

## GENIUS Olympiad FINALIST GUIDE

### Dear International GENIUS Olympiad (IGO) Finalists,

If you have any questions, please email us at [info@geniusolympiad.org](mailto:info@geniusolympiad.org). Email is our preferred method of communication. To have the best experience at the International GENIUS Olympiad (IGO), please carefully read each topic below and provide all requested information on time.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Steps to Complete for Participation     | 7. Travel, Airport Pick up/Drop off and Parking    |
| 2. Check List - What to bring?             | 8. Washington DC/NY City and Boston Trips          |
| 3. International Fair                      | 9. Fees and Deadlines                              |
| 4. Accommodation / Lodging                 | 10. and 11. Shipping Address and Printing Services |
| 5. Health Insurance / Immunization records | 12. and 13: Behavioral Expectations and Releases   |
| 6. Dress Code and ID Badge Requirement     | 14. Project Set-up Guides                          |

## 1 - STEPS TO COMPLETE FOR PARTICIPATION

- CHECK** your finalist status in your application account. If you're a finalist, follow these next steps.
- CONFIRM/REGISTER** All participants—including students, chaperones, guests, and those staying at the hotel—**must be confirmed and registered to participate**. Log into your project application account under the "participant" tab. Enter participant information and pay the participation fee by the deadline (May 10). **This is an additional and different step than project application.**
- INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS:** CREATE and print your visa invitation letter from your application account under the "participant" tab after confirming/registering participants and paying all fees. Guests must also pay the participation fee to be included in the visa letter.
- REGISTER TRIPS** (optional) to Washington DC, NYC, or Ivy University Trips by the May 10 deadline: [visit website](#)
- REGISTER PERFORMANCE** (optional) at international fair to celebrate your talent and culture by the June 1.
- SUBMIT Travel Information and/or REGISTER for Airport Bus Service by June 1:** 1- If you need airport transportation from/to Rochester, JFK Airports, register in your application account under the "Travel" menu. See below more for information. 2- Group chaperones must submit their group's travel details. Only one submission per group is needed, and this must be completed by the group chaperone in the "Travel Information" section of the application account.
- RULES & MEDIA AGREEMENT:** By participating in GENIUS Olympiad, you agree to follow all rules, code of conduct, and media consent agreement stated on this document under item #12.

## 2 - CHECK LIST - WHAT TO BRING?

- ☐ Photo I.D. for all participants (keep a color copy of your passport with you at all times, including US Visa).
- ☐ All project display materials (if not shipped). Keep a digital copy of your poster, in case poster gets lost.
- ☐ Cultural items, promotional catalogs, and small gift items to share with others at the international fair.
- ☐ Personal hygiene items (towel, shower gel, toothpaste, etc.).
- ☐ International-to-US outlet converter for your charging needs (computer, cell phones etc.).
- ☐ Business/formal attire and traditional cultural attire (optional) for opening and award ceremonies.
- ☐ Sweaters, long pants, etc.: 60-75 F (15-24°C) during the day and 55-65 F (12-18°C) at night.

## 3 - INTERNATIONAL FAIR

**The International Fair** allows participants to share and promote their country and culture. Each country or state will have a table to display promotional items, sample foods, or items to exchange and share. Participants may also perform (sing, dance, etc.) on stage. U.S. participants can represent their states. Be creative, have fun, and help others learn about your culture! Check the event schedule on our website for date and time. If you want to perform on the stage (either as a group or an individual), **please register your performance** through the application system.

## 4 - ACCOMMODATION / LODGING INFORMATION



### CHECK IN / OUT (and Early Arrivals):

- Arrive at [Haffey Hall](#) at St John Fisher campus.
- **GENIUS check-in begins on Monday June 8 at 10 am and continues throughout the night.**
- A GENIUS staff will be present at the Rochester Airport luggage claim area until 1:00 am to guide you to the bus.
- Participants must arrive by early afternoon on Tuesday at the latest.
- **You may leave any time after judging on Wednesday. Everyone must leave dorms by 9 am on Saturday, June 13.**
- If you arrive early/leave late, you must arrange your own hotel accommodations and payments.

### Chaperone Rules:

- NY State law requires chaperones to stay with & be responsible of students at all times, except judging.
- Parents, guardians, adult siblings, or teachers can serve as chaperones. Each chaperone can supervise up to 6 students. Teachers need written parent permission. Students under age of 18 must have an adult chaperone.
- For mixed-gender student groups without relative chaperones, a minimum of two chaperones is required—one male and one female. All participants must have IGO provided ID badges on them visible at all times.

### Room Assignments:

- Participants will stay in student dorms, which have mostly double bedrooms with no air conditioning.
- Rooms will be assigned at check-in. Male and female participants will be housed separately.
- Families staying together will be placed in a special mixed-gender building. Students staying with parents or adult family members will share the same room. All other students will share a room with another participant of the same gender.
- **Housing on campus is NOT available for children under age 13** (due to NY State regulations). Parents with children under 13 should arrange their own accommodation at a hotel.

### Dorm Facilities:

- Dorms have community bathrooms (separate for males and females).
- Linens, pillows, and blankets will be provided. Towels and personal hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, etc.) will NOT be provided. Please bring your own personal hygiene products for one week.
- The campus store near dining hall in campus center (Haffey Hall) may sell some personal items.
- Pets are not permitted in dorms.
- Cooking in dorm kitchens or common areas is prohibited.
- Laundry facilities with washers and dryers are in the dorm buildings. Use laundry-room sinks only for handwashing clothes. Detergent is not provided but is available for purchase in campus store.

### Building Hours & Security:

- Chaperones will receive access cards for their dorm buildings. Dorm doors will be locked, and common areas close at 11:30 pm. Quiet hours: 11 pm – 6 am. Each building will have a security officer between 9 pm and 6 am.

### Hotel Stay:

- Participants choosing hotels over dorms must still register and pay the full participation fee to cover meals, Niagara Falls trip, and event activities. Hotel arrangements and costs must be handled separately by participants. Participants staying at hotels have reduced fees, please see the fee structures below.

### Dining Services:

- Meals included in your participation fee will be provided according to the schedule. IGO meals are served at Dining hall, which have many options (salads, soups, sandwiches, and hot meals).
- You need to have **IGO provided ID badges in order to enter dining halls.**
- Halal and vegetarian food options are available. Gluten-free options will be available and marked.
- IGO will collect health related dietary restrictions through a survey.
- Participants must pay for any personal expenses beyond what IGO provides.

#### Accessibility:

- All event locations, dining areas, and dorms are accessible to participants with disabilities.

#### Alcohol Policy:

- IGO is an alcohol-free event. Alcohol is strictly prohibited at all times, including for adults. Participants under 21 cannot legally possess or consume alcohol in the U.S.

#### Sexual Conduct:

- Any unwanted sexual contact is strictly prohibited. Sexual activity involving individuals under age 18 is a serious crime in New York State, punishable by imprisonment (1–25 years).

#### Smoking Policy:

- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is forbidden in all campus buildings. **SJF Campus is a SMOKING FREE campus; therefore, you are not allowed to smoke (includes E-CIGARETTES) on campus premises.** Smoking cannabis products is forbidden and federally illegal.

#### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES (FIRE SAFETY):

- If the fire alarm sounds, evacuate immediately using stairs only (never elevators) and move at least 50 feet away from the building.
- Causing fires or false alarms, tampering with alarms, or creating fire hazards is strictly forbidden.
- Students with disabilities unable to use stairs should wait at stairwell entrances for help from fire safety staff.
- Fire extinguishers and pull boxes are located on each dorm floor for emergencies.

### 5 - HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION / IMMUNIZATION

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** The U.S. health system does not provide free healthcare; therefore, it is **HIGHLY** recommended that international participants purchase travel health insurance. You may purchase travel insurance online (for example, [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)) for \$40-50 per person. GENIUS Olympiad does not have any partnership with this website, and you are free to buy insurance from any other companies. **GENIUS Olympiad will NOT cover any health-related expenses of any of its participants.**

**IMMUNIZATION RECORD:** Participants must have a copy of their official immunization record showing adequate immunity for measles, mumps, and rubella. You will not submit your immunization record, but have it with you. **In the event of the measles, mumps, or rubella outbreak, participants without an immunization record will be quarantined for 7-21 days (depending on disease outbreak).** Specific requirements are proof of the following vaccines: two measles, mumps, and rubella (2 x MMR) vaccine after your first birthday. A blood test (MMR titer) is also acceptable if it shows adequate immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. Official immunization records or MMR titer test must show name, date of birth, and date of immunizations, along with health care provider signature.

### 6 - DRESS CODE - ID Badge Requirement

**Participants are REQUIRED to wear their name badge at all times during the conference. Participants will not be allowed to attend events, enter dorm rooms, dining services, or Niagara Falls trip without their ID badges.**

Event	Dress Code	Attendees
Ice-breaker Activities	GENIUS T-shirt	GENIUS
Opening and Awards Ceremonies	Business Casual or Traditional Costume	Open to public
Reception and Public Viewing	Business Casual or Traditional Costume	Open to public
Judging	Business/Formal	Judges
Niagara Falls Trip	<b>GENIUS T-shirt &amp; ID is REQUIRED</b>	GENIUS
International Fair	Business Casual or Traditional Costume	Open to public
All Other Events	Casual	

## 7 - TRAVEL & AIRPORT PICKUP/DROP INFORMATION

**Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses to attend the IGO.**

Chaperones who accompany students must provide travel information in the application portal under “Travel” menu for all participants as a group/school. Please purchase your tickets before you provide this information to us.

**EARLY ARRIVAL:** We do not accept participants before Monday June 8 at 10 AM. Early arrivals must arrange their own lodging at a hotel until this time.

**TRAVEL BY AIR:** The closest major airport to SJF University is ROCHESTER AIRPORT (5 miles, 15 min, \$15-20 by Uber/Lyft). IGO provide fee-based airport transportation services from the following airports. **You must register for these services in your application account under “Travel” menu.**

**ROCHESTER AIRPORT:** Free service but **REQUIRES** registration for each service. IGO will welcome you at Rochester airport and direct you to transportation services. **Pick-up services:** ONLY on Monday June 8, between 11 am and June 9 at 1 am (or last plane arrival) (currently planned pick-up times, which are subject to change based on registrations: running every 75 min or less). **Drop-off Services:** Friday June 12, departing campus at 3 and 4 pm; Saturday June 13 leaving departing campus at 4:00, 5:30, 8 am, and 9.30 am. You need to register for the pick-up and drop-off services separately.

**NOTE for TRIP ATTENDEES:** Those who will participate in the optional Boston/DC/NYC trips will be dropped at JFK airport at the end of their trip schedule. Trip attendees need to register and pay for the airport pick-up services if they would like to be pick-up at JFK airport; however they do not register for drop-off services, which is included in their trips.

**JFK AIRPORT:** \$100 for each service. **Pick-up services:** ONLY on Monday June 8, between 1 and 7 pm (currently planned pick-up times, which are subject to change based on registrations: 1, 3, 5, and 7 pm). You need 90 min in between your arrival time and pick up time for passport/customs. **Drop-off Services:** on Friday June 12, leaving StJF at 9.30 pm (arriving at the airport around 3-4 am); on Saturday June 13, leaving StJF at 4.30 am (arriving at the airport around 3-10.30 am). You need to register and pay for the pick-up and drop-off services separately. Our busses cannot wait more than 15 minutes beyond its scheduled time, therefore, if your flight is late, we will not be responsible for missing the airport pick up service bus due to your delayed flights or customs processing. Some of these services can be cancelled if less than 15 participant requests the services for a particular time.

**TRAVEL BY OWN TRANSPORTATION/PARKING:** Please arrive at [Haffey Hall](#) at St John Fisher campus. Participants who arrive with their car may park their vehicle at [Parking lots P, M, and N](#) at St John Fisher. **You will need a Parking permit for parking at St John Fisher, which will be provided by IGO at check-in.** IGO is not responsible for tickets issued by St John Fisher Parking office.

**TRAVEL BY BUS:** You may use [Greyhound](#) or [MegaBus](#) bus companies. Search for travel from New York to Rochester for your arrival. If you arrive at JFK, you need to go to Port Authority in order to take a bus, which takes around 45 minutes. The drop-off and pick-up locations for busses may vary based on bus company you travel with. You need to take Uber to/from campus and bus drop-off/pick-up locations, which should be around 15. The total cost of this from JFK to StJF (including all transfers) might be around \$100-120 per participant and will take around 8-10 hrs (you will make at least three transfer with luggage)

## 8 - TERRA DISCOVERY TRIPS AFTER GENIUS OLYMPIAD

GENIUS offers the following optional trips. There are limited seats available. Teachers/chaperones will receive a 10% discount for each non-chaperone participant (students and guests). Each bus will have at least one GENIUS Olympiad staff member leading the group, but generally, you will explore the city on your own. Hotels, breakfast, and



transportation is included within the fee. A printed trip guide will be provided to help you prepare. For more information, [please visit our website:](#)

1. **Washington DC and New York City Trip (3 nights and 2 days):** \$695, June 12 - 15, 2026 (starts at Rochester and ends at New York JFK airport). Participants will be dropped off at JFK by 11.30 am on Monday, June 15.
2. **Washington DC and New York City Trip (4 nights and 3 days):** \$845, June 12 - 16, 2026 (starts at Rochester and ends at New York JFK airport). Participants will be dropped off at JFK by 11.30 am on Tuesday, June 16.
3. **Boston and New York City with Ivy Universities Tour (4 nights and 3 days):** \$945, June 12 - 16, 2026 (starts from Rochester and ends at New York JFK airport). During this trip, you will visit Harvard, MIT, Yale, and Princeton University. Participants will be dropped off at JFK by 11.30 am on Tuesday, June 16.
4. **Boston and New York City with Ivy Universities Tour (5 nights and 4 days):** \$1095, June 12 - 17, 2026 (starts from Rochester and ends at New York JFK airport). During this trip, you will visit Harvard, MIT, Yale, and Princeton University. Participants will spend an additional day in NYC. Participants will be dropped off at JFK by 11.30 am on Wednesday, June 17.
5. **4- Customized trips:** IGO may organize a customized trip for groups. For this option, please contact us before May.

## 9 – FEES FOR PARTICIPATION AND DEADLINES

Fee Type	Fees	Refunds: by May 10	by June 1	after June 1
<b>Application Fee</b>	\$60	None	None	None
<b>Student/Chaperone Fee</b>	\$600 or \$450	Full minus \$75	75%	None
<b>Guest Participation Fee</b>	\$600 or \$900	Full minus \$75	75%	50%
<b>Trip Fee</b>	\$695, \$845, \$945, \$1,095	Full minus \$75	75%	None
<b>JFK Airport Bus Fee</b>	\$100 – one way	Full	75%	None
<b>Rochester Airport Bus Fee</b>	Free-Registration is required	None	None	None

## 10 - PRINTING SERVICES

IGO provides only black/white printing (North America letter size only) at registration desk.

## 11 - SHIPPING INFORMATION

- **Bring electronic copies of your documents on a flash drive. If something unexpected happens (for example, your luggage does not arrive), you can print your documents at the last minute.**
- Bring your project display materials with you. If you prefer to ship them, please use the following address:

### SHIPPING ADDRESS:

**Terra Science and Education, 835 West Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13204 USA – phone: (315) 422-2902**

- Clearly print your name on the package in large letters.
- Ship your package so it arrives between May 20 and June 4, mail after this date cannot be delivered at IGO.
- Your shipped materials will be delivered to the display area by 9:00 am on setup day.
- You are responsible for sending your materials home.
- **The STJF does not accept personal mail or packages. We are NOT responsible for lost packages.**



## 12 - CODE OF CONDUCT (BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS)

**Participation into the GENIUS Olympiad (IGO) implies that you accept the following rules and conditions.**

Participation in the GENIUS Olympiad (“IGO”) provides significant opportunities and privileges. All participants share the responsibility of upholding the standards of conduct established by IGO. For the purposes of this policy, “participant” refers to any individual registered to attend or take part in IGO activities or trips. Questions about this policy may be directed to the IGO Director.

IGO is committed to maintaining an environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. IGO does not discriminate based on gender, age, national origin, ethnicity, religion, economic status, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, or academic, artistic, or athletic ability.

All participants must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this Code of Conduct. IGO reserves the right to disqualify and/or dismiss any participant who violates these standards. Dismissal may require immediate departure from the event and host university premises.

### As a participant of the program, I agree to:

- o demonstrate ethical behavior, civility, respect, and professionalism at events and towards all participants, staff, and volunteers,
- o follow staff and guest instructions and raise concerns respectfully,
- o attend all scheduled activities on time and participate fully, including being punctual for judging sessions
- o provide feedback or criticism constructively and refrain from public criticism of participants, judges, volunteers, or staff,
- o abstain from **use or possession of any alcohol, and the federally illegal drugs (including cannabis)**,
- o abstain from the **use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and all smoking products** of any kind, in compliance with the host university’s smoke-free campus policy
- o refrain from any form of harassment, including **unwelcome comments, conduct, advances, or touch that is offensive, abusive, sexual, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious**
- o refrain from any conduct that endangers health or safety, including setting fires, causing false fire alarms, tampering with fire-safety equipment, creating fire hazards, exiting buildings through windows, or throwing objects from windows/elevated areas
- o comply with all IGO and host university policies, rules and regulations at all times,
- o maintain appropriate attire at all IGO programs, activities, and events,
- o accept **financial and disciplinary responsibility** for the destruction or defacement of IGO or host university property,
- o be in my assigned room before 11.30 pm and remain quiet between 11 pm and 6.30 am,
- o return all issued items—such as room keys, building access cards, meal cards, and linens—at check-out and accept financial responsibility if they are lost or not returned (\$25 for each item),
- o acknowledge that failure to meet these expectations may result in dismissal from the IGO and removal from the host university facilities without a refund

### As an adult participant/chaperone, I agree to:

- o assume full responsibility for the safety, supervision, and conduct of the student(s)/minor(s) assigned to me by their parents/guardians,
- o **be legally accountable for ensuring that student(s) and minors** follow all event policies and Code of Conduct requirements,
- o **accompany and supervise student(s) and minors at all times** during all IGO activities and events, except during judging
- o complete required youth protection training before attending IGO and comply with IGO’s Protection of Minors Policy.
- o help other participants when the need arises or if help is requested,
- o ensure that student(s)/minors understand the expectations of this Code of Conduct and the consequences for misbehavior

### As a student and/or minor participant, I agree to:

- o **be accompanied and supervised by my designated parent/guardian/chaperone at all times**, except during judging

PARTICIPATING (or allowing your child to participate) INTO IGO IMPLIES THAT YOU ACCEPT THE RULES, RELEASES, AND CONDITIONS.

## 13 – RELEASE AGREEMENT (Media, Medical, Liability, Risk, Indemnification, etc.)

### RELEASE AGREEMENT

As the Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) {participant\_name}, I have read the following Release Agreement (the “Agreement”) and agree to its terms as a precondition to participate in the GENIUS Olympiad (“IGO”) and its related activities at Host University as identified on its website (“University”), and trips to Niagara Falls and optional trips after IGO, between {event\_start\_date} and {event\_end\_date}.

- 1. Assumption of Risk.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) understands and acknowledges that participation in the IGO involves certain inherent risks, including but not limited to travel risks (including but not limited to Niagara Falls, getting on boat, trip between airport and university, or trips after IGO), facility use, workshop activities, ice-breaker activities (includes but not limited to playing soccer, frisbee, games, several types of inflatables, running, etc), international fair (dancing, sampling items provided by other participants, getting on and off stage), public events, or interactions with other participants from different cultures, backgrounds, or countries. The Participant voluntarily assumes all such risks, whether foreseeable or unforeseeable, and accepts full responsibility for their own safety and conduct (and, where applicable, the safety and conduct of any minor under their supervision), any risks of loss, property damage or personal injury, including death, as well as the risk of death or serious disability. Any of these injuries may lead to a permanent impairment to engage in the business, social and recreational activities that they generally enjoy in life. Because of the inherent dangers of participating in IGO activities or trips, the Participant warrants to follow rules. The participants have been given the chance to ask questions concerning these activities and their risk and all such questions have been answered to their satisfaction.
- 2. Liability Release.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) hereby voluntarily releases, waives, and forever discharges Terra Science and Education (“Terra”), IGO, University their directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, volunteers, agents, partner organizations, and the host university from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, illness or death—whether to person or property—that may occur during, or as a result of, participation in any IGO activity, event, or related travel, including optional trips. This Liability Release applies to claims - regardless of how such claims may arise and regardless of who is at fault, even if caused by the neglect or fault - based on negligence (but not gross negligence or intentional misconduct) and is intended to be binding to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law. This release remains in effect for the duration of the Participant’s involvement in the all IGO related activities and trips, including optional trips.
- 3. Indemnification.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Terra Science and Education, IGO, University, their directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, volunteers, agents, partner organizations, and the host university from and against any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, losses, liabilities, costs, court expenses, attorney fees, or expenses arising out of or related to:
  - (a) the Participant’s actions, conduct, or omissions during any IGO activity or trips;
  - (b) any violation of the GENIUS Olympiad Code of Conduct, rules, or policies;
  - (c) any damage to property or injury to persons caused by the Participant; or
  - (d) the supervision or conduct of any minor for whom the Participant is responsible.This indemnification obligation applies to claims brought by the Participant, by other participants, by third parties, or on behalf of any minor under the Participant’s care. This clause survives completion of participation in the IGO related activities or trips.
- 4. Warranty of Physical Fitness.** Both the Participant and I warrant that the Participant is physically fit and in a condition that will allow them to participate fully in all IGO activities as described on its website, finalist guide, and schedule. We understand the Terra, IGO, and University have not made, nor will make, any investigation into the Participant’s physical fitness or ability of the Participant to participate in the IGO activities, and they are relying on my warranty concerning Participant’s physical condition.
- 5. Medical Insurance:** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) agrees maintain medical insurance that covers the Participant for accidents and illnesses participating in IGO activities and trips. I assume full



responsibility for payment of medical expenses not covered by this insurance incurred as a result of the Participant's involvement in IGO.

6. **Emergency Medical Treatment.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) grant the Terra, IGO, University staff permission to authorize emergency medical treatment for the Participant, as they deem appropriate, and agree that such action shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. I understand and agree that the Terra, IGO, University officers, staff and volunteers assume no responsibility for any injury or damage which might arise out of or in connection with such authorized emergency medical treatment. I understand that it is my responsibility to pay for any medical expenses.
7. **Behavioral Expectations.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) acknowledges and agrees that participation in the IGO requires full compliance with all behavioral expectations, the Code of Conduct, program policies, and instructions provided by IGO staff, volunteers, and the host university.

Failure by the Participant—or, where applicable, by the supervising adult responsible for the Participant—to adhere to these expectations, policies, or instructions may result in disciplinary action, including immediate dismissal from the IGO or removal from event housing or programming areas, including judging. The Participant (and parent/guardian) understands and agrees that any dismissal resulting from noncompliance, misconduct, or violation of the Code of Conduct shall not entitle the Participant or any parent/guardian to a refund of any kind, whether full or partial. All costs associated with early departure, including travel or lodging changes, shall be the sole responsibility of the Participant and/or parent/guardian.

8. **Media & Talent Release.** The Participant (and the parent/guardian if the Participant is a minor) hereby grants Terra Science and Education, GENIUS Olympiad, University, their partner organizations, volunteers, representatives, media teams, and the host university the irrevocable right and permission to photograph, film, record, or otherwise capture the Participant's likeness, voice, image, name, performance, statements, and participation in any IGO activity, trips, or event ("Media Content"). The Participant understands and agrees that such Media Content may be used, reproduced, edited, published, distributed, displayed, or broadcast—now or in the future—in any form and through any medium, including but not limited to websites, social media, print materials, promotional videos, advertising, press coverage, and educational materials, without compensation or further approval.

The Participant waives any rights to inspect or approve the final use of the Media Content and releases Terra, IGO, and the University from any claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of or related to the use of such Media Content, including claims for invasion of privacy, defamation, misrepresentation, or any intellectual property rights. This Media & Talent Release is perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, and applies to all Media Content captured during the Participant's involvement in the IGO.

It is my express intent that this Agreement shall bind me, the Participant, the members of my family and spouse (if any), my estate, heirs, administrators, assigns or personal representatives. I agree that this Agreement and any claim arising from participation in the Activity shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to its conflict of laws provision. The courts in Onondaga County shall be the forum for any lawsuits arising from IGO related activities, events, trips or incident to this Agreement. The terms of this Agreement shall be severable, such that if a court of competent jurisdiction holds any term to be illegal or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions shall not be affected thereby.

In signing this Agreement, I acknowledge that I have read both pages of this Release Agreement form, understand it, and agree to be bound by its terms. I further acknowledge that I am the parent or legal guardian of the Participant and that I sign this Release Agreement voluntarily.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK. PARTICIPATING (or allowing your child to participate) INTO IGO IMPLIES THAT YOU ACCEPT THE RULES, RELEASES, AND CONDITIONS.



### 13 – WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE FAIR FOR Project SETUP and JUDGING?

#### GENIUS AI

- Present your project including the final project demo video to the group of judges, using the Powerpoint/Prezi presentation. Please practice the presentation to ensure that it is less than 10 minutes.
- You may use your own computer for your presentation. Apple computer users must bring an adapter to connect their computer to HDMI.
- Students are allowed to make updates and improve their projects between application and fair presentation.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions.

#### GENIUS ART

- Printed artwork (for poster art and photography projects) must be 18 x 24 inches to be displayed at the GENIUS Olympiad. GENIUS will provide a black foam board of 22x28 inches for all artwork display.
- Students are allowed to make improvements on their projects between application and fair presentation.
- Judges may ask questions about the work and how you design, compose and create the work.
- Read the Finalist guide for more information.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions.

#### GENIUS CODING

- Students must bring their own laptops to use at the competition.
- Finalists will compete in a 24-hour Hackathon in teams of up to two students. This round replicates real-world collaborative software development and culminates in a judged presentation.
- Students are NOT allowed to ask any questions or receive help from anyone including their teachers.
- Hackathon begins one day before the judging day at project setup time. Students are allowed to use internet and any AI tools to develop their projects. Students will be asked create a project to solve an environmental issue just before the hackathon starts. They may develop web applications, desktop software, or intelligent systems—as long as the solution meaningfully addresses the assigned environmental issue.
- Each team must present a live demonstration or a demo video of their final product during judging. Projects should be functional and include a final product demo, which may be shown live or as a pre-recorded demo video during the judging session. All work must be completed within the Hackathon window, and students should be prepared to explain their design decisions, coding process, and environmental relevance to the judging panel.
- Each team has up to 10 minutes to present their projects at judging.
- Student supervisors will not be allowed to be in the room during the competition.

#### GENIUS Entrepreneurship

- Present your project as a business pitch to the group of judges, using your Powerpoint/Prezi presentation in a business-like setting. Please practice the presentation to ensure that it is less than 10 minutes.
- It is HIGHLY recommended to bring models or prototypes of any product or technology you may be offering as a part of your presentation.
- Students are advised (not required) to bring printed copies of their executive summary (2 pages) of their business plans to distribute to curious viewers.
- A computer (operating with Windows) with a projector and a screen will be available for students to use. However, you may also use your own computer. Apple computer users must bring an adapter to connect their computer to HDMI.
- Students are allowed to make minor changes and improve their projects between application and fair presentation.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions.



**GENIUS**  
**Olympiad**



### GENIUS MUSIC

- You are highly encouraged to bring your instruments.
- The judging room will have technical capabilities to provide video and sound playback. The judging room will be open to the public during the judging process.
- We can provide only 110 V outlets. We do NOT provide 220 V.
- You should come to the competition with pre-printed materials of your artist statement, scores, and a digital copy of your performance video.
- Students are allowed to take 1-2 minutes of a statement regarding the connection of their piece with the environment.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions.
- Here are tutorial videos regarding application process: [Project Registration Account Creation](#), [Music Project Application](#).

### GENIUS ROBOTICS

- Everyone including team members, guests, supervisors, and organizers are required to wear safety glasses in the competition area. Prescription glasses or sunglasses are NOT considered as safety glasses. Open-toe or open-back shoes are NOT allowed in the practice and competition area. You are allowed to bring your own poster board/presentation, which should be placed on 40x60 inches table. There is no height restriction for self-prepared boards. Shipping information is available in the Finalist Guide.
- Students are not allowed to bring posters to present their robots or projects.
- Students are allowed to make changes and improve their robots between application and fair presentation.
- We provide only 110 V outlet. We do NOT provide 220 V.
- A table will be provided for each team for their set-up.
- There will be 2 practice fields which will provide practicing for four teams at the same time. Teams will be asked to take turns in every 15 minutes.
- Supervisors are NOT allowed to stay in the competition area with their teams. The students should be able to handle all issues by themselves.
- Teams must stay near their assigned desk not to miss any competition round.
- Teams missed their round will not be given second chance to make up.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.

### GENIUS SCIENCE

- You are allowed to bring your own poster board/presentation, which will be placed on a 24x60-inch table. The height of the poster board is not restricted. If you would like to ship your poster ahead of the fair the shipping information is available in the Finalist Guide. Your poster must be delivered a week in advance.
- We highly recommend **printing presentations on fabric**. If you would like, GENIUS Olympiad can print one for you for **36x48-56 inch: \$50, 40x48-56 inch: \$60**, which you can pick up during registration. Alternatively, you may use services such as [Example 1](#).
- GENIUS Olympiad will provide two different size of poster board: trifold boards in size of 36x48 inches and flat foam board in size of 40x60 inches. If you use your own board, your poster height must be smaller than 40 inches and poster width must be smaller than 60 inches.
- IGO will provide push-pins, scissors, blades, and clips for free of charge for you hang your poster on boards. You are not allowed to use tapes on GENIUS provided boards.
- You are allowed to bring models or prototypes as part of your presentation. This is HIGHLY recommended.
- Students should come to the competition with pre-printed materials to prepare their posters. Pins and tape will be provided by GENIUS Olympiad.
- Students are allowed to make changes and improve their projects between application and fair presentation.
- The poster presentation should include at least the following sections: introduction, goal, results, conclusion, and references.

- **There will be NO electricity at any tables.** We highly recommend you bring your own portable battery charger for your displays. Suggested [sample 1](#), [sample 2](#).
- Students are advised (but not required) to bring multiple copies of their final QUAD paper to distribute to curious viewers.
- The following items will not be allowed to display: microbial cultures or fungi (live or dead); displays of live animals, preserved vertebrate animals, whether in whole or part (this includes humans); open or concealed flames, matches, or lighters; hazardous chemicals; highly combustible solids, fluids, or gases; sharp items (syringes, needles, knives); controlled substances; and radioactive materials.
- Proper procedures must be followed in regard to human subjects. When human subjects are used in research (including survey research), they have to be fully informed of any risks and have to give consent to the procedures, in possession of full knowledge of the risks (this is known as informed consent). Informed consent should be obtained for all minors and for adults when more than minimal risk is involved in participating in the project. The risk is defined as the probability of harm or discomfort anticipated in the research.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions. Supervisors are not allowed to serve as judges.

#### SHORT FILM

- Short Film projects will be judged on a large screen where other participants can watch the film. We will provide desktop PC to play your videos. You may also bring your own computer and an adaptor HDMI cable to play your video.
- You must bring your movie on a flash drive. It is advised for you to bring your movie in multiple formats, such as Windows Media Player, Flv, or mp4.
- Students are allowed to make changes and improve their projects between application and fair presentation.
- Students are allowed a maximum of 1-2 minutes of verbal presentation regarding their short films.
- Students are allowed to make minor changes and improve their projects between application and fair presentation.
- Only students who participates in will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.
- Supervisors are not allowed at the judging area during judging sessions.

#### GENIUS SPEECH

- Students will be asked to stand up at the podium in a classroom where they will give their three-minute speech without a microphone.
- Student speeches will be timed, and they will be warned with a bell at two-minute and two-minute thirty-seconds marks. Students will be stopped at the three-minute mark.
- After the student's speech is over, judges will ask several questions over six to seven minutes. The students must understand and respond to the questions, and their responses will influence their ratings.
- Other participants will NOT be allowed into the room during an individual student's judging session. Only one student (who is judged at the time), judges, and GENIUS staff are allowed to be present in the judging room.
- Supervisors are NOT allowed in the judging room during judging sessions.
- [Read the Finalist guide](#) under rules for more information.
- Only students who participate will be recognized with awards if the project wins an award.