



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

REGION IV- A CALABARZON
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF TAYABAS

Advisory No. **206**, s. 2026
September 08, 2026

In compliance with Deped Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001
but only for the information of Deped officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

**INVITATION TO PROJECT START (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND RESEARCH
FOR TOMORROW)**

The University of the Philippines Society of Proactive Advocates for Research and Knowledge (UP SPARK) invites students (Grades 10 to 12) to participate in Project START (Science, Technology, and Research for Tomorrow).

Attached are the details and additional information relevant to the conduct of the competition such as eligibility guidelines, requirements, registration details, and important dates.

Registration deadline is on **September 19, 2026**.

For more information, please contact:

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Instagram: <https://instagram.com/upd.spark>

Dissemination of this advisory is desired.

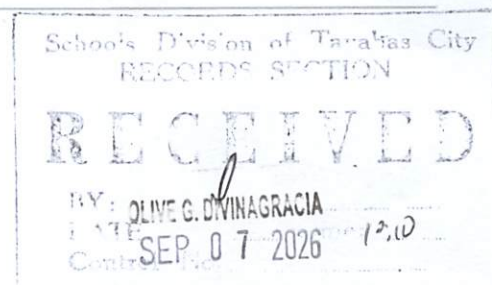
SGOD- invitation to project start (science, technology, and research for tomorrow)
RECCE368-010348/September 08, 2026

**[UP SPARK] Request for Information Dissemination | Project: START 2026**

From Larry Gabriel Abucay <ltabucay@up.edu.ph>
Date Mon 9/7/2026 8:03 AM
Cc upd.spark.exte@gmail.com <upd.spark.exte@gmail.com>

📎 2 attachments (8 MB)

Project START Handbook.pdf; Project START Primer.pdf;



You don't often get email from ltabucay@up.edu.ph. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ma'am/Sir,

Greetings!

I am Larry Abucay from the External Affairs Committee of the **University of the Philippines Society of Proactive Advocates for Research and Knowledge (UP SPARK)**, a duly recognized student organization from the University of the Philippines - Diliman.

This semester, we are hosting **Project: START (Science, Technology, and Research for Tomorrow)**. More than just a competition, it is a launchpad for your students' brightest ideas. We have created a space where students in **Grades 10-12** can step beyond the classroom and pitch their inventions directly to investors and industry leaders. Our goal is to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world application, helping your students turn their "what ifs" into tangible outcomes.

We strongly believe that the most groundbreaking advancements frequently originate within the high school classroom. All too often, however, exceptional research driven by raw potential and creative vision remains confined behind closed doors. To help us give these students a platform, we would be deeply grateful for your assistance in sharing this information with the schools under your jurisdiction. We believe that with your help, we will be able to reach the right students for this project.

We are looking for passionate teams to represent your school in the following research clusters:

- Environment and Resources:** (e.g., Water, Air, Land, Agriculture)
- Health, Wellness, and Assistive Technology:** (e.g., Biotechnology, Mental Health)
- Services and Industries:** (e.g., Logistics, Education, Business Analytics)
- Disaster Resilience and Public Safety:** (e.g., Earthquake, Fire, Flood prevention)
- Smart Living and Machine Learning:** (e.g., Automation, Urban Planning, Cyber Protection)

We would love to see the innovative spirit of the students showcased on our stage. For a deeper look at the event guidelines and how to register, please find the attached **Primer and Handbook**.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how schools can be part of this initiative, please feel free to reach out. We are eager to support students and young minds as they take these first steps toward changing the future.

Furthermore, the Department of Education has issued **DepEd Advisory No. 146, s. 2026**, regarding **Project: START**. This advisory is for information dissemination and highlights the project's alignment with national educational standards, aiming to provide a supportive experience for students and institutions.

Attached to this email is the DepEd Advisory. You may also [access the DepEd Advisory here](#).

Should they be interested in participating, please direct them to kindly complete the **registration form** through the following link:

tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-RegistrationForm

tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-RegistrationForm

tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-RegistrationForm

Stay updated on the latest news and announcements by liking our [Facebook Page](#). Please note that the **Regular Registration deadline is on September 19, 2026**.

Thank you for your tireless dedication to nurturing the next generation of Filipino innovators.

Igniting change with SPARK,

Larry Gabriel Abucay

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Project: START (Science, Technology, and Research for Tomorrow) Handbook

A. Objectives

Project: START is an event dedicated to laud the propensity and brilliance of the minds of our young Filipinos through diverse and innovative insights. The competition is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Give high school students a platform to share their scientific discoveries and talents with their peers, educators, investors, and the wider scientific community
- Boost and strengthen professional and scientific discourse between rising student researchers and field experts to revitalize scientific appreciation for S&T among the youth
- Exhibit the incredible potential and abilities of Filipino youth in the field of science and technology
- Enhance the minds and skills in science and discovery by immersing them in the world of research



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B. Eligibility Guidelines

To be eligible for participation in Project: START, the group must adhere to the following:

- Conduct a unique scientific research project on any of the given research clusters done by high school students in levels Grade 10 to Grade 12 all over the Philippines.
- The research theme for this event is **innovation**; students must create a tangible invention that falls under any of the research clusters found in Section F. Innovations include both hardware and software, thus the following are allowed but are not limited to: Applications, robotics, codes and physical inventions.
- The research project must be a work of three (3) students coming from the same school.
- Each school could only have a maximum of three (3) participating groups in the competition.
- Continuing projects may participate in the competition under special guidelines.



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C. Requirements and Registration Details

Pre-screening

1. Scanned copy of participants' school IDs (S.Y. 2026-2027)
 - a. Submit colored, high-resolution scanned copies of both the front and back of your school ID. Ensure that all details are clear, legible, and easily recognizable. If your school has not yet issued an ID, you may submit your Certificate of Matriculation in its place.
2. Scanned copy of the team's Research Adviser's ID (S.Y. 2026-2027)
 - a. Submit colored, high-resolution scanned copies of both the front and back of your adviser's ID. Ensure that all details are clear, legible, and easily recognizable.
3. Research Plan
 - a. The research plan will be the blueprint for what research they are going to submit and present on the day of the event. This is a maximum of 7 pages long and will be composed of the following:
 - i. *Rationale* - Short introduction of the study; includes the general importance of the study and the background of the problems they want to solve.
 - ii. *Hypotheses* - A clear and testable statement of the study's expected outcomes or predicted relationship between variables, based on existing theories, literature, or observations
 - iii. *Procedure of the Study* - Detailed information on how they will conduct their study.
 - iv. *Bibliography* - Reference in APA 7th Edition citation format.
 - b. Refer to the link for the format:
<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ResearchPlan>
 - c. Guidelines mentioned above shall likewise apply.
4. Registration Fee
 - a. Participants are required to pay a one-time, non-refundable registration fee of PHP 899 for Early Bird Registration or PHP 999 for Regular Registration per research paper entry upon registration.



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- b. To register, participants must complete the registration form by providing the required information, including their adviser, the school they represent, and the research cluster under which their study falls.
- c. The requirements will be thoroughly checked by the handling organization. A confirmation email will be sent when there are no issues with their submission.

Project Presentation

Approximately 2-3 weeks before the competition, participants shall be required to submit their research paper, display board, project data book, and presentation slides.

1. Research Paper

- a. The research paper must not exceed a total of 15 pages. The abstract, appendices, and bibliography are excluded from the page limit.
 - i. *Abstract* - Maximum of 250 word paragraph summarizing their entire research paper. This includes the general problem, significance, methodology, results and conclusions.
 - ii. *Introduction* - The introduction shall include the following details of the study:
 - 1. Background: provides the context and rationale for the research by presenting the problem, relevant information, and the need for conducting the study.
 - 2. Hypothesis (*if applicable*): states a clear, testable prediction regarding the expected relationship between variables or the anticipated outcome of the study.
 - 3. Objective/s of the study: presents the specific goals or research questions that the study aims to achieve or answer.
 - 4. Significance of the study: explains the importance of the study, including its potential contributions, practical applications, and intended beneficiaries.



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5. Scope and delimitations: defines the coverage, boundaries, and limitations of the study by specifying what is included and excluded from the research.
 - iii. *Definition of Terms* - Defines the key technical, scientific, and operational terms used in the study to ensure clarity and a common understanding among readers.
 - iv. *Review of Related Literature* - Analysis of existing research, theories, and academic sources relevant to a specific topic.
 - v. *Research Methodology* - Describes the research design, materials, participants or samples (if applicable), data collection procedures, experimental methods, and data analysis techniques used to achieve the objectives of the study.
 - vi. *Results and Discussions* - Shows full results of experiments and data analysis.
 - vii. *Conclusions* - Summarizes the major findings of the study, states whether the hypothesis is accepted or rejected (if applicable), and highlights the implications of the results in relation to the research objectives.
 - viii. *Appendices* - Includes pictures of contestants conducting the research.
 - ix. *Bibliography* - Major references used in the study in APA 7th Edition format.
- d. Refer to the link for the research paper format:
<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ResearchPaper>
 - e. Research papers that exceed the prescribed page limit or fail to comply with the specified formatting and submission guidelines shall incur a 1% deduction from the final average score for each violation.
 - f. For Continuing Projects, any written content (e.g., raw data, methodology, analyses, or results) or visual documentation (e.g., photographs, figures, or illustrations) derived from previous years' experimentation shall not be included in the submitted research paper.





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2. Display Board

- a. The research display board is an A1-size standing display board with portrait orientation containing the following:
 - i. Title
 - ii. Short introduction
 - iii. Methodology
 - iv. Results
 - v. Conclusions
 - vi. Bibliography
- b. Only the design, not including the contents of the display board, will be sent for confirmation.
- c. The display board, together with the PowerPoint presentation, shall be submitted before the face-to-face presentation phase of the competition.
- d. The submitted display board shall serve as the official display material during the Cluster Round, should the team qualify for that stage of the competition.
- e. Soft copies of the display board must be submitted in PDF format.
- f. The display board submitted for evaluation must not include the name of the participants' school or the representative's DepEd Division.
- g. The display board should present all essential information about the research project in a clear, concise, and visually organized manner.
- h. Note: Display board stands will not be provided, stands are the participants responsibility.

3. Project Data Book

- a. The project data book is a detailed entry of events based on weekly updates for their research. This is to verify that their research is not copied, stolen or used. This is also another verification tool to ensure that their research is not just created by AI but shows the hardwork and effort done by the students.
- b. The project data book must be submitted digitally.



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- c. An AI Use Declaration & Honor Code must be submitted alongside the project data book. Refer to this link for the format:
<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ProjectDataBook>

4. Presentation Slides

- a. Presentation slides shall be used during the Top 15 Round, during which qualified participants will deliver their on-stage presentation. There is no limit to the number of presentation slides that may be used, but note that the contestants should be able to present them within eight (8) minutes.
- b. The presentation should highlight the most significant and essential aspects of the research project. Submitted PowerPoint presentations shall also serve as the official reference for verifying any unauthorized modifications made during the competition proper.
- c. For Continuing Projects, participants must comply with the content restrictions specified in Section D: Special Guidelines for Continuing Projects.

Requirements will be reviewed by the organization. If any requirement is incomplete, a follow-up email will be sent to verify the requirements. Failure to pass any of the requirements before the deadline will result in disqualification. If all requirements are met, a confirmation email will be sent as soon as possible, and the participants are expected to continue their research for the next few months. Changing minor details of the research is allowed, but substantial changes are prohibited. It is the organization's decision on what changes may be allowed in the participants' research.

In compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173), UP SPARK guarantees that all collected student data will be kept secure and confidential. Your contact details will only be used to send you necessary event updates and notifications.



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D. Guidelines for Continuing Projects

For continuing projects to be eligible, it must follow or fall under the following:

- A project based on a student's prior study with considerable progress (e.g., new objectives, introduction of new variables, etc.) from its basis is considered a continuing project.
- A project that is proven to be exact or nearly the same of a previous project (e.g., same methodology and hypotheses) or possess non-sufficient disparity from the original project (e.g., different test material, different location, etc.) is not considered a continuing project and is not allowed to participate in the competition.
- Certain details about continuing projects (e.g., changes or expansion from the original work) must be provided through the Continuing Project Section of the registration form and will be labelled as continuing projects during the competition.
- Continuing projects must include the year of progress in the title (i.e., Year Three of an Ongoing Study).
- Progress only spanning from three (3) months before the competition (from August 2026) must be included in all materials to be used and submitted. Progress prior to the given cut-off date (e.g., raw data, methodology, materials, etc.) are not allowed to be brought and presented in the competition.
- A project spanning for more than one year due to experimentation and/or repeated observation over time or a multi-year longitudinal project is considered a continuing project.
- Multi-year longitudinal projects may provide a summary of data outside the given timetable with its comparison from data within the last three (3) months alongside the methodology used.
- Continuing Projects shall be appropriately identified with a Continuing Project tag.





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E. General Guidelines

1. Any author of a research entry who is found, based on sufficient evidence, to have committed research misconduct shall be automatically disqualified from the competition. For a detailed discussion of research misconduct, refer to Section J: General Rules.
2. Each student may participate in only one (1) research entry, participants may enter their research under multiple clusters but only one will be assigned before the competition.
3. The competition is limited based on the competition's venue which will be announced soon. All accepted research entries shall undergo the Cluster Round on the day of the event. From the cluster round, the top three (3) entries from all research clusters combined shall qualify to proceed to the Final Round, requiring a presentation and a Q&A portion for the judges.
4. Each research entry must have a designated adviser. An adviser may supervise multiple research entries; however, the research project must be presented solely by its registered author(s).
5. Substitution or replacement of any registered participant is strictly prohibited.
6. If a registered group member is unable to participate, the remaining registered member(s) may present the research entry. To avoid corresponding deductions, valid proof of the participant's unavailability (e.g., a medical certificate for illness or official documentation in cases of bereavement) must be presented during the registration period for the face-to-face presentations.
7. In the event that a research team has a scheduling conflict with another research competition, at least one (1) registered member may represent the team at the event. The attending member(s) shall be recognized as representing the entire research team.
8. The organizers reserve the right to amend or revise the rules and mechanics of the competition whenever deemed necessary. Any such revisions shall be communicated to all participants in a timely manner and shall be implemented in the best interest of the participants.



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F. Research Categories

To ensure proper classification of research entries, participants are encouraged to carefully read and understand the descriptions of each category and subcategory before selecting their research cluster.

- The research competition consists of the following five (5) research clusters and their corresponding subcategories, including but not limited to the following:

Category	Sub-category	Description
Environment and Resources	<i>Land Use and Quality</i>	This studies the various usage of land such as urbanization and forestry and the caliber of soil from its health, degradation, and ways of remediation. This includes soil quality sensors and bioremediation processes.
	<i>Water and Air Quality</i>	This research is dedicated to analyzing and improving the quality of bodies of water and the atmosphere such as pollution mitigation. This includes water purification systems and pollutant sensors.
	<i>Weather and Climate Change</i>	This research looks into the aspects of climate change such as climate shifts, greenhouse gases, and atmospheric patterns to better adapt for global warming and extreme weather conditions. This includes predictive climate algorithms and greenhouse gas simulation chambers.
	<i>Agriculture and Livestock Production</i>	This explores the field of agriculture and livestock to optimize and manage farming and animal husbandry yields. This includes crop genetics and pest-detection systems.





	<i>Natural Resource Management</i>	This studies the sustainable extraction and conservation of natural resources such as minerals and forests. This includes recycling innovations and sustainable mining methods.
	<i>Ecological Conservation and Restoration</i>	This focuses on protecting and revitalizing ecosystems and biodiversity. This includes coral reef restoration and technological reforestation methods.
Health, Wellness, and Assistive Technology	<i>Biotechnology</i>	This studies the use of biomolecular processes to aid in the medical and environmental field. This includes bio-plastics and gene-editing.
	<i>Mental Health</i>	This delves into the psychological well-being of people by understanding cognitive disorders. This includes development of therapeutic interventions and technological stress monitors.
	<i>Ergonomic Tools</i>	This research explores the bio-mechanical optimization of workspaces to minimize physical strain. This includes ergonomic prototypes and pressure sensors.
	<i>Assistive Technology</i>	This research seeks engineering solutions to aid individuals with disabilities or the elderly. This includes eye-tracking software and advanced prosthetic limbs.
Services and Industries	<i>Transport, Logistics, and Infrastructure</i>	This studies the use of engineering solutions for structural soundness and mobility. This includes weather-resistant structures and drone delivery methods.
	<i>Education</i>	This analyzes the possibility of the implementation of technology into education. This includes interactive AI tutors and





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		learning softwares.
	<i>Banking and Finance</i>	This explores the technological aspect of financing and banking such as trading and blockchains. This includes fraud-detection models and predictive market simulations.
	<i>Professional Industries</i>	This studies the patterns and optimization of professional and corporate industries. This includes workflow optimization models and AI assistants.
	<i>Business Analytics</i>	This studies the use of analytics and Big Data to observe patterns and solve commercial issues. This includes consumer sentiment analysis and supply-chain predictive models.
Disaster Resilience and Public Safety	<i>Fire Safety</i>	This research probes the use of material science and engineering to combat and prevent fires. This includes smart smoke-detectors and flame-deterrent biomaterials.
	<i>Earthquake Safety</i>	This delves into the use of seismology with engineering to focus on surviving tectonic shifts. This includes earthquake-resistant infrastructure and household designs.
	<i>Flood Prevention</i>	This studies the designs and hydrological engineering to combat rising waters. This includes automated water gates and flood-mapping AI.
	<i>Road Safety</i>	This explores the engineering and patterns available to enhance road safety and reduce accidents. This includes smart crash barriers and collision-preventive arrays.
	<i>Emergency</i>	This research focuses on the improvement of



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	<i>Communication</i>	resilient telecommunication networks for emergencies and natural disasters. This includes modernized communication hubs and on-hand satellite-linked emergency systems.
Smart Living and Machine Learning	<i>Automation</i>	This delves into the field of robotics and control systems to reduce or eliminate human labor. This includes automatic sorters and dispensers.
	<i>Safety Technology</i>	This studies the tools for ensuring safety in industrial and domestic spaces. This includes leak detectors and smart shut-off valves.
	<i>Urban Planning</i>	This analyzes the organization and management of cities and communities in consideration of the people. This includes thermal mapping of cities and permeable pavements.
	<i>"Smart" Everyday Objects</i>	This explores the application of the Internet of Things (IoT) into everyday items. This includes appliances with energy optimization and built-in health trackers.
	<i>Cyber Protection</i>	This studies advanced network security for personal and industrial use to fight digital attacks. This includes cyber-attack simulations and vulnerability scanners.





G. Contest Proper

Pre-Screening

1. All research plan entries shall be subjected to plagiarism screening using a similarity detection software. Entries with a similarity index exceeding the allowable limit of 10% shall incur a deduction equivalent to 10% of the similarity score (i.e., 15% similarity is equivalent to a 1.5% deduction).
2. The pre-screening shall also verify compliance with the prescribed submission requirements, formatting guidelines, and technical specifications. Entries with non-compliance must address the identified concerns within the prescribed submission period. Failure to do so may result in corresponding deductions or disqualification.

Cluster Round

1. The participants are expected to bring their research innovations, display boards, and manuscripts on the day of the event.
2. Following the official opening of the event, participants shall proceed to their designated presentation areas according to their assigned research clusters. Judges shall visit each presentation area to evaluate the research entries based on the prescribed judging rubric.
3. Each team shall be allotted 2-3 minutes to present the highlights of their research project. Judges may ask brief clarificatory questions for 2-3 minutes during the presentation, while more comprehensive discussions shall be reserved for the Top 15 Round.
4. Each research entry shall be evaluated by a panel of 5 judges with expertise relevant to each of the five main research categories.
5. Following the Cluster Round, the top 3 of each cluster will form the Top 15 that will move on to the next round.
6. During the Cluster Round presentations, advisers shall not be permitted inside the presentation area. Participants are expected to remain at their assigned presentation stations throughout the judging period and must not leave their





display unattended or roam around the venue. A designated roaming period shall be scheduled after the completion of the Cluster Round, during which participants may visit other research exhibits.

7. Participants are strictly prohibited from engaging in any of the following acts. Violation of any of these provisions may result in disqualification from the competition.
 - a. Removing or concealing the Continuing Project tag from a research entry classified as a Continuing Project.
 - b. Displaying, distributing, or using any of the following materials during the Cluster Round or Project Presentation:
 - i. Living organisms, including plants;
 - ii. Human or animal body parts or body fluids (e.g., blood, urine);
 - iii. Raw, unprocessed, living, dead, or preserved plant materials, except manufactured construction materials incorporated into the display;
 - iv. Organic or inorganic chemicals;
 - v. Hazardous substances or devices, including poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, lasers, or similar items;
 - vi. Dry ice or other sublimating solids;
 - vii. Sharp objects, such as syringes, needles, pipettes, or knives;
 - viii. Open flames or highly flammable materials;
 - ix. Batteries with exposed top cells;
 - x. Desktop computer units and peripherals. Laptop computers are permitted but must not be connected to a power source during judging;
 - xi. Any equipment or apparatus deemed unsafe by the organizers.
 - xii. Displaying promotional or endorsement materials, including awards, business cards, logos, brochures, promotional merchandise, or similar items. Flash drives, CDs, or DVDs are permitted only if they are integral to the project, intended solely for judging, and approved during inspection.
 - xiii. Displaying personal or institutional contact information, including postal addresses, website URLs, email addresses, social media accounts, telephone numbers, or fax numbers.
 - xiv. Displaying photographs, illustrations, charts, tables, graphs, or other visual materials deemed offensive, graphic, or inappropriate by the organizers.





- xv. Distributing giveaway items, such as pens, keychains, souvenirs, or promotional materials. Any such items shall be confiscated by the organizers.
- xvi. For Continuing Projects and Multi-Year Longitudinal Projects, prior years' written materials, raw data, or visual representations shall not be displayed on the display board. Research entries classified as Continuing Projects shall be appropriately tagged. Exception: Multi-Year Longitudinal Projects may include a summary of data obtained from previous years, provided that no original prior-year materials are displayed.

Roaming Time

This is a dedicated time for partners and collaborators to look at research and figure out what they want to invest. For two hours, participants are not required to stay in their designated areas but must contain at least one student in case anyone is interested in their research. This is also the time companies can talk about future endeavors with students they see the most potential.

Top 15 Round

1. The Top 15 Round shall feature the stage presentations before the panel of judges and the audience. A separate judging rubric shall be used to evaluate the participants' presentation performance.
2. Each team shall be given a maximum of eight (8) minutes to present their research project using their submitted presentation slides. This shall be followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer session, during which the panel of judges may ask questions regarding any aspect of the research.
3. The order of presentations shall be determined through a draw lots system prior to the start of the round.
4. Upon the completion of all presentations, the judges shall determine the Top 3 overall winners from among the Top 15 finalists.
5. A deduction of 2% per minute, or any fraction thereof, shall be imposed on the team's Cluster Round score for exceeding the allotted presentation time.





H. Criteria

Cluster Round

At the Cluster Round, each group will present their research projects at the exhibit to the judges to assess the researchers' knowledge and abilities to support their innovation together with the caliber of all means of presentation (i.e., poster and delivery) where the top 15 research projects from the Cluster Round will proceed to the last round. The criteria for this round is as follows:

Component	Subcomponent	Percentage
Purpose	Originality, relevance, innovation, and contribution of the research	20
Research Analysis	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research problem, methodology, results, and conclusions	25
Oral Presentation	Clarity, organization, confidence, and effective communication within the allotted time	20
Organization	Logical Order of Presentation Flow of Presentation	10
Display Board	Organization, visual appeal, readability, and completeness of the displayed information	15
Response to Questions	Accuracy, clarity, and ability to justify the research during the question-and-answer portion	10





Top 15 Round

In the Top 15 Round, each group will present their research project on stage for panelists and the audience using a presentation, followed by a question and answer portion by the panelists where the three highest ranked research projects from the combined scores of the Cluster Round and Top 15 Round will be awarded. The criteria for this round is as follows:

Component	Subcomponent	Percentage
Background of the Study	Background and Purpose, Pertinent Literature, Attainability of Objectives, Scope and Limitations	15
Methodology	Experimental design, procedures, data collection, and analytical methods	15
Results and Discussion	Data presentation, interpretation, statistical analysis (if applicable), and conclusions	25
Innovation and Impact	Ingenuity, Novelty, Creativity, Skill, Overall Research Significance and Impact, Economic and Social Impact, Potential for Future Development/Marketability	25
Overall Research Quality and Analytical Approach	Coherence, critical analysis, feasibility of recommendations, and subject mastery, teamwork	10
Presentation and Communication	Organization, Clarity, Oral Delivery, Visual Aid Quality, Overall Presentation Impact	10





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The three highest weighted scores from the Cluster Round (30%) and Top 15 Round (70%) will be awarded as winners of the competition.



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I. Awarding

A. Major Awards

The top three (3) research projects from the final presentation, as selected using the criteria above, will receive cash and/or medals and certificates as awards.

First Place - Php 10,000 + certificates/medals/plaque

Second Place - Php 7,000 + certificates/medals/plaque

Third Place - Php 5,000 + certificates/medals/plaque

B. Special Awards

Some research projects will also be granted special awards by the organizers and sponsors.

1. *The Luminary (UP SPARK's choice)* - Php 3,000 + certificates/medals
2. *Sponsorial Awards* - (varies)





J. General Rules

The following rules set by the organizers must be observed:

1. *Plagiarism*

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any and all circumstances, this includes but is not limited to: direct plagiarism, mosaic plagiarism, self plagiarism and failure to credit sources. Data fabrication and failure to send proof of data gathering is also grounds for disqualification. If caught by the organization, an email will be sent to address in hopes for the participants to fix the issue, if not fixed within the deadline then they are immediately disqualified.

2. *AI Usage*

The use of Artificial Intelligence is allowed as long as it is used as a way to enhance, not rely, on their paper. Any use of AI must be explicitly stated; failure to comply is grounds for disqualification.

3. *Intellectual Property Infringement*

Utilizing protected materials (including copyrights, trademarks, or patents) without explicit permission is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether the original creator is credited which includes unapproved use of any legally protected proprietary assets, such as inventions, software, music, graphics, designs, or text. Failure to comply is grounds for disqualification.

4. *Fabrication and Falsification*

The intentional forgery or alteration of research data is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: recording or reporting made up data, results or references, manipulating materials or processes, and changing or omitting data or results that is not accurately represented in any form. If caught by the organization, an email will be sent to address in hopes for the participants to fix the issue, if not fixed within the deadline then they are immediately disqualified.





5. *Nondisclosure*

Failure of coaches or Research Congress (RC) participants to disclose any known instances of research misconduct will result in disqualification.

Additionally, the organizers reserve the right to disqualify any entry found engaging in behaviors or practices deemed contrary to scientific integrity and research ethics, even if not explicitly outlined above.



GENERAL EVENT PRIMER

PROJECT: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
AND RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW

PROJECT START



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ABOUT UP SPARK

The **University of the Philippines Society of Proactive Advocates for Research and Knowledge (UP SPARK)** is a student organization dedicated to cultivating **innovation, collaboration, and critical engagement** in modern technology, research, and development. Persisting with intellect and a deep commitment to community service, UP SPARK empowers the next generation of Filipino scientists, engineers, policy-makers, and economists through **proactive research, capacity-building initiatives, and advocacy-driven programs**.

UP SPARK offers a platform for students to delve into cutting-edge ideas, contribute to knowledge production, and build character in meaningful discourse on technological advancements and their impacts on **finance, science, and politics** under their events such as **Round Table Discussions and Speaker Series**. Through strategic partnerships, forums, and discussions, the organization ignites **curiosity, builds competencies, and leads conversations** worth standing up for - one spark at a time.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Project: START (Science, Technology, and Research for Tomorrow) is a research competition for **high school students (Grades 10–12)** dedicated to turning brilliant ideas into real-world community impact. High school and college research often goes unnoticed, leaving vital solutions unused. Project: START changes that. We provide a platform for young innovators to pitch their inventions directly to investors and industry leaders who can scale their impact. Beyond the official judging panel, the event features an **exclusive Investor Showcase**, giving partners dedicated time to **roam, connect, and invest in tomorrow's breakthroughs**.

This is just the beginning. **After all, it STARTs with a SPARK.**





PROGRAM FLOW

PROGRAM FLOW

EVENT DAY

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00 A.M.	Call Time
8:00 A.M.	Start of Event
8:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Opening Ceremony
9:00 - 12:00 NN	Cluster
12:00 - 2:00 P.M.	Roaming Time and Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.	Announcement of the Top 15 Presentations
5:00 - 6:00 P.M.	Awarding and Closing Ceremony

IMPORTANT DATES:

Early Bird Registration: July 21 - Aug. 8

Regular Registration: Aug. 11 - Sept. 19

Confirmation of Research: Nov. 7.

D-Day of the event: Nov. 21, 2026





EVENT DETAILS

GENERAL RULES

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any and all circumstances, this includes but is not limited to: direct plagiarism, mosaic plagiarism, self plagiarism and failure to credit sources. Data fabrication and failure to send proof of data gathering is also grounds for disqualification. If caught by the organization, an email will be sent to address in hopes for the participants to fix the issue, if not fixed within the deadline then they are immediately disqualified.

AI USAGE

The use of Artificial Intelligence is allowed as long as it is used as a way to enhance, not rely, on their paper. Any use of AI must be explicitly stated, failure to comply is grounds for disqualification.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT

Utilizing protected materials (including copyrights, trademarks, or patents) without explicit permission is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether the original creator is credited which includes unapproved use of any legally protected proprietary assets, such as inventions, software, music, graphics, designs, or text. Failure to comply is grounds for disqualification.

FABRICATION AND FALSIFICATION

The intentional forgery or alteration of research data is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: recording or reporting made up data, results or references, manipulating materials or processes, and changing or omitting data or results that is not accurately represented in any form. If caught by the organization, an email will be sent to address in hopes for the participants to fix the issue, if not fixed within the deadline then they are immediately disqualified.

NONDISCLOSURE

Failure of coaches or participants to disclose any known instances of research misconduct will result in disqualification.

Additionally, the organizers reserve the right to disqualify any entry found engaging in behaviors or practices deemed contrary to scientific integrity and research ethics, even if not explicitly outlined above.



REGISTRATION DETAILS

Students from **Grades 10-12** all over the Philippines are **eligible to compete**. Requirements include names of your trio, adviser and school you represent, registration fee (**899 PHP for early bird registration and 999 PHP for regular**), research plan, and what cluster their research is under.

The research clusters are:



ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCES

- Land Use and Quality
- Water and Air Quality
- Weather and Climate Change
- Agricultural and Livestock Production
- Natural Resource Management
- Ecological Conservation and Restoration



HEALTH, WELLNESS & ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Biotechnology
- Mental Health
- Ergonomic Tools
- Assistive Technology



REGISTRATION DETAILS

SERVICE & INDUSTRIES

- Transport, Logistics, and Infrastructures
- Education
- Banking and Finance
- Professional Industries
- Business Analytics

DISASTER RESILIENCE & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Fire safety
- Earthquake safety
- Flood prevention
- Road safety
- Emergency communication.

SMART LIVING & AUTOMATION

- Automation
- Safety Technology
- Urban planning
- "Smart" everyday objects
- Cyber Protection



REGISTRATION DETAILS

The research plan will be the blueprint for what research they are going to submit and present on the day of the event. This will be composed of the following:

1. **Rationale** - short introduction of the study; includes the general importance of the study and the background of the problems they want to solve.
2. **Statement of the Problem** - specific research questions to be answered by their paper
3. **Objectives** - a detailed list of what their output must accomplish
4. **Procedure of the Study** - detailed information on how they will conduct their study.
5. **Bibliography** - Reference in APA 7th ed. citation format

It must be a **maximum of 7 pages** long and follow the format below:

<https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ResearchPlan>

Requirements will be reviewed by the organization. If any requirement is incomplete, a follow-up email will be sent to verify the requirements. Failure to pass any of the requirements before the deadline will result in **disqualification**. If all requirements are met, a **confirmation email will be sent** as soon as possible, and the participants are expected to continue their research for the next few months. Changing minor details of the research is allowed, but substantial changes are prohibited. It is the organization's decision on what changes may be allowed in the participants' research.

In compliance with the **Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173)**, UP SPARK guarantees that all collected student data will be kept secure and confidential. Your contact details will only be used to send you necessary event updates and notifications.



CONFIRMATION OF EVENT

Around 2-3 weeks before the event day, the participants will be required to pass their research paper, display board, and project data book. The requirements will be thoroughly checked by the handling organization. A confirmation email will be sent when there are no issues with their submission.

1. RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper will be composed of the following:

(Research Paper format: <https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ResearchPaper>)

1. **Abstract** - maximum of 250 word paragraph summarizing their entire research paper. This includes the General problem, Significance, Methodology, Results and Conclusions.
2. **Introduction**
3. **Hypothesis**
4. **Objectives**
5. **Significance of the Study**
6. **Scope and Delimitations**
7. **Definition of Terms**
8. **Review of Related Literature** - analysis of existing research, theories, and academic sources relevant to a specific topic
9. **Research Methodology**
10. **Results and Discussions** - shows full results of experiments and data analysis
11. **Conclusions** - includes rejection or acceptance of hypotheses.
12. **Appendix** - includes pictures of contestants conducting the research
13. **Bibliography** (in APA 7th Edition Format)



CONFIRMATION OF EVENT

2.DISPLAY BOARD

The Research display board is an A1-size standing display board with portrait orientation including the following:

Title
Short introduction
Methodology
Results
Conclusions
Bibliography

3.PROJECT DATA BOOK

The project data book is a detailed entry of events with dates based on updates for their research. This is to verify that their research is not copied, stolen or used. An AI Use Declaration & Honor Code must be submitted alongside the project data book. Refer to this link for the format: <https://tinyurl.com/ProjectSTART-ProjectDataBook>

4.PRESENTATION SLIDES

Presentation slides shall be used during the Top 15 Round, during which qualified participants will deliver their on-stage presentation. There is no limit to the number of presentation slides that may be used, but note that the contestants should be able to present them within eight (8) minutes.



CLUSTER ROUND

The participants are expected to bring their research innovations, display boards, and manuscripts on the day of the event. After the formal start of the event, students are asked to stand in their designated areas according to their clusters in order to present their research. The panelists will roam around and look at each research and give a grade corresponding to the given rubric. The participants will have 2-3 minutes to showcase their research and panelists may ask short questions, but longer queries should be reserved for the top 15. Judges will work together to create a top 3 per cluster.

COMPONENT	SUBCOMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Purpose	Originality, relevance, innovation, and contribution of the research.	20%
Research Analysis	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the research problem, methodology, results, and conclusions.	25%
Oral Presentation	Clarity, organization, confidence, and effective communication within the allotted time.	20%
Organization	Logical Order of Presentation Flow of Presentation	10%
Display Board	Organization, visual appeal, readability, and completeness of the displayed information.	15%
Response to Questions	Accuracy, clarity, and ability to justify the research during the question-and-answer portion.	10%



ROAMING TIME

This is a dedicated time for partners and collaborators to look at research and figure out what they want to invest. For 2 hours, participants are not required to stay in their designated areas but must contain at least one student in case anyone is interested in their research. This is also the time companies can talk about future endeavors with students they see the most potential.

TOP 15

The top 15 will present their research on stage to the panelists and audience. A separate criteria will be used to judge their performance. The participants will have a maximum of 8 minutes to present their research, followed by an untimed question portion by the panelists. The presentation slides will be utilized during this part of the event. After their presentation, judges are allowed to ask questions about their research with no time limit. After all the participants have presented, they will choose a top 3 among the top 15 to win.

COMPONENT	SUBCOMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Background of the Study	Background and Purpose, Pertinent Literature, Attainability of Objectives, Scope and Limitations.	15%
Methodology	Experimental design, procedures, data collection, and analytical methods.	15%
Results and Discussion	Data presentation, interpretation, statistical analysis (if applicable), and conclusions.	25%
Innovation and Impact	Ingenuity, Novelty, Creativity, Skill, Overall Research Significance and Impact, Economic and Social Impact, Potential for Future Development/Marketability.	25%
Overall Research Quality and Analytical Approach	Coherence, critical analysis, feasibility of recommendations, and subject mastery, teamwork.	10%
Presentation and Communication	Organization, Clarity, Oral Delivery, Visual Aid Quality, Overall Presentation Impact.	10%



AWARDS



AWARDING

MAJOR AWARDS

The top three (3) research projects from the final presentation, as selected using the criteria above, will receive cash and/or medals and certificates as awards.

RANK	AWARDS AND PRIZES
FIRST PLACE	PHP 10,000 + certificates, medal, and plaque
SECOND PLACE	PHP 7,000 + certificates, medal, and plaque
THIRD PLACE	PHP 5,000 + certificates, medal, and plaque

SPECIAL AWARDS

Some research projects will also be granted special awards by the organizers and sponsors.

1. **The Luminary (SPARK's Choice)** - PHP 3,000 + certificates/medals
2. **Sponsorial Awards** - (varies)



PROJECT START

CORE TEAM

Overall Directors

Alexander R. Doronila
Seth B. Sasuman

Academic Affairs Director

Riana Margaux S. Burce

External Affairs Director

Roi Edan M. Victoria

Finance & Logistics Director

Vinz Francis B. Sapla

Internal Affairs Director

Ma. Gabrielle P. Quiore

Publicity & Creatives Director

Jasmine Faith H. Dacuycuy

