



## 2025 International Virtual Science Symposium (IVSS) FAQs

Below are some frequently asked questions related to the 2025 IVSS. Please visit the [IVSS page](#) for more information, including resources for students and educators, scoring guidelines, and more!

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### **Do students have to use data from the GLOBE database in their IVSS projects?**

In celebration of GLOBE's 30th anniversary and to align with the 2025 IVSS theme, "30 Years of GLOBE: Understanding the Past, Present, and Future," we encourage students to access and analyze data from the [GLOBE database](#) as part of their IVSS projects. In order to be eligible for the Earth Day stipend drawing, students must earn the *I am a Data Scientist* badge following the criteria outlined on the [IVSS Badges](#) page, which includes accessing and analyzing past GLOBE data.

### **What if GLOBE data are not available for my area?**

Students can explore data collected by GLOBE community members in different parts of the world or collaborate with GLOBE partners and classrooms in other areas to share and discuss data if GLOBE data for the local area are not available. Students are also encouraged to use other sources of Earth system science data, including local datasets, for comparison to GLOBE data. [Click here](#) to find a GLOBE project collaborator.

### **Do IVSS projects need to include newly collected GLOBE data?**

Students can use past data from the GLOBE database for their IVSS investigations and are not required to collect new data. Comparing newly collected data to data retrieved from GLOBE database is encouraged but not required; we encourage students to participate in the [30 Years of GLOBE Campaign](#) to consider what environmental changes are emerging in their local ecosystems through collecting and analyzing environmental data using GLOBE protocols and data accessed from the GLOBE database.

### **Do data downloaded from the GLOBE database have to encompass 30 years of GLOBE data to earn the *I am a Data Scientist* badge?**

Data analyzed from the GLOBE database can be from any time period and can span any length of time, from days to months to years; students do not have to analyze a full 30-year dataset. The GLOBE database includes more than 250 million data points, providing students with an opportunity to explore GLOBE data on a variety of spatial and temporal scales throughout GLOBE's 30-year history. [Click here](#) to learn more about GLOBE's databases.



### How can primary school students engage with GLOBE data?

Younger students can use the [GLOBE Visualization System](#), guided by educators and mentors, to compare and discuss GLOBE data. [Elementary GLOBE](#) and [My NASA Data](#) include resources and learning activities to stimulate further exploration of the GLOBE Program and NASA Earth science data.

### What are the IVSS project requirements?

IVSS projects must include a written report, presentation, description of the scientific practices that students engaged with to earn various badges, and signed [media release forms](#) for students (from parents/guardians) and adults that appear in photos and videos included in the project. [Click here](#) for more information on the IVSS project requirements.

### How do students submit IVSS projects?

The IVSS project submission period is 1 December 2024–5 March 2025. Student research teams will need to submit required project elements through a submission tool that will be posted on the GLOBE [IVSS page](#) when the submission period opens. Formal and informal educators who sponsor IVSS projects should support students in submitting their projects through their GLOBE Educator accounts, and multiple projects can be submitted through a single GLOBE Educator account. Projects may be submitted through a GLOBE Citizen Science account if a formal or informal educator is not available to sponsor the project. [Click here](#) for more information on GLOBE accounts.

### How do projects qualify for the Earth Day stipend drawing?

Projects that earn the maximum rubric score of four points and earn the “I am a Data Scientist” badge in addition to at least one optional badge will be entered into a stipend drawing that will be held on Earth Day 2025. One project will be selected from each GLOBE region, and two projects will be selected from the North America region. Stipend funds can be used to offset the cost of attending the 2025 GLOBE Annual Meeting Student Experience, to be held in the USA in July 2025. Learn more about [IVSS badges](#) and [how projects are judged](#) by visiting the IVSS section of the website.