



Judges Roles and Responsibilities

At its core, the Spaceport America Cup is an engineering competition, and to facilitate that competition, the Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) is continuously seeking new members to join its Judging Panel.

Historically, the Judging Panel has been composed of individuals with experience in aerospace, engineering, electronics, structures, analytics, chemistry but most importantly, an excitement and passion for rocketry. This wide and diverse set of experiences and backgrounds is of great benefit to the students as it helps provide a well-rounded review and guidance for the teams and their projects throughout the competition. The Judging Panel has two core duties as part of the engineering competition: Score and Review the Teams' Technical Reports and On-Site Projects

Throughout the year the students work hard documenting and compiling their technical reports per the guidelines set forth by the Competition and Rules Committee. However, these reports are technically dense and have lengthy page counts which can make reviewing more than one or two of these reports a difficult request.

To aid this, the Judging Panel is always seeking additional volunteers who would be willing to review, and score these reports per the scoring rubric. Pre-Event reviews do not require the judge to be on-site..

During the Spaceport America Cup, the on-site judging panel works in teams of 4-6 members to review the students' work. On the opening day of the competition, judges interview with the teams to understand the group dynamic and assess an overall sense of the team's competency, thoroughness, and their decision-making process. Judges will work on-site to assess the teams' assembly areas. Safety protocols, assembly procedures, and sportsmanship are among the aspects being reviewed prior to the teams' launches. The Judges will also have Spot Awards to provide recognition to teams or individuals that are going above and beyond the already high expectations for safety, engineering, and character.

On the final day of the competition, the Judges convene to review the scores that are compiled from the Progress Deliverables, Technical Reports, Team Assessments, and Flight Data. The team then uses this data to determine the winners in each category of the competition.

The 2021 Spaceport America Cup will be the largest in history with an estimated 150+ teams and nearly 2,000 student participants. If you are interested in participating, please visit www.soundingrocket.org