

Portola Valley School District

2025 ROPES CHALLENGES

The ROPES Challenges are designed to encourage students to demonstrate their ability to be learners in the 21st century and encourage students to explore, demonstrate creativity, use higher order thinking skills and contribute to society in a meaningful way.

1. Creativity/Appreciation of the Arts

This challenge encourages the candidate to explore, cultivate and express creativity. Art comes in different forms. It can be visual (something that you look at) and it can be performed (something that you do). Examples include: Design, Cooking/Baking, visiting museums and comparing and contrasting the various exhibits. You can also choose to learn about a specific artist, composer or to perform certain types of dance or music or design a music video or set a story or poem to music.

2. Innovation/Invention

This challenge involves exploring one's curiosity to formulate a question or problem of personal importance and to pursue an answer or solution. Candidates will learn the knowledge and skills necessary to produce a useful product. An example might be to create an invention or develop a blueprint for an invention. Explain why this is necessary and whether its creation is for present or future use and the reasons for its necessity.

3. Adventure/Personal Challenge

This challenge involves exploring the candidate's courage, endurance or skill in a selected physical pursuit. This can be learning a new skill or pushing yourself to the next level in a physical pursuit you currently participate in. Examples include: planning a family hiking trip, preparing for a long-distance bike race or run, taking a class in rock climbing. Your project must illustrate what your personal challenge was and how you trained to complete the challenge.

4. Service/Advocacy

This challenge will have you identify a societal need for assistance and provide it; to express caring without expectation of reward. You are encouraged to research existing community organizations to learn what services they offer to those who access their assistance and how private citizens may support their efforts. While raising money for a cause or organization is a noble endeavor, the primary goal of this challenge should not be fund-raising.

5. Personal Reflections: "Where I've Been, Where I'm Going" (8th graders only)

It is important to understand the past and its influence on the future. This challenge asks you to demonstrate an understanding of the years spent in grades (T)K-8 and to reflect on how your experiences will influence your future. This ROPE has three major components:

1. Interviewing other eighth grade students regarding their school experiences to date and comparing and contrasting their answers. Topics can include: significant events, emotions, achievements, etc.
2. Preparation and presentation of a promotion speech on the topic, "Reflections on My School Years Thus Far".
3. Completion of a visual such as a scrapbook, video or slide show which illustrates key events in your (T)K-8 years.

Your oral and visual presentation of your reflections should be coupled with a personal vision of the future.