

# CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2025



U.S. CONGRESSMAN  
**RICK CRAWFORD**



## 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 24, 2024 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](https://CongressionalAppChallenge.us) to register, learn more, and explore past winners.

The **Deadline** to submit your app is October 30, 2025

**Questions?** Email us at: [StudentSupport@CongressionalAppChallenge.us](mailto:StudentSupport@CongressionalAppChallenge.us)

# CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2025

**Submission Deadline: October 30th**

## 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. If competing as a team: at least 50% 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"), May 1st, 2025. Students should try to register before September 30th, 2025 (registration indicates your intent to compete). The deadline to submit the app is 12:00 PM ET, October 30th, 2025. (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](https://CongressionalAppChallenge.us) to register and get more details on how to submit an 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 November 1st, 2024).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Can my students really win the Congressional App Challenge?
  - Yes! Hundreds of students from across the country win the Congressional App Challenge every year. Students only compete against other students within their congressional district, and every participating Member of Congress names a winning team from their district.
- Do my students have enough time to develop an app before the October 30th deadline?
  - Absolutely! Apps are graded on creativity, concept, and design. Applications do not need to be technically sophisticated to be honored.
- What if my students aren't expert coders?
  - 40% of students who participate in the Congressional App Challenge are coding beginners, and many go on to win their district's App Challenge each year.
- Can students submit apps they've already created?
  - Yes! Any app coded after November 1st, 2024 is eligible for submissions, so projects from the previous school year or summer term may be eligible!
- Do students apps have to be political?
  - No! Students can code on any topic, using any coding language, for any platform. Many students choose to code apps on civic good, but there is no limit to what students can create.

**Congressman Rick Crawford (AR-01)**

For further questions contact Sherrie Mitchell

at: [AR01.APP@mail.house.gov](mailto:AR01.APP@mail.house.gov)

(870) 203-0540



# CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE 2025

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.

## 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 2024, 382 Members of Congress hosted the Challenge — representing over 87% 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 2024, 12,682 students registered, submitting a record 3,881 fully functioning apps.

## CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE BY THE NUMBERS

70,944

App Challenge Alumni

20,470

Apps Created Since 2015

+90%

Alumni Interested in STEM Careers

93%

of the 118 Congress Hosted an App Challenge

+50%

of 2024 Students from Underserved Backgrounds

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Challenge inspires students to pursue STEM. Nearly 90% considering STEM careers after competing and 82% recommending it to friends. More than 80% 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

