INTERNATIONAL STEM RESEARCH CHALLENGE

Leadership Pitch Competition 2026

An international competition for students in grades 6 to 12 who want to turn an innovative idea into a real solution: a business, startup, nonprofit, technology or social-impact concept.

Free	Grades 6-12	Solo or team	Worldwide
to apply	Junior and Senior divisions	up to 4 students	fully online

Apply by December 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

How it works

1. **Application** — **Due December 15, 2026**
   Free. A project title and a 250-word abstract.
2. **Proposal report** — **Due January 1, 2027**
   Semifinalists write up to 2,000 words. $75 registration fee, Semifinalists only.
3. **Grand Finalist selection** — **Announced January 15, 2027**
   The highest-scoring Semifinalists advance.
4. **Business Pitch Round** — **Due January 30, 2027 · Results February 6**
   Grand Finalists upload a pitch video of up to 10 minutes.

Awards and recognition

Trophies for first, second and third place in each division. Plaques for the winner of each of five categories in each division, and for Outstanding Leadership, Most Innovative Idea, Best Social Impact and Best Pitch Presentation. A medal and certificate for every Grand Finalist, and a certificate for every Semifinalist who submits a proposal report.

For teachers and parents

Teachers, mentors and parents may guide and give feedback, but the work must be the students' own. A parent or guardian signs a video and photo permission form before a pitch video is accepted. The competition is run by the International STEM Research Challenge, now in its 4th competition, with 8,364 participants from 48 countries so far.

Apply free at **www.highschoolcompetition.org/leadershipcompetition**

Questions: admin@highschoolcompetition.org