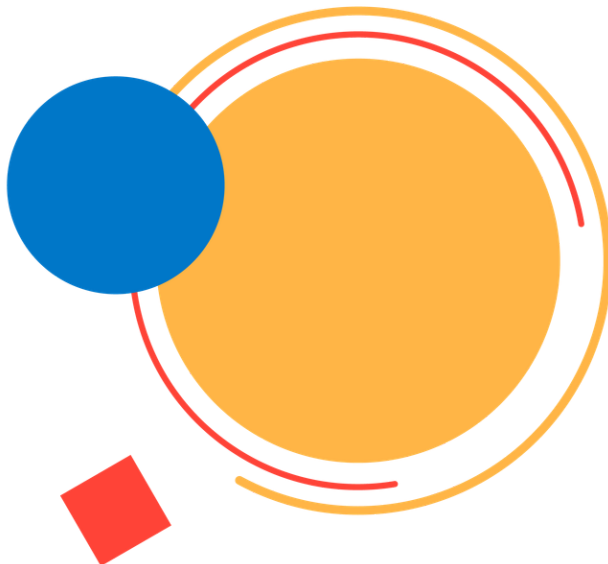




Samsung Solve for Tomorrow

Student guide: how to get started

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition asks students to consider how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) can be used to create change in their communities. With the help of their teachers, students compete to win up to \$50,000 in prizes for their school, plus the opportunity to work with Samsung employees to develop their innovations.



Application details and guidelines

- Visit solve.mit.edu/samsungsolvefortomorrow to learn more about the competition.
- Confirm an eligible educator at your school to represent your team. They will submit the application on your team's behalf, serve as your team representative, and attend the Finalist Event with your team if selected.
- Talk with your classmates about issues you're passionate about – no problem is too big or too small.
- Once the application opens on September 30, 2026, and your team has selected a problem, visit solve.mit.edu/samsungsolvefortomorrow. Your teacher will apply on behalf of your team by answering the five questions below, each in 200 words or less.

1

What specific community challenge or issue are you planning to tackle?

2

What is your project and how will STEM be applied to address this challenge or issue?

3

Who will your solution serve and what steps have you taken to understand their needs?

4

What activities will you put in place to achieve your goals?

5

How will you define and measure success?

- Your solution may go through many iterations as you test and refine the idea, but the problem you are solving should remain the same throughout the competition.
- Give yourself ample time to apply so you can handle any unexpected issues before the deadline.
- Once your teacher submits your team's application, the fun begins! Get to work building your solution, gathering data, and iterating as you go.

Helpful tips

- Choose a problem that you and your classmates are truly passionate about solving.
- Pick a topic that's manageable for your team and realistic to execute within the bounds. Feasibility is included in the [judges' scoring criteria](#).
- Consider the audience you are developing a solution for and get their input as you work. Human-centered design is included in the [judges' scoring criteria](#).
- Leverage your local community. See if you can connect with your town government or other leaders in your area to get them invested in and excited about your project.
- Remember to back up any claims with facts and statistics.

What makes a strong project?

✓ Clear understanding of the issue or challenge

- A strong project starts with a specific, well-defined issue or challenge. Make sure you understand the problem, why it matters, and who is affected.
- Ask yourselves: Can we clearly explain the challenge and why it matters? What research, data, or community perspectives support our understanding of the problem?

✓ Meaningful use of STEM

- Strong projects use STEM in a purposeful and innovative way. Think creatively about how science, technology, engineering, and/or math can help you develop an effective approach that responds to the challenge you've identified.
- Ask yourselves: How does STEM help us address this challenge? What is innovative about our approach? Can we clearly explain how and why it works?

✓ Human-centered design

- Strong projects are designed with and for the people they aim to serve. Seek to understand the experiences and needs of your intended community and use what you learn to inform your project.
- Ask yourselves: Who are we designing for? What have we done to understand their needs? How has their input shaped our project?

✓ Feasibility

- Consider what it would realistically take to put your idea into practice, including the resources, knowledge, time, technology, or partnerships you may need.
- Ask yourselves: Could our idea realistically work? What would we need to develop, test, or implement it? What challenges should we plan for?

✓ Potential for impact

- A strong project has a clear vision for the change it hopes to create. Think about who could benefit, what success would look like, and how you could measure progress.
- Ask yourselves: What do we hope will change as a result of our project? How will we know whether we're making a difference? What indicators might we measure?

Remember: Projects do not need to be in their final stages to be strong submissions. All stages are welcome. What matters most is demonstrating a clear understanding of the community challenge, a thoughtful STEM-based approach, and a plan to continue learning and developing the project.

Resources for developing your project

You don't need to be an experienced entrepreneur or STEM expert to develop a strong project—great ideas can come from anywhere. Use the following tools and resources to help your team explore an issue within your community, develop and test ideas, and bring your project to life.

- A short [video introduction to human-centered design](#).
- A short article on how to [draft an effective problem statement](#).
- [Downloadable worksheets](#) for idea exploration, including 'how might we?' prompts.
- The [Five Why's](#) activity to help identify the root cause of a problem.
- Tips for [crafting an effective elevator pitch](#) to clearly communicate your idea.
- A [rapid prototyping toolkit](#) to help bring your idea to life.
- [Avoid these common mistakes](#) when prototyping.
- Tips for how to [prototype a service](#).

Reasons to get involved

- Prizes for your school range from \$500 all the way up to \$50,000.
- Community recognition: Samsung Solve for Tomorrow participants and winners are frequently featured in the local news.
- Build crucial skills in areas like public speaking, critical thinking and entrepreneurship.
- Collaborate with your peers on a project you feel passionate about.
- Help your community become a better place with your innovative thinking.

Questions?

Visit solve.mit.edu/samsungsolvefortomorrow for competition details, key dates, Rules and Eligibility, and upcoming events and webinars.

Samsung and MIT Solve will offer virtual events throughout the application period to help educators and students learn more about the competition and strengthen their projects. Keep an eye on our [Support for Applicants](#) page for the latest opportunities.

Contact the MIT Solve Helpdesk at help@solve.mit.edu for support throughout the application process.

