

2025 STUDENT SHOWCASE

Application Guidelines

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
MARCH 13, 2025, 10 A.M.



SCAGTM

INNOVATING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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Executive Summary

The SCAG [Student Showcase](#) challenges students to create posters and StoryMaps that innovatively and meaningfully tell a story, provide insight, showcase plans and projects, engage stakeholders, and illustrate the possibilities of open data at the regional level. Winners of the Student Showcase competition receive cash prizes.

Competition finalists will be invited to attend SCAG's [Regional Conference and General Assembly](#) as conference fellows and will receive complimentary event registration, hotel accommodation, and admission to the conference in Palm Desert on May 1-2, 2025. At the Regional Conference and General Assembly, conference fellows will present their posters and StoryMaps to elected officials and industry leaders from across Southern California.

A panel of judges will select one poster and one StoryMap for the "Best in Show" award. Conference attendees will vote for their favorite poster and StoryMap to be recognized with an "Audience Award." All four awards, each worth \$1,500, will be announced at the end of the conference. A total of \$6,000 is awarded across four prizes.

Contact

For more information on the Student Showcase, please contact:

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Application Guidelines

SCAG is requesting posters or StoryMaps for student-led projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability-related planning issues on a local or regional scale. Eligible submittals include any applied projects or research. Students may submit a poster and StoryMap to the competition; however, they may only be selected as a finalist for either a poster or StoryMap.

Evaluation Criteria

SUSTAINABILITY

Promotes sustainable practices such as emission reductions, land use and transportation integration, natural resource conservation, active transportation, energy efficiency, and housing.

INNOVATION

Introduces a new concept or challenges and improves upon current planning processes.

TRANSFERABILITY

Strategies and concepts that can be applied to different locations or programs.

FEASIBILITY

Project has realistic potential to be implemented.

PRESENTATION

Excellence in writing, visual content, and overall organization.

Competition Due Dates

The following due dates are applicable for both the Poster Challenge and the StoryMap Challenge.

Project Submissions Due: March 13, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Poster Challenge

The jury will select five Poster Challenge finalists to attend the SCAG Regional Conference and General Assembly as conference fellows on May 1-2 in Palm Desert. SCAG will also print and mount the posters for the five finalists.

Please submit final posters [online](#).

Submission Guidelines

SCAG is requesting posters for student-led projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability-related planning issues on a local or regional scale. Eligible submissions include any applied projects or research.

Poster Challenge Rules

The Poster Challenge is open to college students currently enrolled in a university, community college, or graduate program within the SCAG region or who have graduated within the previous 12 months. All work must be completed by students, not faculty or university staff.

- Submissions must be completed by an individual. Group projects are not eligible for the competition.
- The poster must focus on a topic relevant to the SCAG region.
- Any documents or images must be used with the respective permission of the author(s) and must be properly attributed.
- Submissions will be judged on the previously described criteria: sustainability, innovation, transferability, feasibility, and quality of presentation.

Submitting Your Poster

Completed posters should be designed using the following guidelines:

- Dimensions: 24" x 36"
- Landscape Orientation
- Exported as a PDF file at 300 dpi or higher

Posters should include:

- Title
- Participants college or university
- List of data sources and references

Final Projects: March 13, 2025, at 10 a.m.

StoryMap Challenge

SCAG recognizes the effectiveness of simple yet powerful ways to inform, engage, and inspire people through data and map-driven storytelling.

With this in mind, SCAG is proud to invite student participants to conceptualize, create, and submit ArcGIS StoryMaps using SCAG's open data. StoryMaps are a meaningful way to tell a story or provide insight, showcase plans and projects, engage supporters and stakeholders, illustrate the possibilities of data, and highlight the usefulness of open data at the regional level. The jury will select 5 StoryMap Challenge finalists to attend the SCAG Regional Conference and General Assembly as conference fellows on May 1-2 in Palm Desert. SCAG will also provide (display monitors) at the conference for the 5 finalists.

Obtaining an ArcGIS StoryMaps Account

To create a StoryMap, you must sign up for an ArcGIS Online Account. For more information on how to do that, visit [the ArcGIS website](#).

Accessing SCAG's Data

1. Submissions must utilize data from SCAG's [Content Library](#) on the Regional Data Platform and can also integrate other relevant data from outside sources as appropriate.
2. Users can download datasets from SCAG's Content Library and work with them through any Esri platform (e.g., ArcPro, ArcMap) for eventual integration into an Esri ArcGIS StoryMap.
3. Submissions can also opt to directly load the data into an ArcGIS Online Web Map. SCAG's layers for use in this competition can be located by searching for layers generated by scaggisadmin.

Submission Guidelines

SCAG is requesting StoryMaps for student-led projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability-related planning issues on a local or regional scale. Eligible submissions include any applied projects or research.

StoryMap Challenge Rules

- This challenge is open to college students currently enrolled in a university, community college or graduate program within the SCAG region taking classes towards a degree objective or who have graduated within the previous 12 months. All work must be completed by students, not faculty or university staff.
- Submissions must be completed on an individual basis. Group submissions will not be accepted.
- The submission must use SCAG data for all or part of the StoryMap. Administrative Boundaries may be used freely, but do not count as using one SCAG dataset.
- Any documents or images must be used with the respective permission of the author(s) and must be properly attributed.
- Entries will be judged on their innovative use of SCAG data and Esri StoryMaps, urban planning relevancy to the Southern California region, transferability, feasibility, and presentation.

Submitting Your StoryMap

When your StoryMap has been completed, applicants will be requested to submit StoryMaps using the SCAG submission link.

List of required elements in StoryMap:

- URL of StoryMap
- Participant's college or university
- List of data sources

Submit all final projects [online](#).



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