



B.O.S.S. (Building Our Student Success)

Business Plan Competition

If you could create a business, product or service, what would it be? Headwaters RC&D is inviting students in grades 7-12 to dream about launching their own business, product or service. The BOSS (Building Our Students Success) Business Plan Competition is a part of Headwaters RC&D Workforce Coalition's initiative to promote entrepreneurship in Southwest Montana's youth. Students will be competing for a cash prize donated by Headwaters RC&D and our participating industry partners.

In order to compete in the BOSS Business Plan Competition students must be in grades 7-12 and live in one of the following counties; Butte Silver Bow, Anaconda Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Granite, Powell, Jefferson, or Madison. **All competition entries must be submitted by midnight on December 31st, 2021.**

Zoom classes will be offered to aid students in business idea development and establish mentor/mentee relationships. Finalists will be picked and asked to present their essays & Business Plan either via Zoom or in person to our panel of judges the 1st week of February with a Q&A session following each pitch.

- Winners will be chosen from the middle school grade levels (7 & 8) and will be asked to read their essay and answer a few questions for cash prizes.
- Finalists from the highschool grade levels (9-12) will be asked to briefly pitch their ideas to a panel of judges and answer Q&A following their pitch. Winners will be chosen by the panel of judges and given a cash prize provided by our generous participating industry partners.

Rules & Guidelines

7th & 8th Grade

Essays should be between 800 and 1000 words on the topic “If I could create a business or product, it would be...” The essay should describe the business and/or product, what product or service it would solve, and who your market/ customers would be. Visual aids such as pictures, sketches/drawings, and graphs/charts are encouraged but not required. **Entries must be submitted no later than midnight on December 31st, 2021.**

9th -10th Grade

This is a two-phase contest.

Phase 1—Business Plan Submission (Due December 31, 2021): All applicants must provide a business plan consisting of (Business Plan Submissions are not to exceed 20 pages):

1. Cover Page
2. Executive Summary
3. Company Description
4. Products/ Services
5. Marketing Plan
6. A community impact summary stating:
 - a. How your business will enhance Southwest Montana
 - b. Why your business stands out
7. A -12 month Cash Flow with identifying start up capital needs.

Phase II– BOSS Live Pitch: Contestants will be notified by January 11th, 2022 if they have been selected (based on Phase I guidelines) to present at the live event in February 2022. Selected applicants will present their concept and plan in front of the judges in a live, presentation format that will include a question and answer period starting at 5:00 PM. Live presentation time limit is 10 minutes maximum; Power Points and supplemental visual aids are allowed. Winners will be announced that evening immediately following the live pitch.

Eligibility:

1. This promotion is open to all legal U.S. residents in grades 9-10 (Students that are homeschooled are also so welcome to apply)
2. Proposed businesses can be independent operations or franchised and offer products, services or commodities.
3. Must be a for profit business.

11th -12th Grade

This is a two-phase contest.

Phase 1—Business Plan Submission (Due December 31, 2021): All applicants must provide a business plan consisting of (Business Plan Submissions are not to exceed 20 pages):

8. Cover Page
9. Executive Summary
10. Company Description
11. Products/ Services
12. Marketing Plan
13. A community impact summary stating:
 - a. How your business will enhance Southwest Montana
 - b. Why your business stands out
14. SWOT Analysis
15. A -12 month Cash Flow with identifying start up capital needs.

Phase II– BOSS Live Pitch: Contestants will be notified by January 11th, 2022 if they have been selected (based on Phase I guidelines) to present at the live event in February 2022. Selected applicants will present their concept and plan in front of the judges in a live, presentation format that will include a question and answer period starting at 5:00 PM. Live presentation time limit is 10 minutes maximum; Power Points and supplemental visual aids are allowed. Winners will be announced that evening immediately following the live pitch.

Eligibility:

4. This promotion is open to all legal U.S. residents in grades 11-12 (Students that are homeschooled are also so welcome to apply)
5. Proposed businesses can be independent operations or franchised and offer products, services or commodities.
6. Must be a for profit business.

How to Enter:

All business concept submissions must be submitted through Submittable, an online platform no later than December 31, 2021.

If for any reason a student is unable to access Submittable the Business Plan submission may be emailed, delivered, or postmarked to:

Headwaters RC&D
% Taylor Lovell
65. E Broadway St, Butte Montana 59701

Email submissions to:

tlovell@headwatersrcd.org