The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award for Outstanding Statistics Project

==> Deadline is Friday, May 22, 2026<==

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award for Outstanding Statistics Project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle and high school students to understand the design of statistical studies and their uses. One of the intents of the award is to raise awareness of statistics and reward schoolteachers.

AWARDS

1st Place Awards (Middle School and High School Divisions)

Students	Cash prize of $100 per entry. Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's (WSS) annual dinner, usually held in late June.
Teacher or Advisor	Invitation to the American Statistical Association's (ASA) virtual Meeting Within a Meeting Statistics Workshop on July 30th – 31st. Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner, usually held in late June. A plaque.
School	One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA).

HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award, teachers may contact Brian W. Sloboda at brian.sloboda@faculty.umgc.edu.

Here is available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: What is a Survey? (http://www.whatisasurvey.info/) published by the American Statistical Association.

Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics statistician. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the inflation rate in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.

Submitting a Project

Eligibility: The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area and who have not previously won the award. For students enrolled at a school, a schoolteacher or school advisor needs to oversee the project. For students enrolled in home-based learning, the instructor (parent or tutor) needs to oversee the project.

Rules: Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. The subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately fivepage typed report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the Washington Statistical Society and cannot be returned.

Types of Projects: The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, making comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. Note that science fair projects involving data collection and statistical analysis are often eligible for this competition; students are strongly encouraged to simply submit the associated report for a science fair project as an entry. Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

Steps: The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: (1) define the objectives and the population of interest; (2) determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and/or data collection approach; (3) develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; (4) process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; (5) analyze data and interpret results; and, (6) write a report summarizing the objectives, methodology, and key findings.

Judging: Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Members of the Washington Statistical Society will judge entries.

Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 22, 2026. To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see reverse) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: brian.sloboda@faculty.umgc.edu.
After the submission deadline, an email will be sent confirming our receipt of your submission.

Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award for Outstanding Statistics Project
2025-2026
Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society
and the American Statistical Association

Entry Form
Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: _____

_____

Student name(s) on team: _____

_____

_____

Grade(s): _____

School:

_____

_____

Address:

_____

_____

Student/Parent email address: _____

School Teacher's name overseeing project: _____

Teacher's phone: _____

Teacher's email address: _____

Email the completed form and project to brian.sloboda@faculty.umgc.edu.

Entries must be submitted by the deadline date: Friday May 22, 2026.