**Ventura County VEX Robotics (VCOE Conference Center):**
The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the ultimate STEM activity for middle school and high school students (ages 11-18).

Each year, an engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, use the VEX Robotics Design System to build innovative robots designed to score the most points possible in qualification matches, elimination matches and Skills Challenges. In addition to having a great time and building amazing robots, through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition and their work within their team, students will learn many academic and life skills.

26 Teams may participate, no more than 2 per school.

**Important Dates:**
- Team Registration Begins: Monday, 8:00 AM, Sept. 2nd, 2019
- Team Registration Deadline: Friday, 4:00 PM, Oct. 4th, 2019
- Competition and Awards: Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 2019

**Ventura County Academic Decathlon (Pacifica High School):**
The Academic Decathlon is a unique opportunity for high school students in Ventura County to compete against like teams of students countywide. The top Ventura County team participates in the statewide Academic Decathlon competition. A California team then participates in the United States Academic Decathlon which is the premier scholastic competition for students in America from both public and private high schools. The Academic Decathlon consists of ten academic events.

A particularly unique aspect of this ten-event scholastic competition is that it is designed to include students from all academic backgrounds. A team consists of nine full-time students from the 9th through 12th grades of the same high school. Each nine-member team is comprised of three students whose grade point average falls into the “A” category, three students in the “B” category and three students in the "C" category.

The mission of the United States Academic Decathlon is to: Promote and recognize learning and achievement by emphasizing the value of academic excellence for all students.

Team coaches may register two teams, A and B, for the Ventura County Regional Academic Decathlon. Incomplete or alternate teams will not be accepted.

A Team consists of six to nine full-time Decathletes from the same high school (9th-12th grade). A full-time Decathlete is defined as a Decathlete who is enrolled in four or more class periods per day. Each team is made up of two to three students in each category:

Honor, Scholastic and Varsity in accordance with the following GPA definitions:
- Honor: 3.750 – 4.00 GPA
- Scholastic: 3.000 – 3.749 GPA
- Varsity: 0.00 – 2.999 GPA

Each team may also include three Alternates (1 Honor, 1 Scholastic and 1 Varsity)

**Important Dates:**
- Competition Registration begins: Saturday, Dec. 14th, 2019: [www.vcoe.org/AcademicDecathlon](http://www.vcoe.org/AcademicDecathlon)
- Competition Registration Deadline: Thursday, Dec. 19th, 2019
- All Paperwork completed and to VCOE: Friday, Dec. 20th, 2019
- Scrimmage: Saturday, Dec. 14th, 2019
- Competition Day 1: Saturday, Jan. 25th, 2020
- Competition Day 2: Saturday, Feb. 1st, 2020
- Awards Ceremony: Monday, Feb. 3rd, 2020
- State Finals: Mar. 26th-29, 2020 in Sacramento
Ventura County History Day (VCOE Conference Center):
National History Day, is a year-long educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history. After selecting a historical topic that relates to an annual theme, students conduct extensive research by using libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews.

Students analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topics’ significance in history, and create final projects that present their work. These projects can be entered into a series of competitions, from the local to the national level, where they are evaluated by historians and educators.

National History Day is both a way to teach history and a highly regarded academic competition. Students participate locally (at the school or school district level) to reach county or regional contests. Champion entries from these county/regional contests represent their areas at National History Day – California. Champions at the state competition in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to National History Day held at the University of Maryland each year.

Two grade-span divisions comprise the Ventura County contest:
- Junior (grades 6 – 8)
- Senior (grades 9 – 12)

There are nine entry categories each for the Junior and Senior Divisions:
- Individual Paper
- Individual Exhibit
- Group Exhibit
- Individual Web site
- Group Web site
- Individual Performance
- Group Performance
- Individual Documentary
- Group Documentary

Individual entries consist of one student. Group entries may have two to five students.

Important Dates
- Competition Registration Opens: Wednesday, Jan. 22nd, 2020
- All Paperwork completed and to VCOE: Friday, Jan. 24th, 2020
- Competition Day: Wednesday, Feb. 12th, 2020
- Awards Ceremony: Wednesday, Feb. 12th, 2020
- State Finals: May 10th-12th, 2020 in Sacramento

Ventura County Mock Trial (Ventura County Superior Court):
The Mock Trial is designed to clarify the workings of our legal institutions for students through first-hand experience. Students in grades 9 to 12 portray each of the principals in the cast of courtroom characters. Student teams study a hypothetical case, conduct legal research, receive guidance from volunteer attorneys in courtroom procedure and trial preparation, and present their case before volunteer judges.

Each county office sponsors a local Mock Trial competition and declares a winning team from our high schools to compete in the State Finals in Sacramento. This is a unique opportunity for high school students to demonstrate their academic achievements in a challenging experience with the key concepts of law and courtroom drama.

The Ventura County Mock Trial brings together students, teachers, and legal professionals from around the county to:
- Instill in our youth a deeper understanding of citizenship through values expressed in our Constitution and its Bill of Rights
- Educate young people to become active and responsible participants in our society.
- Help students acquire a working knowledge of our judicial system.
- Develop analytical abilities and communication skills.
- Provide an understanding of the obligations and responsibilities required of our societies members.
- Extend and reinforce the History and Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools.

Team Advisers may register two teams, A and B, for the Ventura County Regional Mock. A schools “A” Team must have a minimum of 18 members before Submitting a B Team. A Mock Trial Team consists of 9—25 members in Grades 9-12.
**Important Dates**

- **Case Packet Available:** Thursday, Sept. 12th, 2019
- **Competition Registration Opens:** Monday, Oct. 14th, 2019: [www.vcoe.org/MockTrial](http://www.vcoe.org/MockTrial)
- **Competition Registration Deadline:** Thursday, Jan. 16th, 2020
- **All Paperwork completed and to VCOE:** Friday, Jan. 17th, 2020
- **Competition Day 1 & 2:** Feb. 24th-25th, 2020
- **Competition Finals:** Feb. 26th-27th, 2020
- **Awards Ceremony:** Monday, Mar. 2nd, 2020
- **State Finals:** March 20th-22nd, 2020 in Los Angeles

**Ventura County Science Fair (California Lutheran University: Gilbert Arena):**

The Science Fair has come a long way since a handful of students competed in the first county science fair in 1955. Now with nearly 1,000 students in grades 6 – 12 participating, the science fair continues to experience tremendous growth, both in participation, sponsorship, and the development of the Science Career Expo, an interactive expo with a strong focus on local industry including biotechnology and agriculture.

With categories from Animal Behavioral and Social Sciences to Zoology, the science fair is designed to promote, encourage, showcase and reward the achievements of our students in the various fields of science. By developing skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, students are laying the groundwork for their future success.

The Ventura County Science Fair brings together students, teachers, and scientists from around the county to:

- Develop in students an awareness of the importance of science in their lives and to cultivate students’ interest in science.
- Support students’ acquisition of scientific knowledge and research skills.
- Extend and reinforce the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools.
- Recognize and reward outstanding achievement in science.
- Motivate students to undertake and complete scientific inquiries in their special areas of interest.

**Important Dates**

- **Competition Registration Opens:** Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 2020: [www.vcoe.org/ScienceFair](http://www.vcoe.org/ScienceFair)
- **Competition Registration Deadline:** Thursday, Feb. 6th, 2020
- **All Paperwork completed and to VCOE:** Friday, Feb. 7th, 2020
- **Set-up Day:** Thursday, Mar. 26th, 2020
- **Judging Day:** Friday, Mar. 27th, 2020
- **Awards Ceremony:** Monday, Mar. 30th, 2020
- **State Science Fair:** April 20th-21st, 2020 in Los Angeles

**Ventura County Impact II Teacher Grants (VCOE Conference Center):**

The purpose of IMPACT II is to spread excellent teaching ideas throughout our county. Recognizing innovative teachers at the awards dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the true heroes and heroines in our communities. Over the years, Ventura County IMPACT II has matured into the program that we envisioned at its inception. Business leaders, teachers, and administrators are becoming aware of the program and are participating in unprecedented numbers.

The Ventura County IMPACT II program is a partnership between the Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA), the Ventura County Office of Education, and the Ventura County Star. IMPACT II is cost effective. The County Education Office funds the day-to-day operation of IMPACT II, so contributions go directly to teachers and classrooms for student projects. IMPACT II puts cutting edge classroom projects into the mainstream, turning students on to learning. IMPACT II enables excellent teaching ideas to reach all teachers in the county, and raises community awareness of exemplary classroom practices. IMPACT II boosts teacher morale by recognizing innovative teaching as well as enhancing teacher professionalism through local/national training and teacher presentations.

**Important Dates**

- **Application Deadline:** Friday, Feb. 21st, 2020: [www.vcoe.org/ImpactII](http://www.vcoe.org/ImpactII)
- **Application Reading and Judging:** Saturday, Mar. 14th, 2020
- **Awards Dinner:** Wednesday, May 6th, 2020
Ventura County Teacher of the Year Program
The Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) invites school districts, charter schools, professional organizations, and private schools countywide to participate in the Ventura County Teachers of the Year Program. This program highlights educational innovation, student learning, and the rewards of teaching. Further, the program attracts public attention to the positive aspects of our educational system. Please help to identify and honor our county's exemplary and highly qualified teacher who will represent our students and schools at the California Teacher of the Year program.

The program's goals are to:
- Identify and honor an exemplary and highly qualified teacher in Ventura County.
- Select one teacher to serve as Ventura County's Teacher of the Year who will effectively represent Ventura County at the California Teacher of the Year Program.
- Focus public attention on the positive accomplishments of Ventura County teachers and students.

Important Dates
- Application Deadline: Friday, April 3rd, 2020: www.vcoe.org/TeacheroftheYear
- Announcement: Month of May 2020 (To Be Determined by Winning District)