

Congressional App Challenge Information Session

May 25th, 2021

The session will begin at 3:05 PM EST.

Before we start, be sure to:

1. Confirm your audio is working

If you have questions, please ask them through the Q&A panel.



The Congressional App Challenge is
made possible with support from



Meet The Team

The Staffers Who Are Here To Help You Host Your App Challenge



Joseph Alessi: Program Director

jalessi@congressionalappchallenge.us

Jack West: Congressional Operations Coordinator

jwest@congressionalappchallenge.us

Tim Lordan: IEF Executive Director

tlordan@neted.org

2021 Congressional App Challenge First Information Session

The Congressional App Challenge is made possible with support from



May 25th, 2021

Agenda

- ❑ About the Congressional App Challenge
- ❑ Logistics & Communications
- ❑ Student Entries
- ❑ Recruitment
- ❑ Managing Your Applicants
- ❑ Registration
- ❑ Final Notes, Sponsorships, and Q&A



About the Congressional App Challenge

A congressional initiative to encourage middle and high school students to pursue an interest in STEM and computer science.



The Goal



Inspire



To inspire students from every corner of the country to explore STEM, coding, and computer science through hands on practice.



Include



Include and engage students from communities that are traditionally underrepresented in tech.



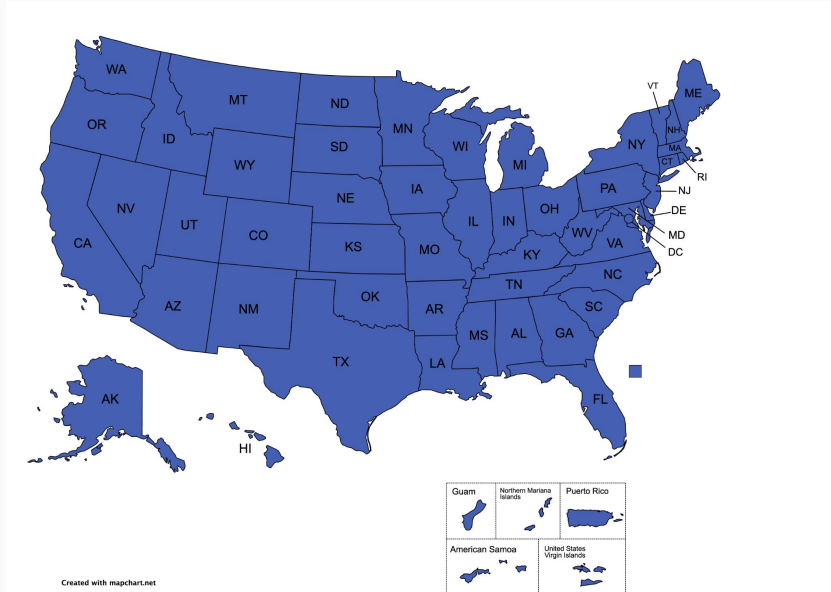
Innovate



To innovate policymaking by connecting Members of Congress to new and emerging technologies through personal interactions with their student constituents.



The 2021 Congressional App Challenge



2021 CAC Goals

- ❑ **350** participating Congressional Districts
- ❑ **50 of 50** states and all U.S. territories with a seat in Congress hosting at least one App Challenge
- ❑ **Over 15,000** students participating in the Challenge



Guest Speaker - Aaron Osmond

Workforce Transformation Leader - Worldwide
Public Sector
Amazon Web Services (AWS)



Logistics & Communications



What We Do

- ❑ Set program rules
- ❑ Collect student applications
- ❑ Coordinate districts
- ❑ Train Congressional Staff
- ❑ National marketing
- ❑ Plan #HouseOfCode



What You Do

- ❑ District marketing
- ❑ Review applications
- ❑ Appoint judges
- ❑ Announce winner
- ❑ Welcome #HouseOfCode

Timeline

- ❑ **April 14th:** Member Office Sign Up Began
- ❑ **June 24th:** Student Registration Opens - With Approval from the Committee on House Administration
- ❑ **August 1st:** Final Day For Offices To Register
- ❑ **November 1st:** Student Applications Close
- ❑ **December 1st:** Offices Must Submit Winners
- ❑ **December 31st:** Deadline to Announce Winners



General Rules



Students must either be in Middle School or High School.

Students can participate in up to teams of four.

For teams, 50% of the students *must either* live or go to school in the district.

For solo students, the student *must either* live or go to school in the district.

Students have until November 1st to submit their apps.

Apps can be coded on any platform, using any programming language, on any topic.

CAC Resources

You can find the CAC Toolkit, event case studies, promotional flyers, and program graphics on our website.



App Alerts

Every week, the CAC sends out an “App Alert” email to each primary POC with important reminders and App Challenge updates.



Monthly Calls



Please make sure that you are checking your emails from the CAC Team.

We will send you updates for our upcoming monthly calls shortly. The first call will be in June and will take place on the third week of every month.

These are usually held the third week of each month. The CAC sends out minutes from the call afterwards.

Student Submissions



Steps to Submitting



RULES AND GUIDELINES

HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. REGISTER

Starting Monday, June 24th, 2021, you can register at 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

5. SUBMIT!

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



Submission Videos



Recruitment



Guest Speaker

Sara Arsovska from the office of
Rep. Colin Allred (TX-32-D)

Tips on Student Recruitment



Start With Social Media

Make sure to post updates about your district's challenge on social media.

Use the hashtag #Congress4CS or tagging us using @CongressionalAC.

Utilize all social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram).



Social Media Examples

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi @Congress... · Oct 15, 2020

Reminder: **The deadline to register and submit your app for the 2020 Congressional App Challenge is October 19th.** I look forward to seeing all the wonderful submissions you can come up with! **#AppChallenge**

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2020
RULES AND GUIDELINES

HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1. REGISTER**
Starting Monday, June 1st, 2020, you can register at CongressionalAppChallenge.us. Register by September 10th, 2020 for early incentives.
- 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
- 5. SUBMIT!**

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:
student@support@congressionalappchallenge.us

WEBSITE:
https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2020
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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:
 - a. The district in which they reside, or
 - b. 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 team members 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.

WHEN CAN STUDENTS ENTER THE CHALLENGE?
The registration and "submission period" starts at 12:00 PM (noon) Eastern Time (ET) June 1st, 2020. Try to register before September 10th, 2020 registration indicates your intent to compete. The deadline to submit the app is 12:00 PM ET, October 19th, 2020. If competing as a team all members of the team must submit their information on the registration form to participate.

HOW DO STUDENTS ENTER THEIR APP?
Visit 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.

NOTE:
Students may submit apps they created prior to the Challenge, as long as their apps meet the standards of eligibility, and were

Submission Requirements:
A complete submission will include the following components:
1. Registration Form (found on congressionalappchallenge.us)
2. Application Elements:

- Name of your app
- The coding language used to create the app
- Purpose: Explain your app's purpose in ONE sentence
- Short Description: What is your app trying to accomplish and why?
- Tell us about a technical/coding difficulty you faced in programming your app, and explain your solution.
- What still needs to be improved about your app?

- Demonstration Video:
- Students must create a 1-3 minute video, showing what your app does and how it works.
- The video must be uploaded onto a public site like YouTube or Vimeo, and set to public so the judges can view them.
- Video Requirements:
- Tell us your name(s) and the name of your app.
- Clearly explain the purpose of your app.
- Explain why your app is intended for...
- Tell us what both coding languages you used to create your app.
- Show how your app is used. This constitutes the entrant's full and unconditional agreement to the Official Rules.
- Exit Questionnaire:
A mandatory and anonymous exit questionnaire will be emailed to all students after the submission period closes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Established by the United States House of Representatives in 2014, this competition 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.

Social Media Best Practices

Social Media Examples

Post Interactive Social Media Posts

- This includes the “Swipe Up” feature on Instagram.
- Link Tweets to the App Challenge website.

Post at Opportune Times for Students to Register

- Post at the start of competition, beginning of the school year, and two weeks before the competition closes.



Leverage Local News

Remember, this is your district's App Challenge. Be sure to leverage local press, television, and radio to get the word out about the competition.

Local TV affiliates, newspapers, online forums, and radio stations have covered the App Challenge previously.



Contacting Schools in Your District

75% of Congressional App Challengers learn about the challenge at school.

This summer reach out to computer science/STEM teachers to integrate the App Challenge into their curriculum.

Teachers can make the CAC extra credit, offer it as a learning experience, or simply advertise it.



Coding Clubs and Afterschool Programs

This summer reach out to local afterschool programs, coding/computer science camps, and educational initiatives in your district about the CAC.

Local libraries and nonprofit organizations are excellent ways to get in contact with students.



CAC Partners




NewTech Network



Consult our list of official Congressional App Challenge Partners to see if any are operating in your district!

Host A Hackathon!

A Hackathon is a competitive event where students collaborate with their peers and attend workshops in order to develop and showcase their programming projects.



UW Bothell, Beardslee Building, Bothell, [Bothell](#)

From Oct 13th 2018
To Oct 14th 2018

Winning app displayed in US Capitol Building

THE CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE - APPATHON
Organized by [The Office of Congresswoman Suzan DelBene](#)

NON-PROFIT INDUSTRY

CAC Key Stakeholder Outreach

New to the App Challenge this Year:

Provide the CAC with the email address of a school administrator, nonprofit, or STEM teacher and we will include them on a monthly email similar to the App Alert.

This will help with student recruitment and engagement within the district.



Member Website

Make sure that your website is up to date and includes the Congressional App Challenge as a tab.

Most include it under the “Services” tab on their website.

Be sure to link to the App Challenge website and include contact information for the CAC.



Congressional App Challenge

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren is excited to announce that her office is participating in the 2020 Congressional App Challenge! To register, [click here](#).

Important Dates

- April 1 – Student pre-registration opens
- June 1 – Challenge officially launches
- October 19 – Deadline for students to register and submit their app online
- November – Judging period
- December – Winners announced!

More details on submitting a contest entry, the rules of the competition, and programming resources can be found at [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](#).

About the 2020 Congressional App Challenge

The Congressional App Challenge is an annual Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academic Competition designed to engage students' creativity and encourage their participation in STEM education fields. The competition was established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2013, and the pilot competition ran in 2014.

Criteria

The Congressional App Challenge is open to middle school and high school students who live or are eligible to attend a middle or high school located in the 19th Congressional District. Students may register as individuals or a team with up to four members. If competing as a team, at least two of the members must be eligible to compete in the 19th Congressional district.

Documents

Xin Chào

¡Bienvenidos!

Related Content

[Services](#)

Managing Your Applicants



District Information Sheet

CAC 19 - District Information (Abby Finkenauer, IA-01)

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was made on June 11 by Iris Vold

100% 123 Arial

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
IMPORTANT! This doc includes sensitive student information, and should never be shared with anyone who does not need access to it.				Other Resources							
How to use your District Information Sheet (DIS)				Website: http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us							
Tab 1. Students Registered				Contact: bbibbe@congressionalappchallenge.us							
On this tab: All the eligible students registered to participate in your district, their contact information, and their parent's contact information.				Conference Call Number: 1-866-228-9900 PW: 619-962							
Use this to: Monitor registrations and check in with the students throughout the competition.				App Review Portal: https://webportal.aac.com/portal/welcome/congressional							
Notes: As students begin submitting apps, EF will update this tab to include the names of the apps the students submitted. Student registration is not a guarantee students will ultimately submit an app.				Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CongressionalAppChallenge							
				Twitter: @CongressionalAC							
				Instagram: @congressionalappchallenge							
Tab 2. Student Submissions											
On this tab: This tab contains information on how to access your district's custom review portal.											
Use this to: Monitor how many submissions you've received and review applications.											
Notes: Do not share this login, as constituents personal information is stored here.											
Tab 3. Judges' Information											

1. Instructions 2. Review Portal 3. 2019 Judges 4. Cont. Screenshot Schools

This Summer Every District Will Receive a DIS

You can use your DIS to:

- Find Your Review Portal
- Locate District Resources
- Appoint Judges
- A Hub For Administrative Needs



Student Submission Portal



To consolidate the submissions into one place, all student submissions will be received through our online portal.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

Sign In/Sign Up Instructions

For New Users:
Please enter your email address and we will verify if you are in our system. If your email is part of our system, a confirmation will be sent to that address. If your email is not in our system or you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact ca@congressionalappchallenge.us.
Upon confirmation of your email, you will be taken to the Sign Up screen where you can choose a password to create an account. Your password must be at least 8 characters in length. Once you have chosen your password, your account will be created and you will gain access to the portal.

Welcome!

To get this process started, new and returning users please enter your email address below.

Email

Already have a confirmation code?

For Returning Users:
Please enter your email address to the right, and we will verify if you are in our system. When found, you can enter your password and then gain access to the portal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ca@congressionalappchallenge.us. Thank you!

Student Submission Requirements



Students will be required to submit all of these items to be considered eligible to be judged for the 2021 Congressional App Challenge:

- A Video Demonstrating the App
- A Short Summary of the App
- Inspiration for the App
- Coding Language Used
- Technical Difficulties Encountered
- Improvements in Version 2.0 of App
- Contact Information

Judges

Congressional offices can select judges to evaluate local submissions. The CAC can assist your office in recruiting judges if needed.

Please reach out if your office will need assistance in judging the 2021 App Challenge. Judges should be reported by October 18th.



Guest Speaker - Hansel Lynn from theCoderSchool

How theCoderSchool can help judge your district's App Challenge



hansel@thecoderschool.com



Winners



Winner Announcement

After the judging period, please contact all of the participants in your district to alert them of the results.

The CAC will only honor one winning team with prizes. The CAC will distribute prizes. Offices are welcome to honor all participants.

Prizes include: honored at #HouseOfCode, App displayed in Capitol for one year, and additional prizes (TBA).



Winner Announcement

In December, offices are welcome to post on social media, issue a press release, and publicly announce their winner.

The winner will be invited to #HouseOfCode 2022 by the CAC staff. #HouseOfCode will be in Spring 2022.



Let's Get Your Office Registered!



Sign Up Process

If you haven't registered your office yet for the 2021 CAC, you can do so now! Please check the chat or email Jack West.

You'll need the name of three points of contact from your office. You'll also need to fill out an Ethics Waiver. The email to submit the waiver to is at the bottom of the registration form.



2021 CAC Congressional Office Sign Up

Filling out this form indicates that your Office will host a 2021 Congressional App Challenge, to be held from Early June - November 1 2021, upon formal approval from the Committee on House Administration.

Eligible middle and high school students may only compete a district that is hosting a Challenge. Completion of the form does not guarantee that your district competition will receive student submissions, but it is required to allow students in a district to participate.

After you fill out this form, if you want to make changes, please email jwest@congressionalappchallenge.us. DO NOT fill out the entire form again as this creates duplicate submissions.

For more information, please see our website (www.CongressionalAppChallenge.us) or contact Jack West, Congressional Operations Coordinator at jwest@congressionalappchallenge.us.

* Required

Email *

Your email

Final Notes, Sponsors, and Q&A



Identifying Sponsors



The Congressional App Challenge is made possible through private-sector funding, and we need your help to make sure the program remains viable. If you know of a company in your district that would be interested in sponsoring the CAC, please let us know!

Thank You To Our 2021 Sponsors



STEM Education Policy Forum



The Congressional App Challenge will be hosting a policy forum in the near future on STEM Education funding in the 117th Congress.

The panel will feature prominent members of Congress across both sides of the Aisle.

If you're interested in attending, please keep an eye out for more information in the App Alerts as well as on the CAC website/social media.

Interviews

On the sign-up form, there was an option to interview with the CAC staff regarding your outreach efforts and the CAC as a whole.

If you marked that you were interested, the CAC Staff will reach out in the summer with more information on the interviews.



Follow Us On Social Media

Instagram: [@congressionalappchallenge](#)

Facebook: [The Congressional App Challenge](#)

Twitter: [@CongressionalAC](#)



Thank You For Participating In the 2021 Congressional App Challenge

Please contact Jack West with questions or if you'd like to set up a personal consultation!

jwest@congressionalappchallenge.us



Questions?

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