

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2026

Empower Your Students to Code for Congress



WHAT IS THE CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE?

The Congressional App Challenge is the official student STEM competition of the U.S. House of Representatives. It's an annual nationwide competition hosted by Members of Congress designed to inspire middle and high school students to explore STEM fields.



WHY SHOULD I GET MY STUDENTS INVOLVED?

Incorporating the Congressional App Challenge into your curriculum is a simple and impactful way to inspire middle and high school students, encourage hands-on STEM learning, and connect them to their elected representatives. Students can participate individually or in teams of up to four, making it easy to adapt to any classroom or program setting.

ANY APP. ANY PLATFORM. ANY CODING LANGUAGE.

Examples of eligible apps include:

- Mobile apps
- Desktop applications
- Wearable tech apps
- Web-based tools or platforms
- Programmed robotics projects
- Chatbots or voice assistants
- Games with coded logic
- AI or machine learning models



BRING THE CHALLENGE TO YOUR CLASSROOM

- **Submit Existing Projects:** Have students submit coding projects they're already working on. Any app coded after October 30, 2025 is eligible!
- **Create a New Assignment:** Assign a project specifically for the Challenge, encouraging students to solve a real-world problem and present their app to their Member of Congress.
- **Offer Extra Credit:** For a lighter lift, offer the Challenge as an extra credit opportunity for motivated students.



READY TO TAKE THE CHALLENGE?

Visit CongressionalAppChallenge.us to register, learn more, and explore past winners.

The **Deadline** to submit your app is October 26, 2026

Questions? Email us at: StudentSupport@CongressionalAppChallenge.us

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2026

Code for Congress. Change the World.



REAL STUDENTS. REAL PROJECTS. REAL IMPACT



ShelterSearch

CA-12 | 2024 Winner

ShelterSearch is a web app that uses a shelter database, a recommendation algorithm, OpenAI language models, and geocoding APIs to deliver personalized, trauma-informed shelter recommendations and action plans to unhoused youth, with automated SMS follow-up for easy access.



Citrus AI

FL-17 | 2024 Winner

Citrus AI combines educational resources with an AI-powered tool that uses a neural network to analyze images of citrus leaves or fruit, detecting and identifying three major diseases with over 95 percent accuracy to help Florida growers protect their crops and livelihoods.



RoadSafe

DE-00 | 2024 Winner

RoadSafe is a mobile app that leverages AI-driven computer vision, speech recognition, and GPS to monitor drivers in real time, detecting drowsiness, distraction, and speeding, and providing timely alerts to help prevent accidents and make roads safer for everyone.



Tiny Thinkers

MN-06 | 2024 Winner

Tiny Thinkers is a mobile app that helps children with autism build social and emotional skills through interactive lessons, videos, quizzes, and progress tracking, providing an accessible, supportive resource for families on their developmental journey.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE BY THE NUMBERS

84,774

App Challenge Alumni

25,120

Apps Created Since 2015

+91%

Alumni Interested in STEM Careers

93%

of the 118 Congress Hosted an App Challenge

+50%

of 2025 Students from Underserved Backgrounds

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Challenge inspires students to pursue STEM. Nearly 91% considering STEM careers after competing and 86% recommending it to friends. More than 89% of former participants go on to study STEM fields in college. It also broadens access to tech, with over half of participants coming from underrepresented groups in the Silicon Valley workforce.

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND FREE CODING RESOURCES



NATIONWIDE REACH. REMARKABLY BIPARTISAN.

The Congressional App Challenge is one of the most bipartisan initiatives in Congress, with overwhelming majorities of both parties coming together to support students and STEM education. In 2025, 394 Members of Congress hosted the Challenge — representing over 90% of districts across all 50 states and beyond. During the 118th Congress, 412 congressional offices hosted at least one Challenge. Student participation continues to grow: in 2025, 13,830 students registered, submitting a record 4,650 fully functioning apps.