

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0909

GUS M. BILIRAKIS

June 22, 2018

Dear Principals and Teachers:

I am writing to invite all middle and high school students from Florida's Twelfth Congressional District to participate in the 2018 Congressional App Challenge (CAC).

Officially launched in 2015, the CAC is a nationwide event intended to engage students' creativity and encourage their participation in the STEM fields. This competition allows students to compete with peers in their own district by creating and exhibiting their software application, or "app", for mobile, tablet, or computer devices on a platform of their choice.

Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four, as long as two of the teammates are eligible to participate in our district. Students are encouraged to register online by Sept 10th, before submitting their app by the October 15th deadline.

The apps will be judged by a panel of local judges who work within the academic, software, and/or entrepreneurial fields. The app of the winning student or team in each participating Congressional District will be featured on the U.S. House of Representatives' website (www.house.gov), and displayed in a U.S. Capitol exhibit in Washington, D.C. For additional details, please visit www.congressionalappchallenge.us.

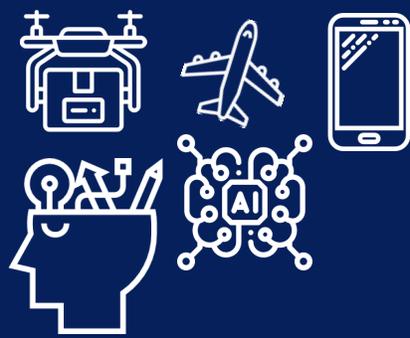
I hope that your students will enjoy participating in this exciting competition. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my District Office at 727-843-1070 or email StudentSupport@CongressionalAppChallenge.us.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis

Member of Congress



CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2018

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 4, 2018, you can register at CongressionalAppChallenge.us. Register by September 10, 2018 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?

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 4 students. Find resources to help you on our website CongressionalAppChallenge.us

5. SUBMIT!

Submit your app anytime before October 15th. Winners will be announced in December.



CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2018

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. Students are only eligible to compete in districts that have signed up for the Challenge.
2. Students may only compete in a single district.
3. Students may only submit one application.
4. Students may compete in either:
 - a. The district in which they reside, or
 - b. The district in which they attend school.
5. Students may compete as individuals or in teams of up to four.
 - a. Teams with five or more students are NOT eligible.
 - b. If competing as a team: at least two of the teammates must be eligible to compete in the district in which they are submitting their app.
6. Middle school and high school students are eligible. Students may not participate after having graduated high school.
7. 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 4, 2018. Try to register before September 10, 2018 (registration indicates your intent to compete). The deadline to submit the app is 12:00 PM (noon) ET, OCTOBER 15, 2018. (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 created within one year of the submission deadline (e.g. any time after Oct. 15, 2018). Also, apps must demonstrate some knowledge of coding (e.g. students should code at least the first 25 lines of code of their app, but the app itself does not have to be fully complete or published in the app store to qualify).

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A complete submission will include the following components:

1. Registration Form (found on congressionalappchallenge.us)
2. App 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.
 - With what you've learned, what improvements would you make to a version 2.0 of your app?
3. Demonstration Video
 - Students must create a 1-3 minute video, showcasing 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 watch them.

Video Requirements:

- Tell us your name(s) and the name of your app.
 - Clearly explain the purpose of your app. (You should be able to do this in one, clear sentence.)
 - Explain who your app is intended for.
 - Tell us what tools and coding languages you used to create your app.
 - Show us how your app is used. This constitutes the entrant's full and unconditional agreement to the Official Rules.
4. Exit Questionnaire

A mandatory and anonymous exit questionnaire will be e-mailed 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. Congressional App Challenge (CAC) winners may be eligible to have their app featured on a display in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, and will be honored by their Member of Congress.