Rules & Regulations 2026

What is KC MADE competition?

The KC Manufacturing and Design Expo (KC MADE) is a contest among high school students (grades 9-12) in construction and manufacturing programs. Students who enter the contest will display their woodworking and mixed wood/metalwork projects. Projects are not limited in scope. Participants have the freedom to enter everything from a tiny house to a dining room table. Following the competition, a networking luncheon is hosted which allows students and educational leaders to make connections and speak directly with professionals in the homebuilding industry.

KC MADE Mission

The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City (KCHBA) is a non-profit organization focused on supporting the homebuilding industry. KCHBA hosts the KC MADE competition to promote careers in the residential construction industry. KC MADE is a component of the KCHBA's workforce development initiative, which began due to the current skilled labor shortage within the homebuilding industry. The KC MADE competition focuses not only on promoting skilled trade development and opportunities in the homebuilding industry, but also the importance of soft skills and connecting education to industry stakeholders.

Judging and Awards

A panel of judges will determine the award winners based on project quality, skill knowledge and professionalism. Winners will be announced at the end of the event. Program grants will be awarded to the schools of the first, second, and third overall winners in their categories in amounts of $1,000. $750 and $500.

Showmanship Winner: These individuals display professionalism with their attire, communication skills and leadership. This award is decided upon by the panel of judges.

People's Choice Winner: The public will have the opportunity to vote digitally on their favorite project.

Staff Contacts: Jordynn Webster + Zach Little

jordynn@kchba.org / zach@kchba.org

Rules and Regulations

1. Eligibility: Entries in this show are open to high school students, grades 9-12. Entries must be submitted to the Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City by the CTE educator. Projects exhibited must have been constructed by the students under the direct supervision of the CTE educator.
    a. A project may only be exhibited one time at the KC MADE competition.
    b. Only projects started on or after May 1, 2025, are eligible for exhibition; the project must have been constructed within the last year.
2. Loss or Damage: Every precaution will be taken to protect the projects entered; however, neither the HBA staff, competition volunteers nor judges will be responsible for any loss or damage to projects.
3. Entries: Projects may be constructed by an individual or a group and may be individually or school owned. All projects must be entered in the names of the exhibitors who participated in the planning and construction of the project.

a. Each exhibitor(s) may enter one (1) project per category, but they only can place once amongst 1st and 2nd Place Overall; however, all participants are eligible to win People's Choice and Showmanship.
b. Projects can be entered into the following divisions: Division 1: Wood Only, Small Project and Large Project; Division 2: Mixed Materials, Small Project and Large Project. Mixed Materials is defined as a project that includes a major component that is not wood (Ex. Plexiglass table top, metal table legs, etc.)
    i. Competition staff may modify divisions and/or rearrange projects based on project entries received and project components when they arrive on site.
c. A group of exhibitors shall not exceed four (4) students showing the project.
d. Substitution of projects will not be allowed.
e. Exhibit space and location will be at the competition staff's discretion.

4. Entry Fees: Each project will require a $25 dollar entry fee that will be returned to the educational institution following the contest if the student attends and competes in the KC MADE competition. No personal checks will be accepted; all checks must be provided by the educational institution.
5. Marketing: KCHBA prohibits physical advertising the sale of student projects during the KC MADE competition.
6. Off-loading Assistance: All reasonable efforts should be made for project set up/staging. If the event staff determines that the project cannot be unloaded safely, assistance will be provided.
7. Showmanship:
    a. Exhibitors must be dressed appropriately and remain with their projects during judging.
    b. Exhibitors should be courteous and helpful to those viewing their projects, including those exhibiting next to them. Exhibitors should not interfere with or shield those who are exhibiting next to them.
    c. Exhibitors should be prepared to answer questions when their projects are being judged. Knowledge of the project will be evaluated at that time. Exhibitors should be well informed on the project that they are representing but should not be boisterous or argumentative.
8. Project Presentation: All projects must be complete including finish.
    a. Any items necessary for use must be a part of the project (hinges, latches, lift pins, hydraulic hoses, etc.), including documentation.
    b. All projects must be painted or properly treated and must be clean and in a presentable condition, even though they may have been used. No touch up painting of ANY type will be allowed inside the exhibit area.
    c. No electricity will be available for computers or other electronic devices. An effort will be made to provide electricity for projects requiring it for operation during judging only. *This must be denoted in your registration.
    d. Students must be physically present and participate during the official judging portion of the contest or their entries will be disqualified, and they will not be judged.
9. Documentation:
    a. Documentation must be typed, or computer generated and is to include a one-page description of the overall project, an expense report identifying all costs/bill of materials, photos showing during and after construction that shows safe working environment, and a complete description of all work performed. All documentation is to be displayed in a three-ring binder, divided, and sequenced with a table of contents and page numbers. Display of plans, photos, etc., must be done in such a manner that no additional space is required.

10. Judging Criteria: Pre-selected judges will select the winners on the following criteria:

Workmanship (including finish)
Design and Materials Used (including practicality)
Documentation
Degree of Difficulty
Knowledge of Project

11. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

1st Place Overall	$1,000 School Grant/ Prize/Plaque
2nd Place Overall	$750 School Grant/ Prize/Plaque
3rd Place Overall	$500 School Grant/ Prize/Plaque
1st Place – Mixed Materials	Plaque
2nd Place – Mixed Materials	Plaque
1st Place – Woods Only	Plaque
2nd Place – Woods Only	Plaque
Showmanship	Prize/Plaque
People's Choice	Prize/Plaque

KC MADE Competition Timeline:
Location: Union Station; Science City – 30 W Pershing Rd. Kansas City, MO 64108
People's Choice Voting (Online): Wednesday, April 9th at 8:00 a.m. – Saturday, April 11th at 10:00 a.m.
Arrival/Staging: Monday, April 7th – 12:00-5:00 p.m. (Only time to move in as Science City is closed this day)

Saturday, April 11th, 2026
Student Arrival: 8:30 a.m.
Judging: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Student & Industry Luncheon/Awards: 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.; Location TBD
Project Release: Following the Lunch

Completed registration forms must be emailed to:
Jordynn Webster
jordynn@kchba.org
Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City
600 E 103rd St
Kansas City, MO 64131

Entries must be received and/or postmarked by close of business March 13th, 2026.

For any questions please contact:
Jordynn Webster
jordynn@kchba.org
816-733-2218