

# About the Congressional App Challenge

In 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Internet Education Foundation sought to foster an appreciation for computer science and STEM. Through House Resolution 77, the **Congressional App Challenge (CAC)**, a nationwide coding competition to encourage middle and high school students to pursue careers in tech, was created. Every year, Members of Congress challenge students in their districts to create and submit original apps for a chance to win the **CAC**, and announce a single winning application per district.

The Congressional App Challenge is conducting a Rural Outreach Initiative to ensure that students from the American Heartland have an equal opportunity to have their innovative ideas reviewed by Congress while learning skills that can serve their communities for years to come.

Even in predominantly rural areas, such as those classified as "Pure Rural," a significant 78% of districts are participating in the challenge in 2023, indicating widespread engagement beyond urban centers.



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION HERE



## Contact & Follow Us

 [studentsupport@neted.org](mailto:studentsupport@neted.org)

 [@congressionalappchallenge](https://www.instagram.com/congressionalappchallenge)

## Visit Our Website

 [congressionalappchallenge.us](https://congressionalappchallenge.us)



# Rural Outreach Initiative



# Why should rural students get involved with the Challenge?

## Learning Valuable Skills

**Programming and Coding Skills:** Rural students can learn programming languages like Python or JavaScript, which are foundational for creating apps addressing local challenges such as agricultural management or healthcare access.

**Creativity and Innovation:** By nurturing creativity, rural students can innovate with apps that promote local tourism, support small businesses, or encourage sustainable practices, positively impacting their community's economic and environmental landscape.

**Digital Literacy and Technology Skills:** Strengthening digital literacy empowers rural communities to embrace technological advancements, facilitating access to healthcare information, educational resources, and economic opportunities.

## Solving Local Issues

Students can create apps on any topic, and 66% of App Challenge apps focus on social good and community engagement. Here are some ideas for local issues students can solve through the Congressional App Challenge

**Addressing Local Agricultural Needs:** A student from a farming community could develop an app that helps farmers track crop growth, manage irrigation schedules based on local weather data, or connect with buyers and sellers in nearby markets. This app could significantly improve efficiency and productivity in local agriculture.

**Improving Access to Healthcare:** In remote rural areas with limited access to healthcare facilities, a student might create an app that provides telemedicine services, connects patients with local healthcare providers or pharmacies, or educates residents on preventive healthcare measures tailored to rural living.

**Community Engagement and Communication:** A student could design an app to facilitate communication among community members, organize local events, share emergency alerts, or connect residents with local government officials to voice concerns and suggestions.

**Enhancing Education:** Students from rural schools might design an app to facilitate distance learning, provide resources for studying local history or ecology, or create interactive tools for learning STEM subjects that align with the specific challenges and interests of rural students.

## How to Participate?

### 1. REGISTER

Starting Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, you can register at [CongressionalAppChallenge.us](https://CongressionalAppChallenge.us). The Challenge will run until October 24th, 2024

### 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

### 5. SUBMIT!

Submit your app anytime before October 24th. Winners will be announced in December

## Rural District 2023 Winner Highlights

### AI Corn Disease Detector



"My app takes pictures of corn from a file uploaded by the user, and uses a machine learning algorithm to decide if the corn in the images is healthy or has a disease."

District NE01 winners Adam Khattak