



The Americas Region JA Student Company of the Year Competition

Competition Overview

The competition is JA Worldwide's annual celebration of the achievements of *JA Company Program* students across The Americas region. At this event, JA Companies proudly present the results of their enterprise and learning experience. JA Companies appear before a panel of independent judges who determine company performance against the competition criteria as compared with other JA Companies.

The JA Student Company of the Year competition goal is to balance the business achievements of each team as a whole with members' individual personal development. Therefore, for a team to win this award, it is not sufficient just to run a financially successful JA Company or to have created an exciting product and service. JA Company members also must demonstrate that they understand how and why the company performed as it did. Judges also will be looking for evidence of innovation and the successful exploitation of new ideas in all aspects of running the company.

Judging

There are four stages to the competition. They are:

- Company report
- Oral presentation before an audience
- Trade stand display and interviews at the stand
- Interview with the judging panel

Who is eligible to participate?

Eligibility is limited to qualifying student teams from The Americas region, including: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Student teams must have completed or are currently completing the *JA Company Program* during the current academic year. A total of 20 companies will be selected as finalists for the 2009 Americas JA Student Company of the Year Competition held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Student company representatives must be at least 15 years old and no more than 19 years old on December 31, 2009. The maximum number of participants per JA Company to attend the final competition is five students.

Registration

Only JA Members are eligible to register student teams for the Competition. Registration will open in February and will remain open until Tuesday, September 23, 2009. In addition to paying a \$70 registration fee, all participating JA Member Offices must register and submit the required documentation by the deadline. Late registrations will not be accepted for consideration.

JA Companies wishing to be considered must provide their local JA office/chapter with the following:

- *JA Company Program* annual report in both a PDF or Word format and hard copy. The report must be submitted in English – no exceptions. It is the responsibility of the JA Member Office to translate any reports submitted in another language to English prior to transmission to JA Worldwide.
- A cover letter stating why the JA Company should be selected as JA Company of the year for its province/state and why it should be considered for advancement to the regional level competition.
- While not a requirement, JA Companies that have competed at a local city or state level will be given preference over those that have not.

To submit a JA Company for consideration, a JA office must:

- Register the student company through the registration link on the JA Portal at <http://portal.jahub.org/servlet/portal/serve/36445>. The \$70 registration fee is required to finalize registration. Credit cards are the preferred method of payment.
- Upload the company report and cover letter to the registration site in either PDF or Word format.
- Reports must be submitted in English. Translation of reports is the responsibility of the JA Member office.
- Mail a hard copy of the registration materials to JA Worldwide attn: Student Events, One Education Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

Additional information for JA Member Offices is available on the JA Portal at

<http://portal.jahub.org/servlet/portal/serve/36445>, including specific documentation regarding guidelines and criteria for participants, judging, the FedEx Global Access Award Module, and the selection process for the 20 finalists who will compete in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Students may download the guidelines and criteria for participants, details on the judging process, the FedEx Global Access Award Module, and the selection process for the 20 finalists who will compete in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at http://www.ja.org/involved/involved_students_comp_americas_co.shtml.