



## Mission 2026 Drone Career Readiness Challenge

Drones are used as a tool in industries around the globe. Entries for this challenge will explore the way professionals in a specific career or company use drones.

Aerial Drone Competition competitors are uniquely positioned to pursue careers that will use drones as a resource and tool. Many of the skills developed—including drone piloting, programming, teamwork, and communication—will directly transfer to future professions. We want you to explore a possible future career and discover how drones are used in that industry. There are many paths that you can take to becoming a STEM leader. Which will you choose?

Grade Levels	Programs	Submission Type
Middle School High School	Aerial Drone Competition	PDF with text and supporting images

Prizes: One Middle School Team and one High School Team from each U.S./Canada region (Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central, and West) will receive:

- Automatic qualification to their Aerial Drone Competition Regional Championship, and
- A paid team registration fee for Mission 2027.



## Mission 2027 Drone Career Readiness Challenge – Judging Rubric

This rubric will be used by Online Challenge judges to assess all submissions after the close of the competition. Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5. Finalists will be recommended by volunteer judges based on scores. *REC Foundation staff will determine awardees at their sole discretion with the guidance of volunteer judges and the minimum entry requirements.*

Criteria	Expert 4-5 Points	Proficient 2-3 Points	Emerging 0-1 Points
<b>Identification &amp; Explanation</b>	Company/career is clearly identified. Thorough explanation of why it was chosen.	Company/career is identified, with a description of why it was chosen. Information is vague or incomplete.	No specific company/career identified and/or no explanation of why it was chosen.
<b>Drones, Companies, &amp; Careers</b>	Clearly describes a company/career that utilizes drones and explains why/how the drone is used.	Describes a company/career that utilizes drones and explains why/how the drone is used, but information is vague or incomplete.	No description of a company/career that utilizes drones and explains why/how the drone is used.
<b>Career Readiness</b>	Clearly describes three or more ways Aerial Drone Competitions prepare the students for future careers.	Describes one or two ways Aerial Drone Competitions prepare the students for future careers.	Missing or limited description of ways Aerial Drone Competitions prepare the students for future careers.
<b>Presentation &amp; Organization</b>	Findings are clearly presented and content is organized. Has visual appeal.	Presentation and organization are good, but either or both include(s) noticeable flaws.	Little or no visible effort in presentation and/or organization.
<b>Writing*</b>	High-quality and readable writing, including spelling, grammar, and sentence structure.	Writing is good overall, but includes errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure.	Little or no visible effort in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure. Entry is difficult to understand.
<b>Images</b>	Includes three or more effective, high-quality images that directly relate to the content.	Includes one or two effective, high-quality images that directly relate to the content.	No images, images of poor quality, and/or images that do not directly relate to the content.

\*Judges will consider the age group and/or primary language of the team when assessing this criteria.