



2026/2027

Precast Solutions Student Competition

About The Competition

The NPCA Foundation Precast Solutions Student Competition is designed to raise student awareness of precast concrete and provide real-world experience in the professional aspects of this business.

The competition is a unique opportunity for students to compete in teams to solve a problem from an actual NPCA member, using precast concrete as the solution. Students also engage with academic advisors and precast industry leaders to inform their decisions.

The goal is to teach future precasters, engineers, specifiers and construction management personnel about the many uses, benefits and innovations available from the precast concrete industry.

Overview

The competition project is a real-world build undertaken by an NPCA member that presented challenges for the company's team, which worked to deliver the best solution for the customer.

Companies need to address and consider several factors when bidding on a project and then executing and delivering the final product. These include production, delivery, budgeting, timelines, engineering, unexpected problems, last-minute changes from the customer and many others.

Students are highly encouraged to build multidisciplinary teams made up of students in engineering, CIM, architecture, construction management, project management and/or logistics. Additionally, teams will be assigned an industry liaison who will be available for regular consultations and can assist teams in gaining access to consultants, contractors or other resources needed for the project. Teams are permitted and encouraged to use outside consultants as part of the project, as any real-world company would. However, the costs of using consultants should be incorporated into the final project estimates.

The project is structured to mimic a Request for Proposal process, which companies complete when bidding on a project. As noted in the timeline, there will be a prebid meeting, which is intended to provide an overview of requirements and specifications for the project. Additionally, an online forum will be established for all teams in the competition, which will provide notifications, announcements and house the Q&A board. Like a real RFP process, competing vendors can submit project-related questions, during a specific period, and the questions and answers will be visible to all participants.

NPCA and The Precast Show

NPCA has represented manufacturers of precast concrete products and the suppliers of products and services for the industry since 1965. NPCA is dedicated to expanding the use of quality precast concrete and providing members with the programs and information required to operate a successful precast plant.

The Precast Show is the largest North American trade show dedicated to the manufactured concrete industry. Held annually, The Precast Show draws more than 5,000 attendees for the trade show, education, committee meetings and more.



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The Precast Show 2027 is Feb. 3 – 5 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Prizes

First Place: \$5,000 for the team (divided equally among the team members) and \$5,000 for the school program

Second place: \$3,000 for the team (divided equally among the team members) and \$3,000 for the school program.

Third place: \$2,000 for the team (divided equally among the team members) and \$2,000 for the school program.

Who May Apply

The NPCA Foundation Precast Solutions Student Competition is open to undergraduate students at two- and four-year universities and colleges. The application and participant agreement may be completed in this [online form](#).

Important Dates

Aug. 24, 2026: Competition RFP released

Sept. 18, 2026: Entry forms due

Sept. 21, 2026: Online forum opens and Q&A begins

Sept. 25, 2026: Virtual pre-bid meeting, 2 p.m. ET

Oct. 23, 2026: Initial proposals due

Oct. 30, 2026: Initial proposal scores and feedback returned to teams

Nov. 13, 2026: Q&A closes

Nov. 20, 2026: Final proposals due

Dec. 4, 2026: Final scores, feedback and finalist selections returned to teams

Feb. 3–5, 2027: Top three teams present at The Precast Show 2027 in Salt Lake City