

# Additional Events

## North Bay Region Academic Decathlon\*

The Academic Decathlon is a ten-event scholastic competition for teams of high school students. Sonoma County teams participate in this regional event in late January/early February. Winning teams advance to the California Academic Decathlon. Learn more at [academicdecathlon.org/nbrad.htm](http://academicdecathlon.org/nbrad.htm).



## National History Day—Sonoma County\*

History Day is a year-long academic program that encourages students to explore history through project-based learning and research. Students present their projects in February/early March at the Sonoma County event. If successful locally, they can advance to state and national competitions. Learn more at [nhdsonomacounty.org](http://nhdsonomacounty.org).

\*Note: These events are not sponsored by SCOE.

## Student Events & Academic Competitions

A publication of the Sonoma County Office of Education designed to encourage, recognize, and promote learning for Sonoma County students.



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**2019-20**  
[scoe.org/studentevents](http://scoe.org/studentevents)



## Making students' educational experiences relevant is a vital part of the learning process.

Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) coordinates a number of county-wide and regional events for students, giving individual students and school teams the chance to come together outside of the classroom to demonstrate their learning.

**Student events encourage engagement, promote accomplishments, and provide students with a chance to put their learning to the test in a real-world setting.**

For teachers, the events are a resource to encourage and motivate student learning. Schools participate to build school spirit and spotlight the achievements of their students. The community helps sponsor these annual competitions and joins in recognizing winning schools and students. This publication describes each event and provides contact information for learning more.



### 2019-20 Calendar

- February** Synopsys-Sonoma County STEAM Showcase
- April** County Spelling Bees  
Five-Minute Film Festival
- May** Robotics Challenge
- Summer** Summer High School Internship Program

## Robotics Challenge

- When** May 2, 2020 | 8:45am-2:00pm
- Where** Elsie Allen High School in Santa Rosa
- For** Grade 4-8 school teams
- Cost** \$10 per student
- Register** Visit [scoe.org/robotics](http://scoe.org/robotics).
- Contact** Connie Anderson, 524-2823, [canderson@scoe.org](mailto:canderson@scoe.org)

Now in its eighteenth year, the Sonoma County Robotics Challenge is an event for students to work with Lego Mindstorm sets and coding software. Activities take place between December and May. December and January are spent building capacity among teachers and volunteers who will work with students at local schools. In early February, challenge events for the year's competition are announced. Challenges are designed for beginner through advanced student competitors.

School teams meet once a week from February through April to develop challenge responses. The culminating experience is the Sonoma County Robotics Challenge in May, where teams come together and compete, matching robots and ideas.



### 2019 Highlights

#### Team Spirit Award

Gravenstein Elementary

#### Against All Odds Award

Roseland Elementary

#### Best Overall Robot Performance Award

Petaluma Accelerated Charter School at McKinley



**I've seen lightbulbs go on in their eyes when they accomplish something.**  
-Nora Songster, Coach

## County Spelling Bees

- When** Elementary: April 6, 2020 | 4:00-6:30pm  
Junior High: April 7, 2020 | 4:00-6:30pm
- Where** SCOE
- For** Grade 4-9 students
- Cost** \$85 per school
- Register** Visit [scoe.org/spelling](http://scoe.org/spelling).
- Contact** Connie Anderson, 524-2823, [canderson@scoe.org](mailto:canderson@scoe.org)

SCOE coordinates regional and county elementary spelling competitions and a county-wide junior high competition. Students are selected to participate in the county spelling bees through regional elementary events (in January-February), or at school-based junior high competitions.

At the county bees, students compete in elimination rounds, with trophies awarded to the top spellers. All spellers receive certificates and event mementos to recognize their accomplishments. The first- and second-place winners from each county spelling bee are eligible to advance to the state-level championships.



### 2019 Highlights

#### Elementary

- 1st Place** Katie Thomas, Strawberry School
- 2nd Place** Siddharth Kohli, Healdsburg School

#### Junior High

- 1st Place** Paul Koo, Hillcrest Middle School
- 2nd Place** Molly Huff, Mary Collins School

## Summer High School Internship Program (SHIP)

- When** Four-week summer internship
- Where** Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park
- For** Sonoma County public high school juniors
- Cost** Free
- Register** Student application forms are available on the SSU website in mid-February. Applications are due at the end of March.
- Contact** Sonoma State University, School of Science & Technology, 664-2171

The SHIP program, a collaboration between SCOE and Sonoma State University's (SSU) School of Science and Technology, matches top Sonoma County public high school juniors going into their senior year with SSU faculty mentors who are conducting research in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Participating students earn a \$1,000 stipend and have the opportunity to work on challenging research projects in state-of-the-art facilities while interacting with faculty and SSU students in the university environment. Up to 15 students will be selected for this program in 2020.



**Project information from prior years is available on the SSU website at [sonoma.edu/scitech/hs](http://sonoma.edu/scitech/hs).**

## Synopsys- Sonoma County STEAM Showcase

**When** February 27, 2020  
9:00am-2:00pm

**Where** Sonoma County  
Events Center  
at the Fairgrounds

**For** Grade TK-12 students

**Cost** Free

**Register** Visit [scoe.org/  
steamshowcase](http://scoe.org/steamshowcase).

**Contact** Anna Van Dordrecht, 522-3334, [avandordrecht@scoe.org](mailto:avandordrecht@scoe.org)



STEAM education integrates the creativity and critical thinking skills of the arts discipline with the traditional STEM areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. At this event, students have an opportunity to share their STEAM-related projects in one of four categories with a public audience. This year's themes are "Structure and Function" and "Building Hope".

*This event is open only to confirmed registered school teams. There is no public display of projects.*

## 2019 Project Highlights

### Strawberry Elementary School

Students participated in an after school science club to develop sustainability plans and inventions.

### R.L. Stevens Elementary School

Gave a digital media presentation designed to educate the public about ways to protect the environment.

### Quest Forward Academy

Developed the most effective way to 3D print bacteria samples from a petri dish.

### Cali Calmecac Language Academy

Built more effective wind turbines and created collateral to market their invention.

## Five-Minute Film Festival

**When** April 6, 2020 | 5:00-7:30pm

**Where** Third Street Cinemas in Santa Rosa

**For** Grade TK-12 students

**Cost** Free

**Register** To enter a film, visit [scoe.org/film](http://scoe.org/film).

**Contact** Matt O'Donnell, 524-8419, [modonnell@scoe.org](mailto:modonnell@scoe.org)

The Five-Minute Film Festival is a county-wide contest that showcases student work before a live theater audience. Prior to the festival, students work with teachers to create videos that demonstrate their learning around a theme. This year's theme is "Time". Films are then submitted to a judging panel for review and the top 15 are selected to debut at the festival. Prizes are awarded to the winners in each category.



**We received more entries than ever before and the quality of films was outstanding. It is always a highlight of the year to screen all of the submissions.**

**-Matt O'Donnell, SCOE's Tech Innovation Specialist**

## 2019 Highlights

### Best Film

"United She Stands"  
Cloverdale High School

### Best Creative Storytelling

"A Coming Out Story: Alex and Thier Voice"  
Willowside Middle School

### Audience Choice Award

"Voices of the Past"  
Oak Grove Elementary