Student Competition Guidelines

CRRC Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan

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Introduction

This slide deck outlines the submission requirements and review process for the CRRC Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan Student Competition. Any questions can be emailed to education@coolroofs.org.

Introduction

The Student Competition is a companion to the CRRC Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan that is publicly available for free at https://coolroofs.org/resources/cool-surfaces-lesson-plan/. The competition is an opportunity for:

- Students to engage with the lesson plan and think critically about what they learn
- Teachers to develop open lines of communication with the CRRC
- The CRRC to measure the effectiveness of the lesson plan
- The CRRC to showcase and celebrate students that participate in the lesson plan
- Students to optionally seek technical review and feedback on their work if they would like to use their submission for other projects beyond the CRRC's competition (e.g., science fair).

Introduction

The reward for participating in the competition is for submissions to be featured on the CRRC website (https://www.coolroofs.org/) as long as basic requirements are met. Twice a year, the CRRC will select first, second, and third place winners that will be recognized on coolroofs.org and CRRC social media, in the next edition of the CRRC Newsletter, and at the next CRRC Annual Meeting. Winning projects will also be sent a small gift from the CRRC.

Submission Requirements



Submission Form

Students can make submissions using **this form**.

The form includes fields for all of the information described in the following slides and a place to share project files.

Parent/guardian permission is required for the CRRC to feature student's work on our website. **Please complete the submission form at home when a parent/guardian is present and able to complete the permission waiver that is built into the form.**

Eligibility

The following eligibility requirements must be met to participate in the competition.

- Be a middle/junior high school (6th-9th grade) student, group of students, or class that participated in the CRRC Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan
- Public, charter, private, home school, etc. are all eligible
- Submissions may be made by individual students, groups of students, or an entire class, but individual or small group submissions are encouraged
- Plagiarized content will NOT be accepted and AI is not to be used to generate content

Other K-12 grade ranges may also participate in the competition, but may be weighted and evaluated using different metrics.

Project Format & Content

Each submission must be a project that relates to the information learned while participating in the lesson plan. The submission must have clear ties to the content covered in the lesson plan, but there is no set format for the submission. Creativity is encouraged. Below are a few example format and topic ideas:

- Written or video report of experiment findings
- Video describing real-life urban heat impacts that students have experienced or noticed in their communities and ideas for solutions
- Creative project such as a piece of art, poem, or song inspired by the topic of urban heat and cool surfaces
- A science fair or other technical project inspired by the topic of urban heat and cool surfaces
- A written, video, or audio “news report” or podcast about the issue of heat in students’ community

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Other Information

Additional basic information will be requested, including but not limited to:

- School name
- Teacher contact information
- Date range that the CRRC lesson plan was completed

Submitters will also have the option to check a box indicating that they would like to be matched with a CRRC volunteer to provide technical review of their project. Students may want technical review if they are interested in completing a larger project or paper about the topic of UHI and cool surfaces. Technical review does not factor into the selection of winners in the competition; it is an optional opportunity for students to obtain expert feedback on their project.

Use Permissions

The primary reward for making a submission to the CRRC is being featured on the CRRC website, newsletter, and social media, with emphasis on winning submissions. Therefore, a parent or legal guardian's permission to publish the student's work is required for each submission. The permission form is included in the submission form and must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

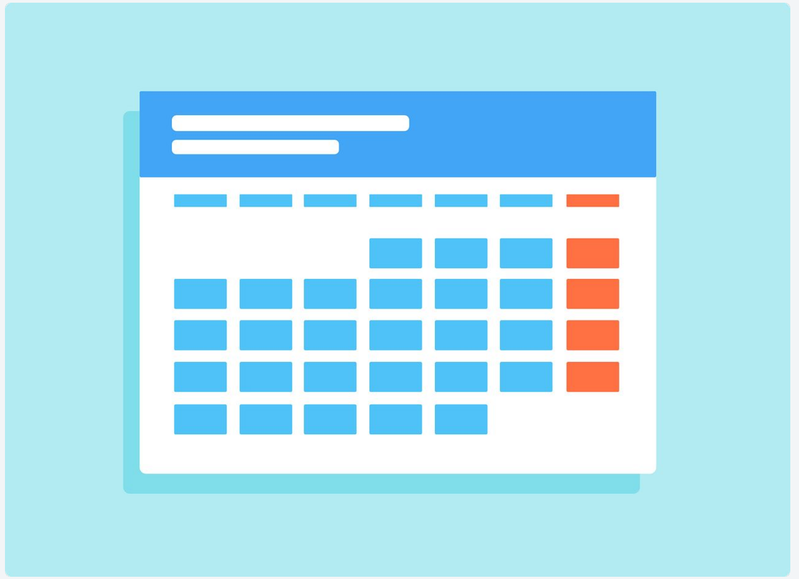
In order to protect the CRRC from copyright infringement, any photos, graphics, music, or other content not created by the submitter must have proper licensing for reuse (e.g., be in the public domain, be licensed for reuse without attribution, etc.). Properly licensed images can be found on sites like Pixabay, Pexels, and Wikimedia Commons. The submitter must provide image credit attribution for any content that is not created by the submitter.

Use Permissions Continued

The CRRC reserves the right not to publish a submission if there are any copyright concerns or inappropriate content.

If publication permission is not granted or content is used that is not licensed for reuse or properly attributed, the work will not be published by the CRRC.

Timeframe



Timeframe Overview

The Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan is expected to take approximately two class periods to complete. Depending on the size and scope of students' projects, the time it takes to complete and submit them to the CRRC will vary case-by-case. Therefore, the CRRC accepts submissions on a rolling basis.

The following project publication and award review timelines are subject to change depending on the level of participation in the competition.

Timeframe for Project Publication

Project Publication

Submissions can be made to the CRRC on a rolling basis, regardless of the time of year. The intent is to publish all submissions on coolroofs.org. When a submission is received, CRRC staff will review it for publication in a timely manner. Staff will notify the student(s) of receipt and publication of the project. If the CRRC decides not to publish the project, an explanation will be provided, and the student(s) may have an opportunity to revise and resubmit the project.

Timeframe for Award Review

Project Award Review

Near the end of each semester (roughly November and April), the CRRC will review all projects submitted since the last Project Award Review. Using the review process described in the following slides, the CRRC will select first, second, and third place winners. Winners will be notified and winning projects will be highlighted on coolroofs.org and CRRC social media, in the next edition of the CRRC Newsletter, and at the next CRRC Annual Meeting. Winners will also be sent a small prize from the CRRC.

Award Review Process

Reviewers

Near the end of each semester, CRRC staff will conduct an initial review of all projects submitted since the last Project Award Review. This review will include verifying that the project meets the basic requirements outlined in the Review Rubric (i.e., the project is not “poor” in any category), identifying any outstanding projects, and developing a list of finalists for referral to the Selection Committee.

During each review cycle, a Selection Committee will be formed to select the first, second, and third place winners from the list of finalists. The Selection Committee will be made up of volunteers from the CRRC Education Committee. The projects and notes from CRRC staff’s initial review will be circulated to the Selection Committee and the Selection Committee will determine the winners.

Review Rubric

This rubric is used to assist with the Project Award Review process. The CRRC reserves the right to weigh categories differently and consider other factors not represented in the rubric during the selection process.

Category	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Strong (3)	Excellent (4)
Grasp of UHI and Cool Surface concepts	Project is not related to UHI or cool surfaces or demonstrates persistent misunderstanding of these topics	Project demonstrates limited understanding of UHI and cool surfaces, with some errors	Project demonstrates basic understanding of UHI and cool surfaces	Project demonstrates clear understanding and critical thinking about UHI and cool surfaces
Creativity and Individualization	Project is plagiarized	Project is a regurgitation of the CRRC Lesson Plan or other resources on this topic	Project includes some original elements and strives to approach the topic from an individual point of view	Project applies the topic to students' community or individual experiences and utilizes a fresh and creative format. Or the project goes above and beyond CRRC instruction (e.g., investigating different surface materials, understanding different impacts such as heat capacity, etc.)
Suitability for CRRC Promotion	Project uses inappropriate language or visuals or makes statements in opposition to the CRRC's mission	Project uses appropriate language and visuals but makes some statements that may be interpreted to conflict with the CRRC mission	Project uses appropriate language and visuals and aligns with the CRRC mission	Project uses appropriate language and visuals, aligns with the CRRC mission, and provides an exceptionally inspiring or technically robust take on the topic.
Quality	Visuals and/or audio are illegible	Visuals and/or audio are poor	Visuals and/or audio are clear	Visuals and/or audio are clear and exceptionally well done

Optional Technical Review

If a student or student group requests technical review when submitting their project, CRRC staff will match the student(s) with an available CRRC volunteer whose area of expertise most closely matches the project topic. CRRC staff will coordinate with the volunteer to conduct technical review and provide the resulting feedback to the student(s).

Contact and Resources

- Access the full Cool Surfaces Lesson Plan at https://coolroofs.org/resources/cool-surfaces-lesson-plan/
- Contact education@coolroofs.org with any questions