

Awards Competition FAQs

Who should be listed as the staff contact for the application?

The staff contact should be the primary point of contact for your application. All correspondence and communication about the awards program will be directed to this staff member—including an email to confirm the receipt of your application and the scheduled time for your county's presentation. The primary contact is responsible for sharing correspondence with officials participating in the competition.

May I submit the application or supplemental materials attachments to SCAC via U.S. Postal Service or an express carrier?

No. Please submit the application along with support materials online. You will have an option to upload up to 5 pages of supporting documents and the required letters of support within the online application.

How will the entries be judged?

A panel of three or four judges will be appointed by SCAC to select the winning entries. The judges will review all written applications and oral presentations before independently scoring each entry. The online application form should be carefully and thoughtfully completed, as this will serve as the written submission for your project. By doing so, your project will address the criteria that the judges will use to evaluate your entry. Additionally, please review the sample judges' scale included in the Awards Toolkit. Each county's entry will be scored by the judges using this scale. SCAC's Board of Directors and staff do not participate in the selection process.

Can I make changes to my application or support materials after they have been submitted?

The project title, project entry written submission, and support materials may not be amended after they are submitted. If it becomes necessary to update the staff contact or presenter information, please contact Susan Turkopuls via e-mail at STurkopuls@scac.sc or by calling 1-803-252-7255, ext. 115.

Who should present our project?

Presentations may include one or more speakers and should include at least one county elected official or staff member. Additional speakers may include project partners or county residents. Speakers should be aware that the 12-minute presentation time limit is strictly enforced.

Are PowerPoint presentations or videos required?

PowerPoint presentations and videos are not required. However, if electronic audio-visual files are used, the approved formats are PowerPoint or MP4 video. Video links embedded within a presentation must be accompanied by an MP4 video. Counties are encouraged to make their presentations interesting and creative.

What will happen if our presentation exceeds the 12-minute time limit?

The judges may deduct points for exceeding the time limit; SCAC offers a timekeeper to assist all speakers during the competition. The timekeeper provides large signs to notify speakers when they have 5 minutes, 1 minute, and 30 seconds of time remaining. If the presentation hasn't been completed, the timekeeper will announce the end of the 12-minute period. After each presentation, the judges have a brief untimed period to ask questions about the project.

What type of audiovisual equipment will be available for presenters?

SCAC will provide a laptop computer, remote slide advancer, and an audiovisual specialist for the competition. The computer may be used to provide a PowerPoint presentation, or play an MP4 video file, which will be projected onto a screen. SCAC cannot support Prezi. If you have additional audiovisual needs, please contact Susan Turkopuls via e-mail at STurkopuls@scac.sc or by calling 1-803-252-7255, ext. 115 no later than one week prior to the competition.

May we display pop-up signs, poster-size charts, or large photos to support our presentation?

Display items are permitted, as long as they can be set-up and removed quickly and they do not obstruct the view of the judges. SCAC will have one easel available for props. Please bring appropriate portable stands if you will require additional support for your props.

May we invite county staff members to attend the awards competition?

Yes, however seating is limited. Please limit the county group to 10 people, including presenters and audience members. All presentations will be recorded for remote viewing by county audiences.