



## NETWORK KANSAS

### **YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE (YEC) SERIES** **2022-2023 YEC Series Requirements & Important Dates**

*Communities hosting local-level entrepreneurship competitions may apply for a sanction to have their event be part of the “Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Series” culminating in a statewide youth entrepreneurship competition (KEC). Community entrepreneurship competitions must meet certain guidelines in order to qualify as part of the Series and to be eligible to use E-Community grant funds to pay for part or all of the competition.*

#### **Important Dates**

November 11, 2022 – Deadline for YEC Series online sanction applications due to NetWork Kansas  
March 20, 2023 – Cut-off for sanctioned community entrepreneurship competitions to be held  
March 20, 2023 – Wildcard Entries for KEC State Championship Due  
March 31, 2023 – Executive Summaries for KEC State Championship Due  
April 20, 2023 – KEC State Championship

#### **Requirements for all Events**

Local entrepreneurship competitions must meet **all** of the following requirements in order to qualify as part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Series.

- 1.) The physical location of the competition must be in Kansas. If needed, competitions may go virtual.
- 2.) The participating students must be enrolled in a Kansas middle school, high school or high school equivalent. (Any exceptions must be approved by NetWork Kansas in advance).
- 3.) The competition must be open to students enrolled in one or more grades between 9-12 or an equivalent. The competition may be open to others but at least one of these grades must be represented. *Ex. 7-12th, 9-12th, 10th grade only, or 6-9th grades are all acceptable competition structures.*
- 4.) The competition must include a written Executive Summary following the provided “Executive Summary Guidelines” and a 4-minute Presentation, which can be delivered in the tradeshow, or in a separate phase of competition. The competition **may** also include one or more of the following in-person components: elevator pitch, tradeshow, and/or other event.
- 5.) The competition must reserve at least one judging spot for an active member of the Kansas Masons.
- 6.) The competition should follow the Marketing Guide on VentureDash.
- 7.) Prizes are not mandatory, but competitions offering prizes **must not** exceed a total of \$3,500 in prizes, and **must not** exceed \$1,500 for first place, \$1,250 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. No other prize should exceed \$1,000.
- 8.) The competition must apply for a sanction from NetWork Kansas, either by the deadline of November 11, 2022 or **before the event is held, if an event occurs prior to November 11. Only events awarded a sanction by NetWork Kansas will be considered part of the YEC Series.**
- 9.) The competition must take place between August 1, 2022 and March 20, 2023.
- 10.) The competition host must agree to pay a fee of \$1,500 to NetWork Kansas if the event is awarded a sanction. If an E-Community organizes the event, the fee of \$1,500 is waived for the 2022-2023 YEC Series as a benefit of the E-Community Partnership.\*
- 11.) A student may compete in only one local event per 2022-2023 YEC Series. A student may only submit one business concept per competition.
- 12.) Communities may only organize or participate in one local event per the 2022-2023 YEC Series, unless compelling reasons for more than one competition exist. Approval must be given by NetWork Kansas in advance.

*\*In partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, any non-E-Community within the Dane G. Hansen service area hosting a YEC will have the \$1,500 sanction fee paid for.*



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### About

The Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) Series is a NetWork Kansas program. NetWork Kansas is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Any fees or donations for the YEC Series support program costs. Copyright 2012-2022, NetWork Kansas, all rights reserved. For more information, visit [www.youtheshipchallenge.com](http://www.youtheshipchallenge.com)

### Benefits for all Events

- All sanctioned events will gain access to a suite of tools and resources from NetWork Kansas and KSU, including entrepreneurship videos and a resource kit for planning and hosting a local competition, with full access to VentureDash, a digital tool for planning, organizing, and running a youth entrepreneurship competition with supplemental resources for classroom curriculum.
- All sanctioned events will earn one guaranteed spot at the KEC to be used by the 1st place business or a first alternate.
- All sanctioned event participants may also compete for up to 15 wildcard spots at the KEC.

### Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge (KEC) - State Championship

For full KEC information, please refer to K-State's Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge website: <https://cba.k-state.edu/kec>

### E-Communities & the YEC Series

For NetWork Kansas E-Communities submitting a sanctioned event, the following additional guidelines must be observed, in addition to the "Requirements for all Events", in order to access E-Community grant funds (issued on a first-come, first-served basis until depleted) to pay for the event. Sanctioned E-Community events are permitted to use grant funds to pay for the cost of hosting an event, educational materials, prizes, travel fees, and other costs associated with hosting a sanctioned YEC Series competition.

### **Additional Requirements for E-Community YEC Events:**

- At least one member of the local E-Community leadership team and/or financial review board must help organize and/or host the entrepreneurship competition. This person will work with guidance from their E-Community Regional Manager to set up the event.
- E-Community events must take place in the geographic boundaries of an E-Community, even if they choose to admit participants from beyond that geographic area.
- E-Communities must invite a local or regional public sector business resource partner to participate in the process as a committee member, educational resource, mentor, and/or judge. Partners may come from these organizations: KSBDC, SCORE, Kansas Department of Commerce, Certified Development Companies, Kansas Main Street, USDA, City or County Economic Development organizations, college or university business department instructors.
- E-Communities hosting a sanctioned event should establish a working group or committee as a subset of the leadership team to organize the event. The committee can have members from outside the leadership team.



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- E-Communities should include private sector business resource partners as committee members, resources, mentors, or judges such as bankers, attorneys, insurance, accountants, and entrepreneurs.
- E-Communities should connect students to mentors, which could include leadership team and/or financial review board members, resource partners, entrepreneurs, bankers, public officials, etc.

#### **Additional Benefits for E-Community YEC Events:**

- As a benefit of the E-Community Partnership, **the \$1,500 sanction application fee is waived** for the 2022-2023 Series.
- All E-Community sanctioned events will receive a \$250 prize sponsored by NetWork Kansas for the school or classroom of the 1st place student.
- E-Communities gain access to additional assistance from their regional E-Community representative to plan and host the event.
- E-Communities will be provided a judge for their local event by NetWork Kansas if needed.
- E-Communities may gain access to additional travel grant funds to pay for state competition travel expenses if needed.

#### **More Information**

For more information, please consult your region's assigned NetWork Kansas E-Community Regional Manager, or contact: Bailee Henry, Senior Product Manager, E-Community Programs, at [bhenry@networkkansas.com](mailto:bhenry@networkkansas.com). Visit [www.youthshipchallenge.com](http://www.youthshipchallenge.com) for updates.

*\* E-Communities may use grant funds to pay for part or all costs incurred in hosting a youth entrepreneurship competition that meets the YEC Series qualifications. Grants are issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. Funds may only be issued after completing a sanction application. Exemptions to one or more requirements might be granted on a case-by-case basis. Competitions being held outside an E-Community will not be able to access E-Community grant funds or other NetWork Kansas funds to pay for the cost of hosting a competition. Contact [bhenry@networkkansas.com](mailto:bhenry@networkkansas.com) to discuss.*



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## 2022-2023 YEC Series Requirements & Important Dates

### Sanction Form Guide

The following questions must be answered to complete the NetWork Kansas YEC Sanction Application. This application is required and must be completed in order to have your local event sanctioned as part of this year's Series. The application helps to ensure that you understand and will abide by the rules regarding the structure of local competitions. It is also required in order for E-Communities to use grant funds (available on a first-come, first-served basis until gone) to pay for event expenses. Only events that are sanctioned are officially part of our YEC Series and can qualify winners to compete at the KEC State Championship.

**Note:** This paper guide does **NOT** count as completing the sanction form. It must be completed online at: [www.goventuredash.com](http://www.goventuredash.com) Login or create an account to fill out the form.

### **Hosts**

The Host (organizer) of a YEC Series competition is the person in charge of creating, marketing and executing a local YEC event. Often, this person is the E-Community point person but not in every case.

- Event host First and Last Name:
- Phone Number:
- Email:
- Event Website:
- Is there another organizer for the competition? Contact info:

### **E-Community**

- Will this event be in an E-Community? Y/N – Choose the appropriate E-Community

### **Schools and Mentors (Teachers)**

- How many schools do you expect to participate?
- Which schools do you think will participate?

### **Mentors**

Can be teachers, counselors, or administrators that assist students preparing for a YEC Series competition.

- Will students work on their business during school hours?
- Grades eligible to participate:
- Estimated number of mentors involved:
- Estimated number of students competing:
- Is this the first year your community has hosted a YEC Series competition?
- How many years have you hosted a youth entrepreneurship competition?

### **Event Information**

- Competition Name:
- Competition Date/Time:
- Competition Location and Address:
- Which components do you plan to use as part of this competition? (The Executive Summary and 4-Minute Presentation are required.)
- Will you be awarding prizes? Y/N
- Prize money amount and source:  
*(Prizes must not exceed a total of \$3,500 in prizes, and must not exceed \$1,500 for first place, \$1,250 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place. No other prize should exceed \$1,000).*
- Have you identified an active member of the Kansas Masons to be a judge? Y/N



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### YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE (YEC) SERIES

#### Local Entrepreneurship Competitions

##### **Overview**

During the 2021-2022 academic year, NetWork Kansas E-Communities held 51 local-level youth entrepreneurship competitions for more than 1,000 students as part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Series, culminating in a statewide championship. Again this academic year, communities have the opportunity to host local-level entrepreneurship competitions and submit their event to be part of the “Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Series” culminating in a statewide youth entrepreneurship competition, the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge (KEC), April 20, 2023. Local entrepreneurship competitions must meet certain guidelines in order to qualify as part of the Series and to be eligible to use E-Community funds\* (*see p. 2*) to pay for part of the competition.

##### **What is a Local Entrepreneurship Competition?**

Communities host locally-organized events (at the county, city, school, or classroom level) that bring students together for the purpose of a hands-on entrepreneurship experience. Typically, local entrepreneurship competitions (often called “e-fairs”) involve students preparing a written business plan or executive summary, a “tradeshow booth” (similar to a science fair tabletop display), and a pitch or presentation. Then, on a given day, students compete against one another in teams or individually. Students’ work is judged by local entrepreneurs, resource partners, mentors, or other adults. Most successful events are organized through a teacher or school as a classroom project or extracurricular activity, but other groups can be successful at organizing an event as well.

##### **Important Elements**

- A written executive summary
- Access to resources, like a teacher or other education
- A 4-minute presentation, and *may* also include an additional oral component of some sort – pitch, interview and/or a tradeshow
- Competitive process by which students’ work is evaluated/scored
- Judges – usually members of the community
- Awards or prizes (whether it’s a 1st place certificate or a cash award; some token for participation)

##### **Other Ideas**

- Invite other students or the community at large to visit the tradeshow
- Invite an entrepreneurship guest speaker to talk to students and/or others
- Seek business owners to mentor students
- Invite businesses to sponsor the event

##### **Expectations of the Host**

- Decide the format and other parameters of the event (who, when, where, etc.)
- Find a mentor to help and decide how much education you can do on the topic of entrepreneurship
- Create or find applicable forms (judging forms, business plan outline, etc.)
- Decide your budget and how to fund the event (Will there be lunch? Awards? Other expenses?)
- Decide how to get students to participate
- Promote the event! Invite judges and students to participate and invite the community, businesses, and others to attend
- Coordinate the event (print documents, organize schedule, find a speaker, etc.)
- Run the event on the day of (give instructions, keep schedule on time, tally scores, give awards, etc.)
- Send thank you notes and write articles for newsletters, newspapers, etc.
- Follow instructions from NetWork Kansas to coordinate participation at the state level