom, credits for the software manufacture used in the page creation.
10. If the student web page entry does not relate to the current ISSC topic.
11. If within the student web pages there are no hyperlinks, at least one audio file, at least two animation files, and at least six graphics.
12. If the student original CD was not submitted at any level or the student CD was altered by someone other than the student.

DISQUALIFICATION

Students will not be able to resubmit their entry for reconsideration and they will be **immediately** disqualified for the following reasons:



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1. If any of the student web links goes to an inappropriate web site.
2. If there are any inappropriate web pages, audio file, video file, animation files and graphics within the student's web pages.
3. If the student paperwork and CD were not received by the required submittal date or the postmark was after the required submittal date.

11th - 12th Grade Projects:

Design and/or develop a Web Site, consisting of 12 web pages. The Web Site must contain graphics in jpg/gif format, audio file, video file, animation, hyperlinks and web pages must relate to the ISSC competition topic: **“Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation”** Web pages and graphics must fit on one IBM compatible CD. The initial and/or beginning web page URL must be either: “index.htm or index.html.” *Any student's submission must have at least 12 web pages and no more than 12 web pages and the data on the CD, which is submitted, cannot exceed 40.0 MB.*

If students are immediately disqualified at any level (reasons provided below), they will not be able to resubmit their entry at any level for reconsideration.

PENALTIES

Each student will be penalized **10** points for the following reasons:

1. If the student does not have at least 12 web pages.
2. If the student has more than 12 web pages.
3. If the student submission is on more than one IBM compatible CD or the CD is not IBM compatible.
4. If the student web page submission, including any special software program or other documentation, exceeds 40.0 MB.
5. If the student web pages, audio file, video file, animation files and graphics are not all on one CD.
6. If the student web page does not run on either IE or Netscape without connection to the internet.
7. If the student fails to provide a written narrative describing how his or her web site was developed.
8. If the student required written entry document does not follow the national guidelines for entry.



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9. If the student web pages does not include, at the bottom, credits for the software manufacture used in the page creation.
10. If the student web page entry does not relate to the current ISSC topic.
11. If within the student web pages there are no hyperlinks, at least 1 audio file, at least 1 video file, at least 4 animation files, and at least 12 graphics.
12. If the student original CD was not submitted at any level or the student CD was altered by someone other than the student.

DISQUALIFICATION

Students will not be able to resubmit their entry for reconsideration and they will be **immediately** disqualified for the following reasons:

1. If any of the student web links goes to an inappropriate web site.
2. If there are any inappropriate web pages, audio file, video file, animation files and graphics within the student web pages.
3. If the student paperwork and CD were not received by the required submittal date or the postmark was after the required submittal date.

Birth certificates and all requested forms and materials must be presented to the contest chair as requested, for ALL grades levels.

Blacks In Government shall have the right to edit, publish, and record any project entry without payment to the author.

PROTESTS

Any chapter or regional ISSC chair or their assigned designee has the right to protest any part of the competition that they are participating in. Also, the chapter or the regional ISSC chair has the right to review the judge's score sheet; but, do not have the right to question any of the judges on their scores.

The competition chair has the **final decision** on any protests, and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of chapter contests, the chapter chairperson has the **final authority**; the same applies at the regional and national levels.

SCORING

Scoring procedures at all levels of the competition will be identical and will be based on a point system. Projects will be judged on five criteria: demonstration of expertise; display of creativity; narrative of page creation; usefulness of project after completion; and presentation of web site during chapter, regional, and national competition.



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ISSC SCORING CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	POINTS	TOTAL POINTS
DEMONSTRATION OF EXPERTISE		25
Effective use of HTML Code or script	10	
Layout and web design	15	
CREATIVITY		35
Use of Colors and Animation	10	
Use of video and/or audio file	15	
Use of JPG/GIF Files	10	
CONTENT OF PAGES		40
Relate to the ISSC Topic: “Science, Technology, and Innovation for a New Generation”	15	
Usefulness of Project After Completion	10	
Onsite Oral Presentation of Web Site	15	
GRAND TOTAL	100	

1. Judges will deduct points for going under or over the time limit three points for each 15 seconds.
2. Contestants **not** providing presentations will be deducted 15 points based on the scoring procedure.
3. Contestants not providing on-site presentations will be deducted 15 points based on the scoring point system.

IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

In the event of a tie at the *national competition*, the tied contestants will be re-judged by an additional judge who will serve as a tie-breaker using the scoring criteria. If the additional judge’s scores do not break the tie, the winner will be determined by a drawing. The remaining name will be the subsequent placement.