

# Bridge Design Competition

## Bridge design competition for grades 7-12

The National Bridge and Structure Competition is held annual for students in grades 7-12 from participating TRAC (Transportation and Civil Engineering) & RIDES (Roadways In Developing Elementary Students) states. Minnesota is a participating state.

TRAC & RIDES is an educational outreach program from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO).  
<http://trac.transportation.org>

## Competition basics

There are 3 divisions: Grades 7-8, Grades 9-10, and Grades 11-12.

Students form teams of up to 3 students. Each team must have an adult advisor. Up to 5 teams allowed per school.

Teams submit an application of interest to the competition. Teams receive a bridge design kit, which has the materials for the competition.

Teams complete and design and proposal package and send it in to be judged.

The top 3 teams in each division are invited to the AASHTO spring meeting to compete against each other. The trip is paid for by the competition. Teams can win cash prizes for their school!

## Important dates

Nov 3, 2017: Team application deadline  
Nov 3, 2017: Free MN Training, see sheet 2 for details  
Dec 1, 2017: Kits shipped out to teams  
Feb 23, 2018: Proposal submission deadline  
Mar 19, 2018: Winners notified  
May 21-24, 2018: AASHTO spring meeting

## Competition rules and materials

<http://trac.transportation.org/pages/awards.aspx>

## How we can help

MnDOT and our partners can offer mentors and assistance to your teams.

## For more information and assistance

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[stemoutreach.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:stemoutreach.dot@state.mn.us)

For more information regarding this program please visit:

[mndot.gov/stem](http://mndot.gov/stem)

To request this document in an alternative format, please contact the Office of Equity and Diversity at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us)

# Minnesota Training Session

**TRAINING SESSION IS NOT MANDATORY TO BE PART OF THE COMPETITION**

MnDOT will be hosting a TRAC-sponsored training session for any interested teachers or teams on November 3 at the MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center. The training will cover the following:

1. TRAC bridge module
2. All design competition rules and parameters
3. Interactive demonstration of all design competition software
4. Helpful hints, tips, and tricks for putting together a winning proposal

Teachers can use this training for professional development hours. This course is taught by current science teachers (nationally) with specialized training in the TRAC modules.

Here are all of the details for the training day.

Date: Friday, November 3, 2017

Time: 8AM – 3PM

Location: MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center, Room 5  
1900 County Road I West

[View map and directions on Google Maps](#)

Register: E-mail Nicole Bartelt at [stemoutreach.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:stemoutreach.dot@state.mn.us), or call 651-366-4474.

Registration Deadline: ~~October 20, 2017~~ Extended to Oct 31, 2017

Sign-up soon, as it is on a first-come, first-serve basis!

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