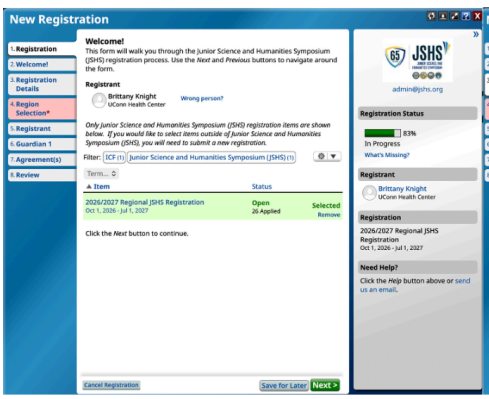
2026-2027 Application Checklist

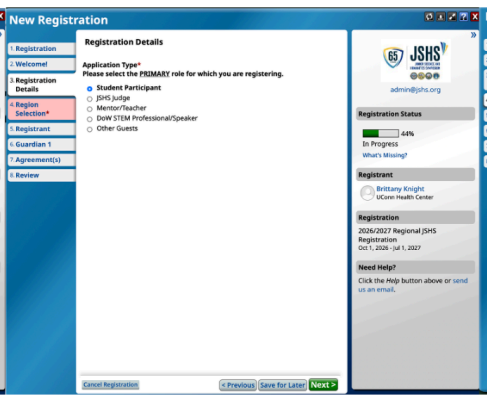
Key Registration Information for Students Applying to Present Research

- The link to the registration form is available at https://h.uconn.edu/ct-jshs; click the "CLICK HERE to Register for Connecticut JSHS" button.
- Please note that the Ideal-Logic platform that National JSHS and all regional symposia are using for registration this year will ONLY let you submit your registration once all parts of the application are complete. On the left-hand side of your CT JSHS Registration in the Ideal-Logic portal, each of the tabs will remain shaded red until complete.
- You can view the completeness or status of your registration on the right-hand side (see image below); if you click the "What's Missing" link, a pop-up will display items that still need to be completed.
- **DO NOT** upload any "placeholder" documents (a blank document or pdf) in the submission portal. Your application will automatically save so you can work on this submission over time. **You cannot edit your registration after you have submitted it.**
- You must submit all materials noted on, and via, the Ideal-Logic platform by **12/14/26 11:59 PM ET**. This submission form will close at midnight.
- If you need help during your submission process, click the "help" button in the upper right-hand corner; the National JSHS office will assist you during regular work hours. **DO NOT** wait until the deadline to ask for help, as they will likely be unable to get back to you immediately.
- **Once you click "submit" you cannot go back in and edit your registration**. Please take the time to review your entire application before submitting it.



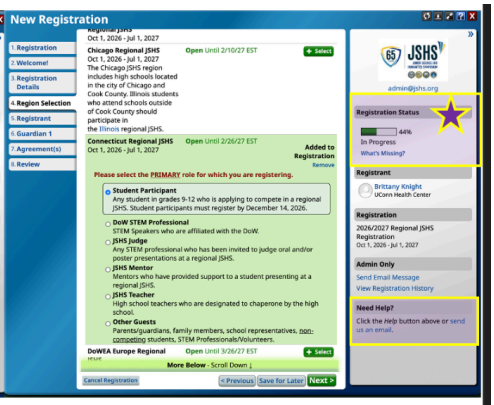
Step 1: Sign in/Select Regional JSHS Registration form

Note: If you are under 18 years old, you will be required to obtain parental/guardian verification/permission to complete your form



Step 2: Select "Student Participant" → NEXT

**If you are submitting a project as part of a group, see note about Group Projects, only one student can be designated as presenter for this type of project.*



Step 3- Select Connecticut JSHS & "Student Participant" → NEXT

Refer to the remainder of this document for help completing the registration and Student Application for JSHS (For all students wanting to be reviewed for competition (Oral, Poster, STEM Exhibition).

Top right-hand corner, shows your progress AND "What's missing". The form AUTO-SAVES so click on "What's Missing" as you complete your registration over time. You do not need to submit all fields at once. DO NOT upload placeholder documents.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are a minor (under 18 years old) when you register, you will be asked to add your parent/guardian's email address to your registration in the portal. **Your parent/guardian will receive an email requiring them to create a separate account, login to the Ideal-Logic system, and approve your registration.** Please DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit.

For Team or Group Projects, please visit CT JSHS Team/Group Projects for more information.

The following checklist is in order of the registration form on the Ideal-Logic platform.

- ☐ **Registration Details** - Students registering who wish to have an abstract reviewed to participate in the competition must select "Student Participant" (first option listed).
- ☐ **Registrant** - All questions are required. If you skip any questions, this section will remain incomplete.
  - ☐ I have completed any and all required registrant details, contact information, demographics information, location and education, residency, and outreach questions.

ABSTRACT: The abstract should accurately convey the essential nature of the research conducted and the most significant conclusions reached. A further purpose of the abstract is to attract the interest and curiosity of the non-specialist reader and thus encourage exchange, discussion, and elaboration between various authors and between authors and readers. Symposium proceedings will include abstracts. Please carefully proofread your submission because abstracts will not be edited after submission. If selected to compete, you may edit your abstract later.

- ☐ Your abstract must be saved with the following name format: LastName_FirstName_Abstract .
- ☐ Your abstract must be a PDF (.pdf) or Word Document (.doc/.docx).
  - ☐ 1-inch margins
  - ☐ 12-point font size
  - ☐ Times New Roman font style ONLY
- ☐ The heading preceding the abstract body must include the following:
  - ☐ 1. Title of the research
  - ☐ 2. Author name(s)
  - ☐ 3. High school, high school city, high school state
  - ☐ 4. Name of teacher/mentor/sponsor and his or her organization. Precede the individual's name with a subheading (i.e., teacher, mentor, sponsor).
  - ☐ 5. Include one line of space between the heading and the abstract body.
- ☐ Abstract content includes:
  - ☐ 1. Introduction to the topic
  - ☐ 2. Explanation of why the topic is important.
  - ☐ 3. Statement about the knowledge gap.
  - ☐ 4. Research question(s)/aim(s)/hypothesis.
  - ☐ 5. Indication of research methods and approach.
  - ☐ 6. Brief summary of key findings.
- ☐ Abstract must contain a ***maximum*** of 250 words.

Categories - You must choose ***one*** of the eight available categories that best fits your project.

1. *Environmental Science*: Environmental Science/Engineering: Bioremediation, Ecosystems Management, Environmental Engineering, Land Resource Management, Pollution, Toxicity; Impact upon Ecosystem
2. *Biomedical Sciences:* Biomedical Medicine, Microbiology, Molecular/Cellular, Genetics, Immunology, Pharmacology, Virology, Bacteriology
3. *Life & Behavioral Sciences:* Developmental Biology, Plant Physiology, Population Genetics, General Biochemistry, Microbiology, Behavioral Sciences
4. *Medicine & Health:* Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Disease Diagnosis and Treatment, Epidemiology, Immunology, Neuroscience, Physiology, Pathology
5. *Engineering & Technology:* Aerospace, Aerodynamics, Electrical Engineering, Energy - Solar, Vehicle Development, Devices, Mechanical Engineering, Robotics

6. *Mathematics & Computer Science:* Probability and Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science - Algorithms, Databases, Networking, Computer Engineering, Artificial Intelligence (AI)
7. *Physical Sciences:* Astronomy, Physics - Theoretical, Physics - Solid State, Acoustics, Optics, Thermodynamics, Particle Physics, Quantum Physics, Nuclear; Internet of Things - network of physical objects or "things" embedded with electronics, software, sensors, and network connectivity
8. *Chemistry:* Physical Chemistry, Materials, Alternative Fuels, Organic Chemistry (possibly in Life Science), Chemical Engineering, Earth Science - Geochemistry, Energy - Alternative Fuels, Material Science

STATEMENT OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE:

- ☐ Statement of Outside Assistance Form - Please download and complete this digital form with a computer using the fillable text boxes. Please **DO NOT** print and fill out by hand. After you have completed the form, signatures should be added by each of the required signatories using a digital stamp, or signed by hand.
  - ☐ Must be saved with the following document name format: LastName_FirstName_SOA .
  - ☐ Must be submitted as a PDF (.pdf, can be scanned in) or image file (.jpeg, .tiff, .png) if necessary.
  - ☐ Each of the following questions has been answered sufficiently and in detail. Most questions require a multi-sentence answer!
    - ☐ Name *(Your name)*
    - ☐ Title of Project *(The title of the project you are submitting)*
    - ☐ School *(The high school you are representing. If you are homeschooled, please write "homeschool.")*
    - ☐ Teacher or Mentor Name *(The name of the person who most closely supervised your research project)*
    - ☐ Teacher or Mentor Phone Number & Email
    - ☐ Regional Symposium *("Connecticut")*
    - ☐ 1. Please explain your role in the development of the project idea. *(What ideas did you and your teacher/supervisor/parent discuss? How did they guide you in the development of the project idea? Was this an existing research question in their class/lab, or is it something they haven't worked on yet?)*
    - ☐ 2. What steps led you to formulate your research question? -or- What steps led you to develop the design for your project? *(Was it something that came about in a class? Literature review? On the news? etc.)*
    - ☐ 3. Where did you conduct the major part of your work? If it is an institutional setting, list the name and the specific laboratory senior scientist, if applicable *(e.g., home, school, or other institutional setting such as university lab, medical center, the Smith Laboratory, etc.)*
    - ☐ 4. Describe any assistance that you received throughout the project. *(Was your mentor with you the entire time? Were there parts you were able to complete without supervision?)*
    - ☐ 5. If you conducted your research in an institutional setting (i.e., university lab, medical center, etc.), please describe your role on the team AND what other roles were played in the research investigation *(e.g., conducted research independently or under the direct supervision and guidance of the laboratory's major professor, post-doctoral researcher, graduate student, etc.) Please note that this is only for students who DID NOT complete*

their work through the high school they are representing. If you conducted research outside of your high school, please clearly explain the environment where you did your research. Were there other high school students? Graduate students? Post-docs? Did you work directly with your supervising mentor or with someone else on the team? How did each of these team members contribute to the completion of your project? Each person who participated in the project - including teachers, mentors, and/or parents - should be listed with a description of their contributions to the project. If you conducted your research through your high school or at home, please put "N/A.")

- ☐ 6. Describe what parts of the research you did on your own and what parts you completed with help. *(Please explain who contributed to each of the listed topics and how much - literature search, hypothesis development, experimental design, use of equipment, data collection, evaluation of data, statistical analysis, conclusions, and preparation of written report(s) [abstract and/or paper].)*
- ☐ 7. Was any data set from an outside source (literature, handbooks, publicly available or privately shared tables, etc.) used in the research? If so, what data set(s) was used and from where was it sourced? What was its purpose in this research? *(Please include a description of the data used, how you obtained access to it, and why it was important to your project completion. If you did not source any outside data [i.e. ALL data used in the project you generated], please put "N/A.")*
- ☐ 8. Was the data set sourced outside this research the only way to obtain the data required for the research? Please explain. *(If you provided an answer besides "N/A" to the question above [#7], please expand here. Could you have generated this data yourself? Were there multiple data sets to choose from?)*
- ☐ 9. Is this research a continuation of a project that you previously submitted to JSHS? If so, describe how you have expanded your research. *(This is only for students who have previously submitted the same project to any regional JSHS competition. If you have submitted the same project to any regional JSHS competition, please explain in detail the new aspects of the project. If you have not submitted the same project to any regional JSHS competition, please put "This is not a continuation of previously submitted research.").*
- ☐ 10. If this is a continuation project, please provide your previously submitted abstract below and include the year it was previously submitted. *(If you provided an answer besides "This is not a continuation of previously submitted research" to the question above [#9], please copy and paste the abstract you previously submitted to a JSHS regional competition for review, even if it was not selected as an oral or poster presentation, and provide the year when it was previously submitted.)*
- ☐ 11. Did you utilize any form of AI in your research or paper? If so, explain what tools were used AND for what purpose. *(If you used any form of artificial intelligence to complete your project, please detail here. This can include, but is not limited to, generating a title, searching for relevant literature, generating code, and more. Please note, software like ChatGPT has been known to produce fake citations - you should not be relying on it to conduct a literature review.)*
    - ☐ I have reviewed the "Academic Integrity" and "NSTA Competitions Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy" sections in the Core Rules of Competition.
- ☐ 12. Is there an IRB determination on file for this research? *(If Institutional Review Board [IRB] approval was required to complete all or part of your project, please put an "X" in the "Yes" box. If an IRB was not required for any portion of your project, please put an X in the "No" box.)*
- ☐ 13. Provide the IRB determination details including IRB number, name, institution, and dates. *(If you answered "Yes" to the question above [#12], please list the IRB number, name, institution, and dates. If you answered "No" to the question above [#12], please*

put "N/A.")

- ☐ 14. Provide full details about the processes and procedures utilized for your research, including obtainment/procurement, usage & disposal of materials. *(This is for all students to complete. Please describe here the methods used to complete your research. Be sure to include computational methods for data analysis when relevant. If your research used consumables or reagents, please explain how you obtained and used the materials, and how you disposed of any waste.*)
- ☐ Teacher and/or Supervising Mentor OR Parent Comments - Commentary should include a description of the student's individual contributions to the research investigation or engineering/computer science project.
  - If you performed research at the high school you represent, the teacher who supervised you should comment here.
  - If you performed research at a different school/institution besides the high school you are representing, your supervising mentor and the teacher you most closely worked with at the high school you are representing should comment here.
  - Your parent/guardian should comment here if you did the work ***without*** a teacher or supervising mentor.
- ☐ Statement by the teacher and/or supervising mentor acknowledging that the student conducted the research in accordance with proper procedures and protocols for the conduct of animal research or human research. ***Please include IRB/IACUC approval numbers.*** *(This is only for students whose project included animal research or research involving human subjects. If your project did not include animal research or research involving human subjects, please instruct your teacher/mentor/parent/guardian to confirm this by putting "N/A.")*
  - If you performed research at the high school you are representing, the teacher who supervised you should comment here.
  - If you performed research at a different school/institution besides the high school you are representing, your supervising mentor and the teacher you most closely worked with at the high school you are representing should comment here.
  - Your parent/guardian should complete this section if you did the work ***without*** a teacher or supervising mentor.

- ☐ Signature page - THIS MUST BE COMPLETED OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED. A ***minimum*** of two signatures are required.
  1.) If you performed research at the high school you are representing, you need the signature of your teacher who supervised you and your signature.
  2.) If you performed research at a different school/institution besides the high school you are representing, you need the signature of your supervising mentor (along with their position and institution of employment), the signature of the teacher you most closely worked with at the high school you represent, and your signature.
  3.) If you did the work ***without*** a teacher or supervising mentor, you will need a signature from your parent/guardian (along with a brief description of their role in the research in the designated comment section above) and your signature.

BACK ON THE CT JSHS APPLICATION/ REGISTRATION FORM (should match the Statement of Outside Assistance):

- ☐ <u>Research Mentor information (first and last name, organization or school name, and email)</u> - If you performed research at the high school you are representing, please provide information for the

teacher you most closely worked with at the high school you are representing. If you performed research at a different school/institution besides the high school you are representing, this should be the information for your supervising mentor. If you are homeschooled or completed your project without a teacher or supervising scientist, this information can be for your parent or legal guardian.

- ☐ Tell us about your project as you would explain it to a friend or local newspaper. (i.e., Project Description)
  - ☐ I provided an explanation of my project as if I was explaining it to a general (***non-scientific/non-STEM***) audience. Here are some tips for how to communicate your research effectively to a general audience.
  - ☐ I DID NOT just copy and paste my abstract as my answer to this question.
- ☐ What actual research have you completed, or is it only planned? Was at least part of this research conducted after February 2026? (i.e. Completed Research)
  - ☐ Explain ***specifically and in detail*** which parts of your project have been completed. (How much data collection is complete? How much data analysis is complete?)
  - ☐ Confirm that at least some of this research was performed after February 2026 (e.g., "I have completed all/some of this research after February 2026"). If only some of this project was conducted after February 2026, please describe what experiments/research was conducted after February 2026.
- ☐ Has a report of this investigation been presented at a science fair, in an award application, or to any other group? (i.e., Outside Group Presentation) - Please explain any other places where this research has been submitted or presented. If CT JSHS is the only place this project has been submitted or presented, please state, "CT JSHS is the only place this project has been submitted."
- ☐ How long have you been collecting data? (i.e. Data Collection) - Please state the ***month*** and ***year*** you started collecting data for this project. This DOES NOT include your project's hypothesis development or project planning phase.
- ☐ Teacher/Chaperone Name (First and Last Name ["Name"] and email) - This should be the information of the teacher you most closely worked with at the high school you are representing. If you performed research at the high school you are representing, this ***may*** be the same information as the information you inputted for your "research mentor" above. We understand you may not know if this teacher will also be your chaperone to the CT JSHS event, and that is okay. We will clarify chaperone information closer to the event date.

- ☐ **Agreements** (i.e. Consent Form)
  - ☐ I agreed to or declined the Media and Photo/Video Release Form.
  - ☐ I agreed to or declined the UCONN Adult Participant Release, Consent and Waiver of Liability.
- ☐ **Review**
  - ☐ PLEASE NOTE: Once you hit submit you cannot go back in and edit your registration. Check your application over one last time before submitting it.

If you have any questions, please email Dr. Brittany Knight, the CT JSHS Regional Director, at ctjshs.knight@gmail.com.