

National Engineering Design Competition

Arizona Addendum to MESA USA National Specifications | 2026-27

All requirements in the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition specifications apply unless an Arizona-specific provision below states otherwise.

ARIZONA PARTICIPATION

Regional Design Day	Up to 3 teams per school
MESA Day	1 team per school
Team Members	3-4 students; at least 2 non-male students

REGIONAL DESIGN DAY

Regional Design Day gives teams an opportunity to share the current development of their NEDC project, discuss their engineering work, and receive feedback as they continue preparing for MESA Day. Participation is strongly encouraged but is not required for participation in Arizona MESA Day. Arizona MESA will provide event-specific instructions to teams and advisors before Regional Design Day.

SCORING UPDATE FOR 2026-27

NEDC scoring has changed for 2026-27. Teams are evaluated across four STEM skill areas: Written Communication, Oral Communication, Human Centered Engineering, and Technical Knowledge. These skills are demonstrated and scored across multiple competition components. Teams should review the national scoring rubrics carefully as they develop their project. The Arizona addendum does not replace or reproduce those rubrics.

ARIZONA MESA PRE-EVENT SUBMISSIONS

Teams should plan to submit the following materials to Arizona MESA approximately two weeks prior to MESA Day for review and judging:

- Design Proposal
- Video of the Technical Pitch
- Academic Poster

Arizona MESA will announce the official submission deadline, submission process, and any additional instructions prior to MESA Day.

DESIGN PROPOSAL

- Use the official MESA USA Design Proposal template and follow the national requirements.
- Submit the final Design Proposal as a PDF and follow the national file-format requirements.

ACADEMIC POSTER

- Follow the national Academic Poster content and formatting requirements.
- **Dimensions:** Maximum 36" x 48"; Minimum 24" x 36".
- Submit the poster as a PDF and follow the national file-format requirements.

TECHNICAL PITCH VIDEO

- Follow the national Technical Pitch requirements when preparing the presentation.
- Arizona MESA will provide video submission instructions with the pre-event submission information.

ADVANCEMENT & COMMITMENT

Teams participating in NEDC should plan for the full competition sequence: Regional Design Day, Arizona MESA Day, and, if selected to advance, the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition. A team that advances beyond Arizona MESA Day is expected to maintain at least three participating team members for the next level of competition.

NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

The MESA USA national specifications remain the controlling competition document. Arizona MESA will provide additional event-specific instructions, including Arizona submission dates and MESA Day judging details, as those are finalized.