



## 2021 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

*Established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014, the Congressional App Challenge encourages students to create and submit their own app for the opportunity to receive national recognition. Students may participate as individuals or in teams of up to four. Winners may be eligible to have their app featured on a display in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., and will be honored by their Member of Congress.*

### **Student Eligibility**

- Students are only eligible to compete in districts that have signed up for the Challenge.
- Students may only compete in a single district.
- Students may only submit one application.
- Students may compete in either:
  - The district in which they reside, or
  - The district in which they attend school.
- Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four.
  - If competing as a team: at least 50% of the teammates must be eligible to compete in the district in which they are submitting their app.
- Middle school and high school students are eligible. Students may not participate after having graduated high school.
- The Challenge is subject to all applicable United States federal laws and regulations. Participation constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to the Official Rules.

The registration and "Submission Period" starts at 12:00 PM (noon) Eastern Time ("ET"), June 24, 2021. Try to register before September 30, 2021 (registration indicates your intent to compete). The deadline to submit the app is 12:00 PM ET, November 1, 2021. (If competing as a team, all members of the team must submit their information on the registration form to participate.)

## **Submission Requirements**

**A complete submission will include the following components:**

1. **Registration Form** (found on [congressionalappchallenge.us](http://congressionalappchallenge.us))
2. **Application Elements**
  - a. Name of your app
  - b. The coding language used to create the app
  - c. Purpose: Explain your app's purpose in ONE sentence
  - d. Inspiration: What inspired you to create this app?
  - e. Tell us about a technical/coding difficulty you faced in programming your app, and explain your solution.
  - f. What still needs to be improved about your app?
3. **Demonstration Video**
  - a. Students must create a 1-3 minute video, showcasing what your app does and how it works.
  - b. The video must be uploaded onto a public site like Youtube or Vimeo, and set to public so the judges can view them.
  - c. Video Requirements:
    - i. Tell us your name(s) and the name of your app.
    - ii. Clearly explain the purpose of your app.
    - iii. Explain who your app is intended for.
    - iv. Tell us what tools and coding languages you used to create your app.
    - v. Show us how your app is used. This constitutes the entrant's full and unconditional agreement to the Official Rules.
  - d. **Exit Questionnaire**
    - i. A mandatory and anonymous exit questionnaire will be e- mailed to all students after the submission period closes.

Visit [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](http://CongressionalAppChallenge.us) to register and get more details on how to submit your entry. If competing as a team, all members of the team must submit their information on the registration form to participate. Students may submit apps they created prior to the Challenge, as long as their apps meet the standards of eligibility, and were created within one year of the submission deadline (e.g., any time after October 20, 2020).

*If you have questions, please contact Rieder Grunseth in Congresswoman Fischbach's office at (202) 225-2165.*



# CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2021

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

#### ABOUT US:

The Congressional App Challenge (CAC) is a public effort to encourage kids to learn how to code, through annual district-wide competitions hosted by Members of Congress for their district.

#### E-MAIL:

studentsupport  
@congressionalappchallenge  
.us

#### WEBSITE:

<http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/>

### 1. REGISTER

Starting Monday, June 24th, 2021, you can register at [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](http://CongressionalAppChallenge.us). The Challenge will run until November 1st, 2021.

### 2. THINK OF AN APP YOU'D LIKE TO CREATE

Do you want to create a game? Do you want to create an app to solve a problem? There is no limit to what you can create for the Congressional App Challenge.

### 3. DESIGN YOUR APP

What will your app look like? What does it need to accomplish?

### 4. CREATE YOUR APP

You can work on your own, or as part of a team of up to four students. Find resources to help you on our website [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](http://CongressionalAppChallenge.us)

### 5. SUBMIT!

Submit your app anytime before November 1st. Winners will be announced in December.





# 2021 CAC RULES

## 1. Eligibility

- **AGE:** Students must be in middle school or high school on November 1st, 2021.
- **LOCATION:** Students are only allowed to compete in a Congressional District which is hosting an App Challenge. Students may compete in either the district in which they reside, or the district in which they attend school. Participants may compete only in one single district.
- **TEAMS:** Students can compete as individuals, or in teams of up to four (4) students.
  - Any team with more than four (4) students is not eligible to compete.
  - At least *half* of teammates on any team must live or attend school in **the same Congressional District**.
- **PRIOR PROJECTS:** Students may submit any app they've created after October 19th, 2020.
- **ONE ENTRY PER PERSON PER YEAR:** Students may only submit ONE app per year. Multiple entries across multiple teams is not allowed.

## 2. Online Registration

To register as an **individual**, students need:

- a personal email address that is not their school email account
- home's 9-digit zip code, Congressional District, and Member of Congress
- school's 9-digit zip code, Congressional District, and Member of Congress
- A parent or guardian's contact information (name and email address).
- Name and email of student's coding teacher or mentor (optional)

To register as a **team**, you'll need:

- The above information for *each* team member.
- One team may participate ONCE as a group.

## 3. App Parameters

- **TOPIC:** The app can be about any topic.



- **PLATFORM:** The app can be on any platform (web app, desktop/PC app, a web browser extension, robot, Ruby on Rails, mobile, etc).
- **PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE:** Use any programming language: C/C++, Objective C, C#, Java, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, PHP, Swift, “block code”, etc.
- **FUNCTIONALITY:** The app must have some degree of functionality to be competitive.
- **CONTENT SUITABILITY:** The app *cannot* be indecent, defamatory, in obvious bad taste, demonstrate a lack of respect for public morals or conduct, adversely affect the reputation of Congressional districts, or depict hatred, defame, or threaten a specific community in the society or incite violence. Contain pornography, obscenity or sexual activity are prohibited. The app must not violate the Intellectual Property, common law or privacy rights of other parties.
- **ORIGINALITY:** The app must be original and solely owned by the Contestant such that no other party has any rights or interest, whether known or unknown.

## 4. Online Submission

Consult the Submission Checklist for guidance. After the Submission Period has ended, the Submission cannot be modified in any way.

Students can register for the 2021 Congressional App Challenge at [congressionalappchallenge.us](https://congressionalappchallenge.us). If competing as a team, one teammate should create the team profile, which will allow for that user to invite up to three other team members to edit the application. Students will need to complete a personal profile and eligibility quiz. If the team is eligible, they will receive an email allowing them to proceed with their application. The application is made up of a number of questions regarding their app. The most critical component is the demonstration video, which is detailed below.

### DEMONSTRATION VIDEO (max 3 min)

Students must create a demonstration video with the following information:

- The name(s) of each participant
- The name of the app
- Clearly explain the purpose of the app (Students should do this in one, clear sentence)
- Explain the app’s target audience (who the app is intended for?)
- The tools and coding languages used to create the app
- Show how the app works

The video should be 1-3 minutes long. Video submissions which do not adhere to the time constraints may be penalized by the judges at their discretion. **This is not a video-creation competition.** However, the judges view the demonstration video to learn about the app. The video should be as clear and compelling as possible.



Upload the completed video to YouTube, Vimeo, or any other video-hosting site. **The video must be set to “public”.**

## QUESTIONS

In addition to the demonstration video, the team will need to answer a series of questions similar to the following:

1. What is the title of your app?
2. Explain the app’s purpose in one sentence.
3. Short Description: What inspired you to create this app?
4. Short Description: What is your app trying to accomplish?
5. What technical/coding difficulty did you faced in programming your app, and how did you address this technical challenge?

## 5. Deadline

The Congressional App Challenge will accept submissions from June 1 – November 1:

**12:00 pm EDT, Monday, November 1st, 2021.**

## 6. Exit Questionnaire

Once the deadline passes, students will receive a link to the Exit Questionnaire. The data helps us improve the Congressional App Challenge.

**Teams:** ALL MEMBERS of your team must complete the Exit Questionnaire individually. Teammates can use the same link, but must complete the form individually.

## 7. Winner Selection

1. Demonstration Videos and Submission Answers will be reviewed and evaluated by District Judges.
2. Awards will be judged based on the following criteria:
  - a. Quality of the idea (including creativity and originality)
  - b. Implementation of the idea (including user experience and design)



- c. Demonstrated excellence of coding and programming skills.
3. The Judges have the right to request access to the App and source code in person or via any reasonable manner to verify that the App functions and operates as stated in the Submission Form. Failure by a Contestant to honor such a request will result in the Submission's immediate disqualification.
4. District Staff reserve the right to substitute or modify the judging panel at any time for any reason. Judges do have the right to withdrawal without advance notice in the event of extenuating circumstances beyond their control. Judges will be fair and impartial. A judge may elect to recuse him or herself from judging a Submission, if in the judge's sole discretion it is not appropriate for him or her to judge that particular Submission because of a past or current relationship with that particular Contestant. A Submission will not be at a disadvantage if one or more judge recuses himself or herself.
5. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible Submissions received and the quality of the Submissions.

## 8. Prizes

1. The winning app in each district will be featured on the House.gov website and the CongressionalAppChallenge.us website.
2. The Program Administrator (the Internet Education Foundation) may distribute additional prizes equally to all participating Congressional Districts.
3. Each district may provide prizes to district winners. A Member of Congress' office may provide authorized gifts or awards of nominal value as part of the app competition. Gifts authorized by the Members of Congress' Handbook include certificates, folders, and frames of a nominal value.

## 9. Entry Conditions and Release

By entering, participants agree to the following conditions and release:

Each Contestant agrees to comply with and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Administrators, and/or the Competition judges which are binding and final in all matters relating to this Competition.

## 10. Publicity and Intellectual Property

Except where prohibited, participation in the Competition constitutes participant' consent to Administrators' and their agents' use of winner's name, likeness, photograph,



voice, opinions and/or hometown and state for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration.

Contestants will own the intellectual property rights to their Submission, but will grant to Congress and the Administrator a royalty free license, without limitation, to:

- Post the Submissions online;
- Make the Winners available for the course of the Competition and 1 months after the conclusion of the Competition Submission Period; and
- Utilize the Submissions for noncommercial purposes after the conclusion of the Competition Submission Period.

## 11. General Conditions

1. Administrators reserve the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Competition, or any part of it, if any fraud, technical failures or any other factor beyond Administrator's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the Competition, as determined by Administrators in their sole discretion. Administrators reserve the right in their sole discretion to disqualify any individual or Competitor they find to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Competition or to be acting in violation of these Official Rules or any other promotion or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner.
2. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, Administrators reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Administrators' failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

## 12. Limitations of Liability

The Administrators are not responsible for:

1. Any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrants, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Competition;
2. Technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software;
3. Unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Competition;
4. Technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Competition or the processing of entries; or
5. Any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from entrant's participation in the Competition or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.





If for any reason an entrant's Submission is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost, or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, entrant's sole remedy is to provide another Submission.

## **13. Privacy**

Administrators collect personal information from you when you enter the Competition.

The information collected is subject to the privacy policies located at <http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/privacy-policy/> and <https://www.house.gov/privacy-policy>

### **Competition Results**

For results of the competition check CongressionalAppChallenge.us during Computer Science Education Week, or thereafter.

## **14. Administrators**

The Internet Education Foundation, 1140 G St NW, Washington, DC, 20005