



## School Science Competitions 2023 Guidelines

### (1) Introduction

School Science Competition is organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as an annual programme. The children from all government recognized schools (Government and International) are eligible to participate at the competitions.

The main objectives of the School Science Competition are:

- To improve scientific knowledge of students through **STEAM** approach.
- To promote science education by creating an interest and enthusiasm among students to learn science.
- To provide an opportunity to develop science communication skills of students.
- Integrate students and teachers of different subject areas in school to compete as a team to achieve one goal.

The theme of the School Science Competition 2023 is: **“STEAM education for a better future”**.

### Competitions line up for School Science Competition (SSC) 2023:

1. Short Science Drama
2. Role Play of a renowned personality in the field of STEAM
3. Viridu
4. Song
5. Digital Story
6. Science Essay
7. Short Science Story (Science Fiction)
8. Hand-painted poster contest
9. Virtual Bridge Designing Contest

### (2) General guidelines of the competitions for school children

1. All competitions will be conducted under the theme **“STEAM education for a better future”**.
2. Students from all government recognized schools (Government and International) are eligible to participate at the competitions.
3. The schools not registered under NSF School Science Society Network (SSSN) are encouraged to register with NSF SSSN to receive more benefits. The registration can be obtained free of charge by visiting <https://www.nsf.gov.lk/index.php/public-outreach/societies/sss> or sending duly filled application obtained from the NSF.
4. Submissions for the competitions can be done in all three languages (i.e. Sinhala, Tamil and English). However, winners of each competition will be selected irrespective of the medium of submission.
5. All applications should be certified as students’ own creations by the relevant teacher in charge of the science society / class teacher and send through principal of the school.
6. Both students and teachers can submit scripts for dramas, lyrics for viridu & song competitions.
7. All drama scripts sent to NSF will be evaluated by a panel of judges and manuscripts selected for final evaluations will be informed to relevant applicants to stage their drama for the final round.
8. The students participating Role play, Viridu or song competition must send their presentation as a video clip to the NSF using one of the communication channels mentioned below.
9. The initial rounds of the evaluation of Role play, Viridu and song will be done using the videos submitted by the students. The best 10 submissions selected in this evaluation will be called to present at the final round to be held in one central location.
10. The performance or presentation relevant to all competitions should be done by the students.
11. In poster competition, only hand drawn posters will be accepted.

### (3) Specific guidelines of the competitions for school children

#### 1) Role Play

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Role Play will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Role:** The character of the role play should be a scientist/ renowned personality in the field of science who has made a significant contribution to the area covered by the theme. Only one character can be performed by an applicant in one language. Performing of the same character in a different language as two contestants is not allowed. Stage performance should be done by a single person. Set and props, costumes, makeups and background music can be used to make the role play more attractive.
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Scientific content, creative performance and other practices (set & props/ costumes/ make up). The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round.

Select one from the following renowned personalities in the field of STEAM.

- Leonardo da Vinci
- Archimedes
- Marie Curie
- Rachel Carson
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Albert Einstein
- Dame Stephanie Shirley

#### 2) Short Science Drama

- **Duration:** 20 minutes (Dramas will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 18 minutes or exceeds 22 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission of script:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Composition of the team:** Maximum number of students per drama team should be twenty-five (25). Background music can be provided by a separate team comprised of only students.
- **Criteria for evaluation for script:** Relevance to the theme/content, creativity. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round.
- **Criteria for evaluation for performance:** Relevance to the theme/content, script, acting, other practice (music/ set & props/ costumes/ make up) and direction. The best drama script, best drama on stage, best actor/actress, best choreographer will be selected at the final evaluation.

#### 3) Viridu

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Viridu performance will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Composition of team:** One or two students can perform a Viridu poem. Music should be provided only by the performer/s. Composition of the lyrics of Viridu can be done either by the performer/s or another student/teacher.
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, singing, music and creative performance. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round. The best script and presentation will be selected at the final evaluation.

#### 4) Song Competition

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Song performance will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Team:** One or two students can perform a Song. Music should be provided only by musical

instruments. No recordings will be allowed. Any number of musical instruments can be used. However, music team should not exceed 05 members and should be comprised only of students or teachers. Composition of Song can be done by either the performer/s or another student/teacher.

- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, music and creative performance. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round. The best lyrics, music and singing will be selected at the final evaluation.

#### 5) Science Essay Competition

- **No. of words:** 750 – 1000
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Page settings:** Essays should be typed on A4 pages. Font size: 12, Spacing: “1.5”. If hand-written, texts should be easily readable, sufficiently spaced and written on single side A4 pages. The handwritten essays that are not readable has liability for rejection.
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Scientific facts, creativity, style of presentation, use of language and other essential features of an essay.

#### 6) Short Science Story (Science Fiction)

- **No. of words:** 1000 – 1500
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Page settings:** short science stories should be typed on A4 pages. Font size: 12, Spacing: “1.5”. If hand-written, texts should be easily readable, sufficiently spaced and written on single side A4 pages. The handwritten stories that are not readable has liability for rejection.
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Scientific concepts/facts, creativity, style of presentation, structure and flow, use of language and other essential features of an essay.

#### 7) Hand-painted Poster Contest

- **Size:** 20 "x25" (Bristol Board size)
- **Media:** You can use any colour media like pastel, watercolour
- **Deadline for submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Criteria for Evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, creativity, color matching and qualities of a poster

#### 8) Digital Story Telling Competition

- **Duration:** 04 min (±30 sec will be allowed)
- **Deadline for application:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Production:** Scientific concepts should be related to the theme and presented in digital medium. Windows Movie Maker, MS Power Point or any other accepted software can be used to produce the digital story. Multimedia such as texts, still images, recorded audio narrations, video clips & music can be mixed to produce digital stories (supporting websites: [www.storycenter.org](http://www.storycenter.org)).
- **Specifications:** File formats: AVI/MPEG4, aspect ratio: 16:9 widescreen preferred
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, creativity, accuracy of the scientific information and presentation

#### 9) Virtual Bridge Designing Contest

- **Duration:** 40 minutes
- **Deadline for application:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Engineering design, passes a simulated load test, cost of production, completion within the given time.

Virtual Bridge Designing Contest is a computer-based competition intended to promote STEAM education among Sri Lankan school children. The contest provides students with a realistic introduction to engineering through an engaging, hands-on design experience by giving them an opportunity to design a bridge using a computer software (supporting websites: [www.bridgedesigner.org](http://www.bridgedesigner.org)). Students will experience the engineering design process in simplified form, and they will design a bridge in much the same way that practicing civil engineers design real highway bridges. The goal is to create an optimal bridge design that satisfies design specifications, passes a simulated load test, and costs as little as possible. This contest will be organized at NSF.

#### (4) Guidelines for submission of applications

##### **Song, Viridu, Role play, Digital story (Video Clips)**

- The first frame of the video submission should contain the competition name, name of the student and the school.
- Recorded video clip should be sent to NSF *via* WhatsApp to 0715188921 **or** upload to a google drive or do “V transfer” and send link to [chamarika@nsf.gov.lk](mailto:chamarika@nsf.gov.lk) and [abhimani@nsf.gov.lk](mailto:abhimani@nsf.gov.lk) with the duly filled application form. Students who submit via WhatsApp, please indicate “**competition \_School name (e.g. Drama\_ Rathanapala MV, Gampaha)**” as the subject and send your application via email using same code that you used to send your presentation (i.e. **competition school name**).

##### **Drama scripts, science essay, short science stories (science fiction) and poster designs**

- Drama scripts, science essay, short science stories (science fiction) and poster designs with duly completed application should be sent indicating “**SSC 2023\_competition Name**” in the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- All submissions should be done on or before **25<sup>th</sup> August 2023**.
- The videos received by the NSF will be evaluated by a special panel and the decision of the Panel of Judges will be the final. No grievances or appeal or canvassing will be entertained during evaluation or once the winners are announced.
- The winners will be felicitated at a special event organized by the NSF.

#### **Contact Details:**

##### **Address:**

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