

Advisory No. 072, s. 2026

September 30, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.
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INVITATION TO DOST-STII-STARBOOKS WHIZ BEE 2026

The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in collaboration with DOST Region XII, would like to hold the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee, an exciting "Battle of the Brains"-themed quiz competition during the 2026 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) in General Santos City on 25-29 November 2026.

This competition is open to senior high school students from STARBOOKS Offline recipient schools and STARBOOKS Online users in General Santos and Sarangani Provinces.

The STARBOOKS Whiz Bee has two parts:

- (1) an online elimination round scheduled for 20 October 2026 at 9:00 AM via Zoom, and
- (2) on-site semifinal and final rounds on 28 November 2026 at the Gaisano Mall.

Participation of learners and teachers from public and private schools shall be **purely voluntary and will not hamper instructional time** in compliance with the provisions of DepEd Order 9,s.2026 on the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term Calendar and DO 9,s.2005, titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and ensuring compliance therewith. This is also subject to the **no-collection policy** as stated in Section 3 of RA No.5546.

Please find enclosed the Whiz Bee proposal for your reference as well as the required forms for Participants' Registration, School Confirmation, and Parental Consent for interested applicants.

For further inquiries, your staff may coordinate with **Ms. Precious T. Biraquit** through the following contact details: **starbooks@stii.dost.gov.ph (email) and/or 09568711864 (mobile).**



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION INSTITUTE

OneDOST4U: Solutions and Opportunities for All



ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

- A. TITLE** : 2026 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee Competition in Region XII
- B. PROPONENT** : DOST – STARBOOKS
- C. DATE** : Elimination Round – October 15, 2026
Final Rounds – November 25, 2026
- D. VENUE** : General Santos City
- E. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS**: SHS Students and Coaches
- F. RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES**

The 2026 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee – Region XII Edition is proposed as part of the celebration of the 2026 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) on November 25-29, 2026 in General Santos City. The STARBOOKS Whiz Bee is a live, on-site Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) competition open to Senior High School students from STARBOOKS Offline recipient schools and STARBOOKS Online users in General Santos and Sarangani Provinces. This competition will challenge **SHS students** to showcase their **math and science skills**, foster camaraderie, and ignite critical thinking.

Conducting the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee for students aims to:

- *Promote STEM Knowledge*: The STARBOOKS Whiz Bee is a powerful tool for reinforcing STEM subjects and encouraging young learners to comprehend them better.
- *Inspire Future S&T Professionals*: The STARBOOKS Whiz Bee serves as a springboard for kids interested in pursuing STEM careers, motivating the future generation of scientists and inventors.
- *Increase Learning Engagement*: Interactive quiz bees foster an engaging learning environment by encouraging students to actively participate and think critically about the content in STARBOOKS.
- *Promote Healthy Competition*: Friendly competition among students can inspire them to explore and assimilate information, resulting in a more dynamic and interesting educational environment.
- *Boost Confidence*: Successfully participating in and completing the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee can help students gain confidence in their STEM knowledge and foster a good attitude toward learning.
- *Build a Culture of Science*: By incorporating the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee into educational programs, institutions help to develop a culture that appreciates and celebrates science, creating an environment conducive to curiosity, collaboration, and creativity.



G. METHODOLOGY

This activity will host the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee for SHS students from public and private schools in General Santos and Sarangani provinces who use STARBOOKS on either offline or online platforms. In collaboration with DOST XII and DepEd XII, an invitation will be sent to eligible schools to register for the competition.

The competition will consist of three (3) rounds: *Elimination*, *Semi-final*, and *Final Rounds*.

Competition Rounds

1

Elimination Round

- Online (Zoom and Online Quiz Platform)
- Up to 1000 Participants

2

Semi-Final Round

- Venue: TBA
- Top 50 Participants from the Elimination Round

3

Final Round

- Venue: TBA
- Last 5 Participants from the Semi-Final Round

For the **Elimination Round**, participating schools may send up to five (5) Grade 11 or Grade 12 students to compete individually via Zoom. Registered participants will answer questions from the easy, average, and difficult categories on an online platform. It is a time-bound, 30-item S&T quiz that participants may take only once. Only the top 50 participants with the highest scores and the shortest response times will advance to the next round. These participants and their coaches will be invited to a face-to-face final round during the culmination event.





The **Semi-final Round** will be held at Gaisano Mall, Cinema 3, where the 50 contestants will use meta cards to answer 10 quiz questions each in the easy, average, and difficult rounds with the following mechanics.



MECHANICS (Semi-Final Round)

- The quiz masters will ask 30 questions, divided into three categories: easy for 1 point, average for 3 points, and difficult for 5 points. Each category will be answered for 15 seconds, 30 seconds, and 45 seconds, respectively.
- At the start of each question, the contestants must raise their markers to cue readiness.
- The quiz master will state the question number and read the question once. The timer starts after the quizmaster says GO.
- The contestants shall then write their answers on their respective meta cards.
- The buzzer will sound at the end of the time, and the quiz master will announce, "Time's up."
- Each contestant must raise their answer meta cards until instructed by the quiz master to put them down; failing to do so will invalidate their answer.
- The participant shall write the letter of their choice in uppercase. Calculators are not allowed.
- Each row is monitored by a facilitator who will announce the number/s of participants with the correct answer.
- As the facilitator announces the participant's number who answered correctly, the STARBOOKS team will record it on the scoreboard. The score tally or leaderboard will display each participant's real-time score, with the highest scorers at the top.
- The facilitator will collect the answered meta cards and pass them to the STARBOOKS team for double-checking the scores.
- Any form of cheating, such as copying answers from other participants or receiving coaching, is grounds for disqualification.
- At the end of the semi-final round, the **top five contestants** with the highest accumulated points shall qualify for the final round.

CLINCHER ROUND

- In case of tied scores, the contestants will break the tie by answering the question from a random difficulty level.
- The first contestant who gets the correct answer shall move to the next round.
- Another set of clincher rounds will be given for every set of tied scores.

IN CASE OF PROTESTS

- Only the contestant and the coach are allowed to make a protest, which may be indicated by raising a hand.
- All protests must be immediately referred to the Board of Judges after the last item in each round.
- Any protests made after the reading of the first question in the next round will not be considered.
- The decision of the Board of Judges is final and irrevocable. The board will have full control over the competition.



For the **Final Round**, each of the remaining five contestants will have a designated podium with a buzzer, with the following mechanics.



MECHANICS AND GUIDELINES (Final Round)

- The 5 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee finalists will be called on the stage and stand behind the podium buzzer with their school name label. Contestants' scores will reset to zero (0).
- The quiz masters will ask 15 questions, divided into three categories: easy for 1 point, average for 3 points, and difficult for 5 points. Each category will be answered for 15 seconds, 30 seconds, and 45 seconds, respectively. The quiz master will read each question once before the timer starts.
- The first contestant to answer the question will be determined by the buzzer light turning on. The contestant will have 5 seconds to answer using the microphone. If they don't answer within 5 seconds, they forfeit their chance, allowing other contestants to steal.
- Contestants are allowed to click the buzzer and state the answer verbally if they know the answer even before the quiz master finishes reading the question. They will also be given 5 seconds to answer.
- In the event that the judges require clarification on the contestant's answer, the quiz master may request the contestant to write the answer on the provided board.
- For every correct answer, the STARBOOKS team will record it on the scoreboard. The score tally or leaderboard will display each participant's real-time score, with the highest scorers at the top. The contestants' final ranking will be determined by their total points accumulated during the final round.
- In case of a tie in score after the 15 questions, do-or-die questions will be asked for the clincher round only for tied rankings. The first contestant to answer the clincher question correctly will get the higher rank.

H. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

2026 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee Region XII Edition

Activity	Date	Venue
Online Elimination Round	20 Oct 2026	Zoom Meeting
Semi-final and Final Rounds	28 Nov 2026	Cinema 3, Gaisano Mall, General Santos City

I. PROGRAM FLOW

FINAL ROUNDS

- OPENING CEREMONIES
- GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION



- MESSAGES
- READING OF MECHANICS
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZES
- INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES
- STARBOOKS WHIZ BEE SEMI-FINAL ROUND
- SHORT BREAK
- WHIZ BEE FINAL ROUND
- AWARDING OF WINNERS
- CLOSING REMARKS
- ACKNOWLEDGMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. PRIZES AND TOKENS

All top 50 finalists and their coaches will receive a Certificate of Participation and a customized STARBOOKS token. For the Final Round, all winning coaches will receive the following additional prizes:

COACHES:

5 th Place	4 th Place	3 rd Place	2 nd Place	Champion
P1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates	P2,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates	P3,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates	P4,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates	P5,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates

For the top 5 contestants, they will all receive medals, special tokens from Felta Multi-Media, Inc. and the following exciting prizes:

STUDENTS

5 th Place	4 th Place	3 rd Place	2 nd Place	Champion
P1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates P1,000.00 cash from C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions	P2,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates P1,000.00 cash from C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions	P3,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates P1,000.00 cash from C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions Redmi Watch 5 Active from	P4,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates P1,000.00 cash from C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions	P5,000.00 worth of Gift Certificates P1,000.00 cash from C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions



	Redmi Watch 5 Active from Cerebro Solutions, Inc.	Cerebro Solutions, Inc.	Samsung Mobile Phone from Reviv Solutions, Inc.	1 set Honor Pad X8b with Bluetooth Keyboard from Cerebro Solutions, Inc.
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Customized Prizes and Tokens (to be provided by DOST-STII)

Tokens/Prizes	Recipients	Total
Medals	Top 5 Winning contestants	5pcs
Certificates	Top 5 Winning contestants and coaches	10pcs
Gift Certificates	Students • Champion – 5,000.00 • 2nd Placer – 4,000.00 • 3rd Placer – 3,000.00 • 4th Placer – 2,000.00 • 5th Placer - 1,000.00 Coaches • Champion – 5,000.00 • 2nd Placer – 4,000.00 • 3rd Placer – 3,000.00 • 4th Placer – 2,000.00 • 5th Placer - 1,000.00	10 pcs
Customized STARBOOKS Notebook	Participants, Organizers, Partners	130 pcs
Customized STARBOOKS Lanyard	Participants, Organizers, Partners	130 pcs
Customized STARBOOKS T-shirt	Participants, Organizers, Partners	35 pcs

K. EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

The expected participants are as follows:

- Top 50 Participating schools (1 student and 1 coach) = 100pax
- DOST XII Representatives = 15pax
- Proctors/Marshalls = 5pax
- Judges = 5pax
- Quiz Masters = 2pax
- DepEd XII Representatives = 5pax

L. COLLABORATIONS

Collaborator	Particulars
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DepEd XII	• Provide assistance with the endorsement letter for eligible SHS to participate in the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee Competition • May provide STEM experts to serve as one of the judges.
DOST XII	• Assist in securing 5 judges, 2 quiz masters, 5 proctors, and 2 hosts • Assist with the logistics and physical setup of the competition • May provide additional prizes and tokens for the participants
DOST-STII	• Provide STARBOOKS Whiz Bee mechanics, quiz questions, prizes, medals, tokens, and certificates for participants • Provide food (am snacks and lunch) during the competition • Manage event execution and documentation. • Provide a leaderboard for real-time scoring.

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