



School Science Competitions Guidelines

(1) Introduction

School Science Competitions are organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as an annual programme. The children from all government recognized schools (government and international) are eligible to participate in the competitions.

The main objectives of the School Science Competitions are:

- To improve scientific knowledge of students through STEAM approach
- To promote science education by creating an interest and enthusiasm among students to learn science
- To provide an opportunity to develop science communication skills of students
- Integrate students and teachers of different subject areas in schools to compete as a team to achieve one goal

The theme of the School Science Competitions 2026 is: “**AI for Safety and Resilience**”.

Competitions line up for SSC 2026:

1. Short Science Drama
2. Role Play of a renowned personality in the field of STEAM
3. Viridu
4. Song
5. Digital Storytelling
6. Science Fiction

(2) General guidelines of the competitions for school children

1. All competitions will be conducted under the theme “**AI for Safety and Resilience**”.
2. Students from all government recognized schools (government and international) in grade 6 and above are eligible to participate in the competitions.
3. The schools not registered under NSF School Science Society Network (SSSN) are mandatory to register with NSF SSSN. The registration can be obtained free of charge by visiting www.nsf.gov.lk or sending duly filled application obtained from the NSF.
4. All applications should be certified as students’ own creations by the relevant class teacher and send through principal of the school.
5. Both students and teachers can submit scripts for dramas, lyrics for viridu & song competitions.
6. All drama scripts submitted to NSF will be evaluated by a panel of judges. Applicants whose scripts are selected for the final evaluation will be notified to stage their dramas in the final round.
7. The students participating Role play, Viridu or Song competition must send their presentation as a video clip to the NSF using one of the communication channels mentioned below.

8. The initial rounds of the evaluation of Role play, Viridu and Song will be done using the videos submitted by the students. The best 10 submissions selected in this evaluation will be called to present at the final round to be held in one central location.
9. The performance or presentation relevant to all competitions should be done by students.

(3) Specific guidelines of the competitions for school children

1) Role Play

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Role Play will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Role:** The character of the role play should be a scientist/ renowned personality in the field of science who has made a significant contribution to the area covered by the theme. Only one character can be performed by an applicant in one language. Performing of the same character in a different language as two contestants is not allowed. Stage performance should be done by a single person. Set and props, costumes, makeups and background music can be used to make the role play more attractive.
- **Deadline for submission of applications and videos:** 30 May 2026
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Scientific content, creative performance and other practices (set & props/ costumes/ make up). The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round.

Select one from the following renowned personalities in the field of STEAM or any other scientist except Charles Darwin, Marie Curie, Archimedes, Thomas Alva Edison, Sir Isaac Newton, Nicolaus Copernicus.

- Edward Jenner - Louis Pasteur
- Robert Hooke - Antonie van Leeuwenhoek

2) Short Science Drama

- **Duration:** 20 minutes (Dramas will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 18 minutes or exceeds 22 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission of applications and script:** 30 May 2026
- **Composition of the team:** Maximum number of students per drama team should be fifteen (15). Background music can be provided by a separate team comprised of only 5 students.
- **Criteria for evaluation for script:** Relevance to the theme/content, creativity. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round.
- **Criteria for evaluation for performance:** Relevance to the theme/content, script, acting, other practice (music/ set & props/ costumes/ make up) and direction. The best drama script, best drama on stage, best actor/actress, best choreographer will be selected at the final evaluation.

3) Viridu

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Viridu performance will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission of applications and videos:** 30 May 2026
- **Composition of team:** One or two students can perform a Viridu poem. Music should be provided only by the performer/s. Composition of the lyrics of Viridu can be done either by the performer/s or another student/teacher.
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, singing, music and creative performance. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round. The best script and presentation will be selected at the final evaluation.

4) Song Competition

- **Duration:** 05 minutes (Song performance will be disqualified if the time duration is less than 04 minutes or exceeds 06 minutes)
- **Deadline for submission of applications and videos:** 30 May 2026
- **Team:** One or two students can perform a Song. Music should be provided only by musical instruments. No recordings will be allowed. **Number of members in the orchestra** (should be comprised only of students or teachers) **should be three.**
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, music and creative performance. The winners of the first round will be eligible to compete in the final round. The best lyrics, music and singing will be selected at the final evaluation.

5) Digital Story Telling Competition

- **Duration:** 04 min (± 30 sec will be allowed)
- **Deadline for application of applications and videos:** 30 May 2026
- **Production:** Scientific concepts should be related to the theme and presented in digital medium. Windows Movie Maker, MS Power Point or any other accepted software can be used to produce the digital story. Multimedia such as texts, still images, recorded audio narrations, video clips & music can be mixed to produce digital stories (supporting websites: www.storycenter.org).
- **Specifications:** File formats: AVI/MPEG4, aspect ratio: 16:9 widescreen preferred
- **Criteria for evaluation:** Relevance to the theme, creativity, accuracy of the scientific information and presentation. The videos received by the NSF will be evaluated by a special panel and the decision of the Panel of Judges will be the final.

6) Science Fiction Competition

No. of words: 750 – 1000

Deadline for submission of applications and fictions: 30 May 2026

Science fictions should be typed on single side of A4 pages. True scientific facts, scientific background, creativity, and language will be the evaluation criteria of science fictions.

(4) Guidelines for submission of videos

Song, Viridu, Role play. Digital story (Video Clips)

- The first frame of the video submission should contain the competition name, name of the student and the school.
- Recorded video clip should be sent to NSF **or** upload to a google drive or do “V transfer” and send link to chamarika@nsf.gov.lk and anjalee@nsf.gov.lk with the duly filled application form.

The winners will be felicitated at the NSF Award Ceremony on Science Popularization

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