

# 2021 JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT NOTES

- (1) Approximately 140 students from throughout the United States and from DoDEA schools around the world will participate in JSTI Virtual. You will be assigned to a small group of students to work on a research project from home, as well as having the opportunity for several exciting recreational and learning experiences in the evenings. You can expect to make many new friends, learn a lot, and have an enjoyable time. Please read the following information for more details.
- (2) Attire is “nice casual”—no dirty or ragged t-shirts or t-shirts with inappropriate logos (alcohol brand names, suggestive slogans, etc.), crop tops, halter tops, tank tops, or shirts that show mid-drift should be worn. Pajamas and other sleepwear are not appropriate attire while you are logged on for the program.
- (3) Business casual (nice slacks, dress shirts and ties, polo shirts, blouses, dress slacks or nice jeans, skirts, dress, etc.) is preferred when recording the group final presentation. Final Presentations may be seen by mentors and laboratory officials, DTRA officials, ORAU/ORISE officials and staff, and participant family members.
- (4) Although JSTI Virtual is not in-person, it will still be a hands-on research experience. Participants will be sent a box of materials and supplies needed to complete their research project including items such as, laptops, 3D printers, robotics materials, lab equipment, drones, and more. Many of the research supplies (like laptops) will need to be returned, but others you will be able to keep at the conclusion of the program.
- (5) Participants, staff, and mentors will be covering at least four time zones during the program. All times listed for activities will be in what we call “JSTI TIME” in order to reduce time zone confusion. JSTI TIME is Eastern Daylight Time. All participants, staff, and mentors will be sent a watch that can be set to JSTI TIME to wear during the program.
- (6) Research groups will start every morning promptly at 10:00 am JSTI Time and run until 1:00 pm. There will be some required and optional activities in the afternoons/evenings. A detailed schedule will be sent out closer to the start of the program. Unless other arrangements have been made, you are expected to attend all required activities between July 10-23 and one pre-program meeting. Students who do not attend the full program may have part or all of the stipend withheld.
- (7) Many of you indicated that you wanted to participate in JSTI because you are excited about the possibility of meeting like-minded students from across the country. JSTI has planned many optional activities that are meant to be fun and social such as open lunches and evening activities like digital breakout rooms. Take advantage of the opportunities to meet others!
- (8) Think about your work space and making it an appropriate learning environment. Things to consider include working at a desk or other space where you can be comfortable sitting or standing; ensuring that your space is big enough to work on the project; and reducing distractions like a TV, cell phone, or siblings.
- (9) A virtual learning experience is very different than an in-person program. Here are some things to consider to have a successful experience:
  - Get your research supplies and technology for the day ready 10 minutes before start time. Log in before the required start time each day. This allows time for you to trouble shoot any problems and have a

relaxing smooth start to the day.

- Make sure others in your household know the hours that you will be logged on for the program and ask them to make an effort not to distract you during that time.
  - Check your workspace. Can you sit/stand at it comfortably? Are you able to access all of the research supplies that you need? We recommend that you find a desk or table top to work. Think about what other things might be distracting to yourself or others, such as music or lots of people in the background.
  - Participants will be expected to have their webcam on during research time. Make sure to check what your webcam can see behind you if you are not using one of the provided virtual backgrounds. Please remove anything that might be seen as offensive or distracting to others.
  - You will not be able to appropriately participate from a car or multiple locations over the course of the program. Set up a good workspace with all of your research supplies and commit to using that space for the entirety of the program.
- (10) Be sure to get some activity when not logged on for JSTI. Much of the research time will be working on a computer. Each participant will be given a step counter. We will run periodic challenges where participants can win prizes for getting movement in during the day as well.
- (11) JSTI is a nonsmoking Institute and smoking and vaping are not permitted. Use of any tobacco products or vaping while logged in for JSTI is cause for dismissal from the program.
- (12) References to alcohol, drugs, or gangs are not appropriate during JSTI. This includes clothing, conversations, hand signs, etc. Repeated references of this nature will result in dismissal from the Institute.
- (13) Harassment, intimidation, and bullying will not be tolerated. This refers to any intentional written, verbal, graphic, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibit toward another student more than once that causes mental or physical harm and is so severe or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyberstalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Don't be mean. Don't send emails or post comments with intent of scaring, hurting, or intimidating someone else. Engaging in these behaviors will result in your dismissal from the program. In some cases, cyberbullying is a crime.
- (14) Everyone has their own views and political stances. Sometimes politics can lead to conflict. To avoid any possible issues, there should be no discussion of political views. Accordingly, no attire with political slogans, logos, or emblems should be worn. There should no political insignia visible in the background for the entirety of the program. Repeated violations of this could result in your removal from the program.

We are looking forward to seeing you online this summer! If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to us at [JSTI@orau.org](mailto:JSTI@orau.org).

