

STEM FAQs

What is the contest?

The Congressional STEM Competition was authorized by H.Res 77 to encourage student participation in STEM fields. Initially the competition will be in the field of computer science. Participating students in the district will develop an app on a platform of their choice. The Member will appoint judges to evaluate the apps and select winners.

Who can participate?

Members determine if they are holding a district competition. High School students who live in or are eligible to enroll in high schools located in the district can participate.

Can homeschooled students participate?

Yes, any student who lives in or is eligible to attend high school in the district can compete.

When will the contest occur?

Preparations for the contest will occur in December and January. Students will develop their code for submission in February and March. Judging will take place in April, and district winners will be posted on House.GOV around May 15, 2014.

Is this like the Art Competition?

The STEM competition was organized under different rules than the art competition. Generally, only official resources can be used for the STEM competition.

Will there be an event in D.C. at the end of the competition?

At this time, there is not a D.C. event planned for the contest.

When can students register?

Students can register on Challenge.GOV starting February 1, 2014.

How will the winners be recognized?

Winners can be recognized by the Member in a district awards ceremony. The overall winner from each district will be featured on House.GOV. There will be a display in the Capitol to honor all of the district winners.

What will they submit for the contest?

Students will submit a demonstration video of their app along with an entry form. The source code for the app must be available for inspection by the judges.

Can students submit in teams?

Yes. The maximum team size is four students, two of whom must reside in or be eligible to attend high school in the district.

Is this only open to high schoolers?

Yes, only high school students can participate.

Do the judges for this competition have to reside or work within our district?

No, the Member is free to select judges of their choice.

How are apps judged?

Members are free to determine their own judging criteria. It is suggested that you score the **idea**, **implementation**, and the **impact** of the app.

Do all the apps need to be judged in person?

No, the rules will note that the judges reserve the right to judge solely on the demonstration video (showing the app running and demonstrating all of its features). You may want to first screen the videos to determine which entries advance to round two.