

# Solve for Tomorrow Competition Application

## Instructions

Thank you for applying to the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition! We look forward to reviewing your team's project. **Please read these instructions carefully before you begin the application.** Good luck!

### *Project deadline*

**The deadline to submit your team's project is Monday, November 23, 2026 at 12:00pm ET (that's noon on Monday, Eastern Time!).**

**Don't wait until the last minute to submit the application on the platform!** It may be difficult for us to help you with technical issues if you request last-minute help. We do our best to help as many applicants as possible, but if we are not able to help before the deadline, your team's application will not be accepted. Late submissions are not accepted even if they're late because of technical issues, confusion about time zones, or connectivity problems.

### *What we're looking for*

**The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition seeks STEM projects from United States Public School educators and their students in grades 6-12.** Your students' project will be judged based on the following criteria: Alignment, Potential for Impact, Feasibility, Human-Centered Design, and Innovative Approach. Judging will take place over multiple rounds between December 2026 to April 2027. 500 schools nationwide will receive Samsung technology and classroom resources, with top teams earning up to \$50,000 in prizes for their schools, opportunities to work with Samsung employees to develop their projects, and the chance to present their work at a national event.

**Before you begin an application, be sure to review the Rules and Eligibility on the competition page** for full details on accepted projects and the criteria judges will use to evaluate submissions. To participate, students must be enrolled in grades 6–12 at a U.S.-based school that receives at least 50% of its funding from public sources. Each submission must be overseen by an educator who is at least 21 years old and employed full-time by the school.

### *How to edit and submit the application*

- The application will save automatically as you input answers to the questions.
- You can click ahead to see subsequent sections in the application without completing all prior questions.
- You can save and exit at any time (using the button which comes up in the top banner as you scroll down the page and at the bottom of the page).

You can **submit your application** by clicking SUBMIT SOLUTION.

- You must complete all required questions in order to submit.
- Submit as soon as your team is ready. You may log back in to edit your application at any time before the deadline.
- If you save your application but do not click SUBMIT SOLUTION before the deadline, your application will not be considered. You must submit before the deadline: **November 23 at 12:00pm ET (noon)**. If you do not submit before the deadline, your application will not be considered.
- If your project advances to the finalist stage of the application process, your submitted 3-minute project video will be made visible on the website.

You can **edit your submitted application** by logging back in and clicking on your project in your Dashboard.

- You can edit your application as often as you would like before the deadline.
- Click Save & Exit once you're done editing your submitted application.

## Application Guidance

*Tips for completing the application*

**Once you and your students decide you would like to apply to the Solve for Tomorrow Competition, begin your team's application as soon as you can.** Be sure to budget enough time to submit the application before the deadline.

Read through our [How To Apply Page](#) for more details on how to create, save, submit, and edit an application on Solve's platform.

**As the educator representative for your team, you should select 'Submit as an Individual' when you start the application.**

**Your application responses will not be visible to the public.** They will be reviewed by Samsung and MIT Solve staff, as well as internal reviewers and judges involved in the selection process. Please share only information you are comfortable with these parties viewing. Note: If your project advances to the finalist stage, the three-minute video submitted during the semi-final stage will be shared publicly for Community Choice voting.

**All of the questions in the application are required.** You must answer all of the required questions in order to submit your application.

Recognize that word limits are limits, not requirements - you should use the fewest words you need to answer the question with sufficient detail.

**Guidelines for using generative AI tools as your students write answers to the application:**

- We discourage teachers and students from using generative AI chatbots to write the application for them. The application will sound impersonal or generic to reviewers, and this can strongly disadvantage your students' application in our selection process. We want to hear the team's passion for and perspective on their project!
- However, ChatGPT and other generative AI chatbots may be able to assist with initial drafts for some application questions. We suggest a few uses below. Don't worry if your students cannot (or don't wish to) use these tools – we also provide links and help text that can assist them as they complete the questions.
- Always be sure to read and edit any answers received from these tools very carefully; they are experimental and sometimes unreliable (e.g. do not always get factual details correct, hallucinate sources, etc.). The prompts we have provided below are not guaranteed to provide accurate responses!

**Prompts to use with generative AI tools that may be helpful to you and your students as you write your application:**

- "I have written the following in answer to a question in an application about [topic]. Can you shorten my answer so that it's only 200 words?"
- "English is not my first language and I need help rewriting an application answer so that it is clear and grammatically correct. Here's what I've written so far: [answer]"
- Getting more information about a concept mentioned in a question (we do not suggest using a chatbot as the sole source of information when doing research): "Can you tell me more about what a Theory of Change is and how I can make one for my organization?"

*Support with your application*

If you or your students don't have answers for all questions or don't understand the terms used in them immediately, that's okay. Take a look at the help text of the application questions for explanations of concepts, examples of successful answers, and even tools to help your students craft their own answers. Not all application questions have help text, but many do!

Throughout the application and selection period, Samsung and MIT Solve will host a variety of webinars to support applicants, including three virtual Application Clinics where you can learn more about the competition, get tips for completing your application, and ask questions directly. Be sure to visit our Support for Applicants page to register and stay up to date on additional opportunities and resources.

If you have technical difficulties or need assistance while trying to submit your team's application, please reach out to the Solve Helpdesk at [help@solve.mit.edu](mailto:help@solve.mit.edu).

## Terms and Conditions

### MIT Solve Terms *(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]*

I agree to [MIT Solve's Terms of Service](#), the [MIT Solve Media Release and License](#), and the [MIT Solve Privacy Policy](#).

- I agree

### Accuracy and Integrity Agreement *(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]*

I confirm that I have not fabricated, exaggerated, or otherwise misrepresented the information in this application. If GenAI tools were used for writing, I confirm that I have checked the content and that it accurately reflects the *current* status of my team's project. I am aware that including fabricated or misleading information in my application may lead to the removal of my project from the program.

- I confirm

### Eligibility Agreement *(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]*

By checking this box, I confirm that I am an eligible educator applying on behalf of my school, and I have read and agree to comply with the **Rules and Eligibility**. *(Required) [Not Publicly Viewable: for internal use only]*

- I confirm

## Educator Representative Details

### Name (First, Last) *(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only] (Word Limit: 10)*

As the Educator or School Administrator Representative overseeing this submission, you must be at least 21 years old, employed full-time as an educator at the school submitting this application, and available to accompany your team to the in-person pitch event in April 2027, if selected.

**Disclaimer:** *By entering the Competition, you authorize Samsung and MIT Solve to communicate with you via email, phone, voice mail messaging or by text messaging to communicate Competition information. Samsung will only contact you regarding Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition information - for the current cycle and any future cycles - and will not use your information for Samsung product, sales, promotions, or marketing purposes.*

### Job Title *(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only] (Word Limit: 20)*

As the Educator Representative overseeing this submission, you must be at least 21 years old, employed full-time as an educator at the school submitting this application, and available to accompany your team to the in-person pitch event in April 2027, if selected.

**Are you currently employed full-time as an educator at the school on whose behalf you are applying? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

As the Educator Representative overseeing this submission, you must be at least 21 years old, employed full-time as an educator at the school submitting this application, and available to accompany your team to the in-person pitch event in April 2027, if selected.

- Yes
- No

**Are you at least 21 years of age? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

As the Educator Representative overseeing this submission, you must be at least 21 years old, employed full-time as an educator at the school submitting this application, and available to accompany your team to the in-person pitch event in April 2027, if selected.

- Yes
- No

**Educator Representative: School Email Address (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

**Educator Representative: Alternate Email Address (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

**Educator Representative: Phone Number (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

**Please provide the name of an administrative contact at your school who can verify your identity and employment status. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*Please notify this contact that they need to be able to verify your identity by filling out a brief form if your team moves forward in the competition. We will reach out to them between December 8 - 10, 2026. Failure to respond may lead to your team's removal from the competition. We encourage you to give your administrator a heads-up so they know to expect this possible outreach.*

**Please provide the latter contact's school email. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*Note that this must be an official school email.*

**Please provide the latter contact's phone number. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

**Have you participated in Solve for Tomorrow in the past? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*If you have, that's great! Please note that projects that received prizes in previous years are eligible to receive prizes again. However, if your project was selected as a National Winner, Community Choice Award Winner, or Employee Choice Award Winner within the past five years, the project is not eligible to receive the same award again this year.*

- Yes
- No

**[IF Yes] Was your project selected as a National Winner, Community Choice Award Winner, or Employee Choice Award Winner? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

- Yes
- No

**[IF Yes] Which award did you win and in which year? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

## **Team and School Information**

**Is your school located in the United States? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

*Your team must be headquartered in the United States to participate.*

- Yes
- No

**In what city, town, or region is your school located? (Required) For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only**

*You must enter a city, town, or region and select it from the dropdown menu.*

**School Name (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

**School Address (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

**Does your school receive at least 50% of its funding from public sources? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*To be eligible for the competition, your school must receive at least 50% of its funding from public sources.*

- Yes
- No

**Is your school a Title I school? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*The Title I program supplements State and local funding for low-achieving children, especially in high-poverty schools. If you're unsure whether your school is a Title I school, please contact your school administration.*

*Your school's Title I status will not be considered during the selection process and is collected for internal tracking purposes only.*

- Yes
- No

**Enter your NCES school ID below. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

*An NCES school ID is a unique 12-digit identification number assigned by the National Center for Education Statistics to individual public schools in the United States. If you do not know your school's NCES ID, please contact your school administrator.*

**Middle school or high school? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

- Upper elementary (Grade 6)
- Middle school (Grades 6 to 8)
- High school (Grades 9 to 12)
- Any other grade level school (not eligible for this challenge)

**Number of team members? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

*Enter the total number of students on your team. Do not include the educator or teacher overseeing the submission.*

**What is the current grade level of the team? Select all that apply. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

- Grade 6
- Grade 7
- Grade 8
- Grade 9
- Grade 10
- Grade 11
- Grade 12
- Any other grade (write in):

**[If Any other grade] If you selected any other grade above, please specify here. (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

How did you learn about the Solve for Tomorrow Competition? **(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

- Conferences (e.g., ISTE, NSTA, etc.)
- DonorsChoose
- First Book
- Past Participant Referral
- Samsung Email
- Samsung Employee
- Samsung Social Media
- MIT Solve Email
- MIT Solve Social Media
- We are Teachers
- Word of Mouth
- Other

[IF Other] If other, please specify. **(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

[IF Samsung Employee or Past Participant Referral] Please provide the full name of the person who referred you. **(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

If you received a referral code for the competition, please enter it below: **[For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: Not Viewable to Judges]**

## Project Overview

What is the name of your project? **(Required) {Word limit = 6} (Public) (Field Type = Solution Name)**

Enter a title for your project that will be used on the Samsung and MIT Solve websites and during the selection process. We recommend a length of 1-4 words.

Provide a one-line summary or tagline for your project. **(Required) {Word limit = 25} (Public)**

Describe your project in 10-20 words. This summary will be used to describe your project during the selection process. Examples of one-line summaries can be found [here](#) directly under each solution name.

What specific community challenge or issue are you planning to tackle? **(Required) {Word limit = 200} [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

Describe the specific problem that you are planning to solve. What is the scale of the problem in the communities you are working in, and globally? How many people are affected? Which factors contributing to the problem relate to your solution? Include any relevant local or global statistics. If you're not sure where to start, take a look at these resources [here](#) and [here](#). You can also review answers from successful applications, [such as this one](#).

**Which theme of the Solve for Tomorrow Competition does your project fall under?**

**(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

Select the area that is most aligned to your project. If your project is not aligned to any of the listed themes, select Other.

- Environmental Sustainability via Technology
- Social Change through Sport and Technology
- Advancing Accessibility through STEM
- Other (Open Innovation)

**If you selected "Other", please share your theme. Examples may include (but are not limited to): (Required) {Word limit = 50} [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Climate Resilience (a refined term for Climate Disaster)
- Mental Health
- Agriculture Advancements
- School Safety
- Cultural Preservation
- Food Safety
- Digital Wellbeing & Online Safety
- Water Quality & Safety
- Affordable & Smart Housing
- Animal Welfare

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

**(Required) {Word limit = 200} [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

Describe your project and how it works in simple terms. What is it? What does it do? Briefly describe how it works and what technology it uses. Be sure to use this space to talk about your solution, not the problem you are trying to solve. If relevant, share a link to a video of a product demo.

**What progress have you made on your project so far? (Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

Tell us where your project currently stands. Select the stage below that aligns with what you have already accomplished, not what you intend to do later.

- My project is an idea I am still researching and exploring.
- I have built a prototype product or service, but I haven't begun testing it with users.
- I have a prototype and I've started testing it with users and getting their feedback.
- I've launched my project in one or more communities and am serving real customers/beneficiaries.

**Will your project use any of the following emerging technologies? (Select all that apply)**  
**(Required) [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

- 3D Modeling and Printing
- Ancestral Technology & Practices
- Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning
- Audiovisual Media
- Behavioral Technology
- Big Data
- Biomimicry
- Biotechnology / Bioengineering
- Blockchain
- Crowd Sourced Service / Social Networks
- GIS and Geospatial Technology
- Imaging and Sensor Technology
- Internet of Things
- Manufacturing Technology
- Materials Science
- Robotics and Drones
- Software and Mobile Applications
- Virtual Reality / Augmented Reality

**Who will your solution serve and what steps have you taken to understand their needs?**  
**(Required) {Word limit = 200} [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

*Describe the target population whose lives you are working to directly and meaningfully improve. Who are they, and in what ways are they currently underserved? How will the solution address their needs?*

**What activities will you put in place to achieve your goals? (Required) {Word limit = 200}**  
**[For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

*Describe the key activities you will carry out to achieve your goals. What will you do, who will be involved, and how will these activities contribute to the outcomes you hope to achieve? Examples might include conducting research, engaging community members, building partnerships, conducting outreach, providing training, or creating new tools or resources.*

**How will you define and measure success? (Required) {Word limit = 200} [For MIT Solve Monitoring Only: For Judging & Internal Use Only]**

*Describe what success will look like and how you will measure progress toward your goals. What outcomes or changes do you hope to see? Consider the quantitative and qualitative data you will use to track your progress and impact, such as the number of people reached, changes in key outcomes, survey results, interviews, or feedback from the people and communities you plan to serve.*