Q: Can I use an existing open source gaming engine, like Source/Steam?

A: Yes. If you do not have to install any additional platform components in addition to your game, you can use freely available gaming engines.

Q: Can I use content/models in my game that are already provided by the gaming engine I select?

A: You can, but please note that entries are graded on originality in many areas, including Art & Animation, Sound, and Game Theory/Play. While you may be using some of the "out of the box" models, textures, and sounds, you could do much better in competition if you produce your own textures, sounds, etc. The new artifacts should be visible via code review, which is another component of the competition (Programming (code)). You would also want to point these out in your submission form and/or code documentation. Specifically, you'll want to denote which items you used out of the box, which ones you modded, and which ones you created from scratch.

Q: I am in 9th grade but my school is a Junior High School, not a High School: can I still participate?

A: Yes. Participation is restricted to students who are in grades 9 through 12 and are part of a High School (or Junior High) that has an active PTSA.

Q: I am in 7th/8th grade but I have a team that is 9th grade and above, can I still participate?

A: Yes. You must be affiliated with a team that has team members of 9th grade or higher, who themselves are in a school with a registered PTA.

Q: I have friends in another school and I want to create a team with them. Can we create a cross-school team?

A: Yes, provided that the bulk of the participants are affiliated with a High School that has an active PTSA, and that that PTSA is the one declared as the PTSA on the submission form.

When completing the form, use the "main" PTSA in the PTSA field (and number), and then for each participant *not* in that PTSA, as part of the Team Member identification in the submission form, include their High School PTSA name and number at the end of their team job title, like so: Mary Roe, 9th grade, Programmer, Discovery High School, N.NN.NNN (for the PTSA #).

Q: I want to form a cross-school group, but one of my friends that we want to invite does not have an active High School PTSA. Can s/he join our team?

A: Yes, provided that your High School (or Junior High in the case of some 9th grade students) has an active PTSA and is the "main" PTSA.

Q: I am a 9th grader in a Junior High and want to include an 8th grade team member, is that possible?

A: Yes. See "I am in 7th/8th grade", above, for rules.

Q: My family member is a game developer, is it OK if s/he helps us with our code?

A: No. All coding, design, artwork, sound, etc. must be done by the team participants only.