

46th Annual NALP National Collegiate Landscape Competition

NC State University March 16 – 19, 2022

Competitive Event Feedback for Students

3D Exterior Landscape Design – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Met client/program requirements or missed no more than 2 of them.
- Met judging criteria for use of 2D & 3D objects and they were displayed properly on the final sheets.
- Created 3D views, annotated properly, or provided a project rationale that articulated design intent.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Manage time effectively to ensure all elements of design intent appear on final sheet.
- Focus on meeting the client/program requirements and ensure the drawing is legible. Include annotations or project rationale.
- Good understanding of hybrid objects so that they appear both on 2D plans and 3D viewings/renderings.

Notes:

I would encourage students and faculty to make use of the Vectorworks University and practice the files shared with them. To do well in this competition, students should expect to spend 2 to 3 months watching tutorials or practicing a few hours a day.

Annual & Perennial Identification – two individuals per school

No feedback received.

Arboriculture Techniques – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Had completed internships in tree care or had hands-on instruction in climbing.
- Differentiated training techniques for different body types. (men & women climb differently)
- Used ascenders to climb the tree to the top first. (Provided by Davey)

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Managing time on climb to optimize point opportunities.
- Practice and compete with the same climbing technique
- Take full advantage of entire time allocation on throw-line competition

Business Management – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Prior experience helped some of the students.
- You can tell the students who studied the terminology before.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Focus on the accounting terminology.
- It was clear what schools spent time helping the kids focus on this test

Compact Excavator Operation – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Scored front edge of hole at the beginning – clean edges
- Got off and measured depth during the dig
- Rolled bucket and bucket tamped the bottom

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Bucket tamping
- Depth control
- Dig to the edges

Compact Track/Skid Steer Loader Operation – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Safety check/walkaround prior to starting
- Knew how to use hydraulic quick coupler
- Smooth operation, not heavy throttle

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Safety checks
- Ensuring RPM is not too high
- Proper feature use

Computer Aided Landscape Design – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Met all client requirements or missed no more than 2
- Labeling to communicate requirements that weren't obvious from just reading the plan
- Made use of graphic features to easily distinguish features proposed (the better the visualized the easier the plan are to read)

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Practice- if a student gets at least one month of regular use in the software (ie 2 hours a day for 20-25 days) they will do well
- Labeling could have taken away the need to guess if we can give the benefit of the doubt
- At least half of client needs were not met

Construction Cost Estimating – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Students that performed well took time to read the plan, followed the suggestions, and took time to convert the quantities

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Make sure to have a plan/process while estimating
- This event should not be your 1st time actually doing a plan "take off"

Notes: The majority of students were able to count the plants/items and multiply that by the selling price to get line item numbers. Unfortunately, nearly everyone failed to measure, and correctly convert the measurement. I give all of the conversion formulas (ie square feet – cubic yards), but people still failed to use the study guide.

Employee Development – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Understood their roles as HR (support) and Manager (decision maker)
- Fully emerged in their roles and weren't afraid to challenge themselves
- Applied study guide materials to their scenarios strategically

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Follow approach of addressing issue, and how to fix
- Don't discuss others in your conversations- focus on the employee in front of you and their development

Exterior Landscape Design – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Listened to client needs
- Provided strong graphics
- Good & creative design

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Identify and address all client needs
- Line weight and finished presentation
- Add strong relationships & creative solutions to design needs

Flower and Foliage Identification – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Studied the list of plants
- Learned correct spellings
- Drilled to improve memorization

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Learning the plants
- Using flash cards to help memorization
- Practicing to help cumulative memorization

Hardscape Installation – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Planned well & had a strategy before the start of the event
- Communicated well and had defined roles throughout
- Attention to details and final cleanup

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- No clear vision of processes- fly by seat of pants
- Many needed to do more prep or practice before event
- Details matter

Interior Landscape Design – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Met all client intentions- scope of work
- Graphics, color, labeling, extra renderings – evaluation drawings
- Classroom/curriculum experience were used and noticeable

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Have prior experience, training, or classroom instruction
- Bring more coloring materials – markers, colored pencils etc.
- Have a better understanding of interior design trends

Interior Plant Identification – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Studied/prepared with live plants
- Were sure to study the provided ID list

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Better understanding on all parts/names of plant ID

Irrigation Assembly – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Were slow and meticulous
- They practiced
- Have had installation workshops

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Lessen time spent doing planning and layout
- Practice
- Actively seek our training on irrigation

Irrigation Design – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Took their time
- Studied the designs on the website
- Overthink the questions

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Study, study, study
- Take their time
- Review study materials available

Irrigation Troubleshooting – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Came well prepared with correct tools
- Had a good understanding of irrigation components
- Understood difference between types of electricity – AC vs. DC

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Understanding how a valve operates
- Understand OHMS readings and how to interpret those readings
- Know differences in pressure regulated irrigation heads

Landscape Lighting – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Quick to action, they got right after the build
- Used tools and products well (familiar)
- Great three-dimensional aptitude skills for problem solving

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Spend less time reading & planning
- Improve technical abilities
- Work to increase overall lighting skills

Landscape Maintenance Operations – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- On time for the assigned time slot
- Well versed on safety and practiced operation on product
- Study all material prior to test

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Study material prior to test
- Should not sign up for the event if not familiar with the product or concept

Landscape Plant Installation – one 3-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Plot layout was spot on, orientation, use of edging
- Tree staking correct per detail
- Cleanliness of install during & after completion

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Orientation to North
- Using all material, i.e edging
- Exact measurements

Maintenance Cost Estimating – two individuals per school

No feedback received.

Mini Track Loader Operation – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Studied their operator's manual
- Took time to move through the course carefully
- Were not jerky on the machine or joystick

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Take time to use and familiarize themselves with the machine ahead of time
- Slowing down. This event is based on accuracy; time is only utilized in the event of a tie.

Plant Problem Diagnosis – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Scored well on questions about study material
- The students really passionate about the event usually score the highest.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Success in our event is based on knowledge, so if students don't have time to study, they won't score well

Robotics and Technology in Landscape Design and Maintenance – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Asked questions in the briefing.
- Made statements of clarification on terms.
- Interested or engaged in robotics.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Making sure wire connections are identified
- Work areas – if separate from main area, need to show path
- Make sure islands are connected

Safety First – two individuals per school (TEST EVENT)

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Accessed the study guide online.
- Huddled together to review the exercise prior to starting.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Utilize the study guide in the days ahead of event.
- Work together as a team to develop strategies
- Look at time management skills

Sales Presentation – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Well organized.
- Had a plan.
- Communicated well and asked questions.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Be prepared; plan in advance.
- Work on selling technique – a design is needed, but sale is the focus of the judges

Small Engine Repair – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Did pre-work studying for exam and engine test
- Asked questions and used time wisely

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- More hands-on experience working on small engines
- More experience with small engine worksheet for troubleshooting/repairs
- Use time effectively

Tractor Loader Backhoe Operation – one individual per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Read the directions on the written exam.
- Displayed confidence and took their time.
- Asked questions in the briefing.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Preparing for written test.
- Don't rush during the operational section
- Review materials given, including study guide and owners manual

Truck & Trailer Operation – one 2-person team per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Good communication during course
- Methodical approach
- Open to receiving feedback

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Come to the briefing and ask questions
- Slowing down

Turf & Weed Identification – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Managed time well

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Do not rush through the event
- Prepared well using the materials provided

Woody Ornamental Plant Identification – two individuals per school

Students/teams that performed well this year did the following:

- Answered every question, even if it was a guess
- Took time to write neatly
- Studied the list! Some students knew the plant(s) but used old nomenclature.

Students/teams that did not perform well this year should focus on these areas of improvement:

- Work to improve horticulture ID experience. There were a number of pretty common plants that they could have gotten .5 points, even if they only knew common name.
- Throw a guess out. Even knowing genus is .5 points.
- Pay attention to the common names on the list; some knew the plant but forgot an element of the common name.