

The PA-POST

Volume 2

Pennsylvania Technology Student Association

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Always wanted to see your name in print?

Have an interesting TSA story?

Write for the Post!

We are always looking for PA-TSA members to submit articles.

Write about anything TSA or technology

Ways to succeed in any event.

Here is your five-step guide to achieving that top three finish.

1. CHOOSE YOUR EVENTS WISELY.

Choose two or three events that you feel are your strongest. If you get too many events, you'll sometimes end up sacrificing quantity for quality. Find a couple events that interest you and that you know you can really put a lot of time and effort into.

2. READ THE RULES.

As a member of the State Officer Team, we always get feedback from the judges saying that many projects did not finish in the top three because of a minor rules violation. Reading the rules will correct this fatal error.

Reading them once will give you an idea of what you're supposed to do, but you should read them two or three times with highlighter in hand to help you to really understand what you need to do.

2a. BEWARE OF RULE CHANGES

It may be the same old rulebook, but changes are made every year.

Make sure you re-read the rules at the beginning of the year.

Sometimes something small can blind-side you, and a refresher will make sure your project is perfect.

3. MAKE A LIST.

Make a list of what needs to go into the project, and of the necessary specifications and dimensions of your project. When you think it's all done, take out your list and go over it. More times than not, there's something you need to fix.

4. GIVE YOURSELF TIME.

The more time you have to do a project, the better it will be. We've had or have seen the group that is finishing their project on the bus, and somehow pull it off in time to turn it in. That rarely works. Make sure you have enough time to really make your project the best it can be.

5. DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS.

If you see something that you think you can be improved, do it. Have other people look at your project. Be creative, think outside the box. Innovate somehow. The judges like unique perspectives, and they like to be interested, so make it interesting.

It's up to you how much effort you're going to put into your project, but remember, time and effort will always help you on your way to success.

Chloe Alpert
2008-2009 State President.

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Top CAD and Architecture Programs Worth Looking Into

AutoCAD

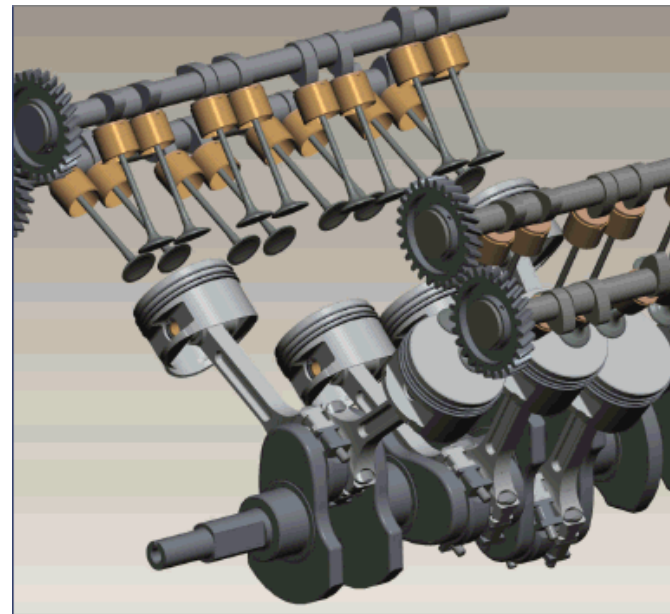
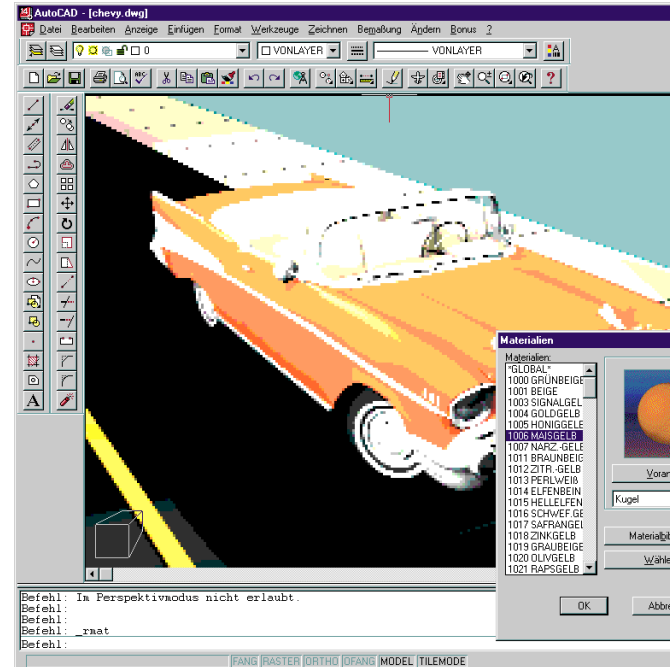
One of the most common, easy to learn, efficient, and multi-purpose CAD software to date is Autodesk's AutoCAD family. AutoCAD is the all around winner for many who deal with computer aided drafting on a regular basis. Ranging from engineering, architecture, animation, and both 2D and 3D capabilities AutoCAD can get the job done for any of your needs. This program is used by both the everyday high school student and the experienced engineer. Its various toolbars and short commands provide fast, efficient drafting unparalleled to any other program on the market. For the new draftsman and old alike, Autodesk's AutoCAD family is a set of programs worth checking out.

Pro/ENGINEER

Pro/ENGINEER is a great 3D modeling software which allows you to produce drawings, 2D sketches, manufacturing drawings, assemblies, and animations. Pro/Engineer is easy to use and drawings can be produced in a short amount of time. A variety of commands are available for use to produce drawings. Multiview drawings are created from a 3D model with just a click of a button. Similarly, pattern developments can be generated from a pictorial drawing by using a few simple commands. Mechanical parts can be drawn separately and then put together as an assembly drawing in a professional and organized fashion as well. This program works especially well for the 3D modeling of small student based projects.

3D Home Architect

3D Home Architect is very user-friendly architectural software that has been around for years and allowed students to produce commercial and residential plans with ease. This professional grade software supports 3D renderings of interior, exterior, and landscaping of the house. The quick and easy to use tool bar allows a novice draftsman to start drawing in minutes and bring their own creations to life. The customizable foundation generator can produce exact sizes and depths for footers of specific building codes geared towards your needs. For a fast and easy to learn architectural program, 3D Home Architect is the program of choice for beginners looking for a quality product.



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Molly Miller, Parliamentarian

Q: What is your favorite non-TSA activity?

A: DANCE!!! I've taken dance class (tap, ballet, jazz, pointe) since I was 3, now I teach dance to younger kids.

Q: What is your favorite sport to play/watch?

A: I love to play football.
I love to watch STEELERS FOOTBALL!!!

Q: What is your hometown?

A: Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Q: What is the coolest place you've been?

A: Heinz Field.

Q: What is one embarrassing fact about you?

A: Almost all hats do not fit my head!

Q: If you could pick one place to go where would it be?

A: On the beach in Wildwood Crest, NJ!!!

Q: What is your favorite quote to live by?

A: "A best friend doesn't tell you what you WANT to hear, they tell you what you NEED to hear."

Q: What are your aspirations after high school?

A: Attend a college to major in Technology Education and eventually start a family.

William Heberlein, Treasurer

Q: What is your favorite non-TSA activity?

A: Playing music, specifically the harmonica and the trumpet.

Q: What is your favorite sport to play/watch?

A: I like to play Golf and Volleyball but I love watching Football.

Q: What is your hometown?

A: Lancaster, PA.

Q: What is the coolest place you've been?

A: Boston, MA.

Q: What is one embarrassing fact about you?

A: I tie my shoes the bunny ears way.

Q: If you could pick one place to go where would it be?

A: Italy.

Q: What is your favorite quote to live by?

A: I live by my own favorite quote from Spud Webb, "You don't have to be tall to stand tall."

Q: What are your aspirations after high school?

A: I would like to major in Political Science at Boston University.



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The Importance of Voting Throughout Your Entire Life Will Heberlein

Democracy; A word literally meaning “government of the people”. It has been the most powerful and most valued asset to this country since the day it was conceived in 1776. Millions have died for it, billions have benefited from it, and the world that we all live in is a direct result of it. The only thing that democracy asks back of its citizens is one thing. To Vote.

The founding fathers believed that above all things, the individual was the most influential force on political policies, and that a group of individuals is an unstoppable one. Hence the governmental system that we have today with a congress, instead of one distinct ruler. This entire system, however, is only made possible and maintained by voters, for without voters, there would be no elections, and without elections, there would be no representatives of the people, and without representatives of the masses, only a single voice may rule.

The power of our country lies in the ballot, not the bullet. Encourage your parents and friends to vote, not just in the larger presidential elections, but in the local elections as well, as they are just as important to preventing corruption and unjust rule. Please keep voting.

The Reality of Technology on TV Collin Straka

With the advent of another fall lineup of new television shows, more new gadgets, gizmos, and techy paraphernalia have appeared than you can shake a 16 GB iPhone 3g at. However, one frequently asks “Is that even possible?” to these TV shows. For instance, in the pilot of the hit show “Fringe” on FOX, literally hundreds of computers are networked together unnoticed throughout an outdoor Self-Storage complex. Not only would these computers be noticed for the conspicuous production of heat, where did the terrorists get the kilowatts of electricity required to run all these machines?

While TV shows ignore practicality when designing technological wizardry, they also ignore the physical limitations of what is possible. In the NBC show “Knight Rider” released earlier in 2008, a car with the processing power of several supercomputers drives without human guidance, talks, learns, shape shifts, and changes colors. To top it all off, it was created by one man in his garage working in his spare time!

Whether this ‘false’ technology is a good thing or a bad thing is hard to tell. For one, it may inspire students viewing these shows to pursue fields involving programming, engineering, and technology in general. There may be a letdown, however, once they discover that these technologies they so aspired to create do not, in fact, exist.



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New MacBooks

Apple recently released a new line of Macintosh laptops to great accolade from the technological community. Here is a chart outlining the technical specifics of both the old and new laptops.

Specs	MacBook			MacBook Air		MacBook Pro		
GHz	2.0	2.1	2.4	1.6	1.86	2.4	2.5	2.53
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo			Intel Core 2 Duo processor with 1066MHz frontside bus		Intel Core 2 Duo		
Memory	1GB DDR2	2GB DDR3		2GB		2GB	4GB	
Hard Drive	160 GB	120 GB	250 GB	120GB SATA	128GB solid-state	250GB	320GB	
Graphics	NVIDIA GeForce 9400M	Intel GMA X3100	NVIDIA GeForce 9400M	NVIDIA GeForce 9400M		NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600 GT with 256 MB	NVIDIA GeForce 8600M + GT with 512MB	NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 512MB
Screen	13.3 Widescreen LED-backlit			13.3 inches widescreen LED-backlit		15-inch widescreen	17-inch widescreen	15-inch widescreen
Height	0.95 inches			0.16 to 0.76 inches		0.95 inches		
Width	12.78 inches			12.8 inches		14.35 inches		
Depth	8.94 inches			8.94 inches		9.82 inches		
Weight	4.5 lbs			3.0 lbs		5.5 pounds		
Battery Life	5 hours			4.5 hours		5 hours		
Connectivity	Built-in AirPort Extreme, Built-in Bluetooth 2.1, 2 USB ports			Built-in AirPort Extreme, Built in Bluetooth 2.1, 1 USB port		Built-in AirPort Extreme, Built-in Bluetooth 2.1, Built-in 10/100/1000BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet, 2 USB ports, 1 FireWire 800 port, 1 Express Card/34 slot		
Cost	\$1299.00	\$999.00	\$1599.00	\$1799.00	\$2499.00	\$1999.00	\$2799.00	\$2499.00

Want to have a member of the state officer team visit your high school?

Whether you are trying to start a new chapter at your school or need to revitalize an older chapter have a state officer come speak at your school. To schedule a visit contact President Chloe Alpert at president@patsa.org or Vice-President Caitlyn Riehl at vicepresident@patsa.org.