

ASPEN CHALLENGE EVENTS & CHECKPOINTS

The Aspen Challenge team is here to support you through every step of the process. The following are opportunities for you as a coach or your entire team to engage with program *staff:

Coach Session 1: Aspen Challenge Coach Orientation

Recruitment:

- Virtual opportunity to attract potential student participants
- Zoom hackathon with schools from Boston and San Diego.

Step 1: Virtual checkpoints with Aspen Challenge staff

- Zoom checkpoint to review your team charter
- Webinar with all teams to prepare for Challenge Forum

Step 2: Challenge Forum

- Live, in-person event with all teams

Step 4: Midpoint school visit

- In-person checkpoint to pitch your solution to Aspen Challenge staff

Coach Session 2: Midpoint Session

In-person session to reflect on the experience so far and to collaborate as a cohort to address roadblocks teams are facing in the homestretch of the competition. See page 69 for additional information about this session.

Step 6: Solution Showcase

- Webinar with all teams to prep for Solution Showcase
- Live, in-person Solution Showcase event with all teams

Step 7: Virtual checkpoint with Aspen Challenge staff

- Zoom checkpoint to reflect on your Aspen Challenge experience

Coach Session 3: Reflection and Celebration

Virtual session to celebrate the completion of Aspen Challenge and to discuss and apply lessons learned. See page 69 for additional information about this session.

*** NOTE: IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, COACHES MAY REQUEST 1:1 TIME WITH ASPEN CHALLENGE STAFF AT ANY POINT DURING THE PROCESS AND AS MANY TIMES AS THEY WISH.**

ASPEN CHALLENGE JUDGING CRITERIA

During Step 6, your team will showcase your solution to a panel of judges. There are four unique ways you will share your work, and each will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate that your team has successfully met the Judging Criteria detailed below and on the next page. The components that judges will evaluate against the Criteria to provide your team with feedback and determine award winners are as follows:

- 1. Written Report:** A one-page synopsis of your solution design and the impact that you had on your community.
- 2. On-Stage Presentation:** A six-minute presentation summarizing how your team designed and implemented your solution.
- 3. On-Stage Q&A:** Time to field questions from judges about your solution.
- 4. Exhibit:** A final opportunity to engage with judges and peers in a more intimate setting and share in-depth details of your solution and experiences as a team.

Judges will use the following criteria to evaluate your team's solution. The questions accompanying each section serve as a guide for how to meet each criterion. These criteria can help you design your solution and prepare for the Solution Showcase.

SOLUTION IMPACT

- Did your team develop a solution that addressed the specific elements outlined in the challenge?
- Did your solution have a tangible (observable, meaningful) impact?
- What do people know or do differently because of your solution? What additional resources are present in your community that were not there before?
- What evidence did you collect that proves your solution is the best way to address the challenge?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Does your solution meet a community need that is not already being addressed? Is there proof that your work is relevant to your community (via survey results, anecdotes from community members, etc.)?
- Did your team regularly engage community members (e.g., businesses, relevant organizations, residents, etc.) to get your solution off the ground? Were you a consistent presence in your community?
- Is there significant evidence that your communication and marketing tactics were effective?

CREATIVITY AND ORIGINALITY

- Did your solution address the challenge in a clear and ambitious way?
- Was your solution creative? Did your team think big or play it safe?
- Are there examples of moments when your team had to adjust its work plan and implement lessons learned to improve your solution's outcome?
- Can your team articulate what sets your solution apart from existing resources available to your community?

FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Is your solution big enough to make a difference but focused enough to implement, right now, in your community?
- Is there proof that your solution has/will be successfully implemented?
- Is your solution sustainable? Will it live on in your community?

TEAMWORK

- Has your team clearly identified each member's roles and responsibilities to ensure that everybody has contributed equally to your solution?
- Is there evidence, particularly from the final written report, presentation on stage, and exhibition materials, that shows how every member played a key role?
- Did team members collaborate effectively with each other and with peers outside the team?
- Did your team regularly meet to work on your solution and implement it in your community?

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Aspen Challenge judges award the Grand Prize -- an all-expenses paid trip to the Aspen Ideas Festival -- to solutions that best meet the Judging Criteria. In addition to the Grand Prize, the following awards are also given:

Collaboration Award recognizes a team that shows exemplary desire and ability to work effectively with others in crafting their solution.

Originality Award recognizes a team that initiates a bold, creative solution that deeply resonates with their chosen community.

Resilience Award recognizes a team that shows incredible tenacity in overcoming any obstacles they faced in their solution-design process.

People's Choice Award recognizes a team with an outstanding solution as determined by peer voting.

THE HONOR CODE

- 1. Show up.** Participation in Aspen Challenge means that your team meets frequently and dedicates significant time outside of school to build your solution. You agree to participate in what your team plans and to communicate openly with each other.
- 2. Engage.** Ask questions and remain focused. Exercise zest, curiosity, and self-control. Contribute to the team conversation. All perspectives are meaningful — it is time to share your ideas!
- 3. Be inclusive.** Be inclusive. Different perspectives and experiences will enrich your team's creative process. As part of Aspen Challenge, you commit to being equity-driven and open to points of view that may be different from your own. The Aspen Challenge community will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on someone's race, color, gender, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, or any other grounds prohibited by applicable law.
- 4. Be courteous and remain positive.** Stay optimistic, exercise social intelligence, and express gratitude. Kindness and encouragement should be exhibited throughout the process. Cruelty, teasing, or negative comments will not be tolerated in any capacity. Should negative communication or behavior occur, the responsible team or team member(s) can be deemed ineligible to participate in the program.
- 5. Keep it clean.** Maintaining a calm and collected approach to an issue, even if it is frustrating, can help you discover a resolution. Crude language and behavior are not positive approaches to problems and may result in ineligibility to participate in the program.
- 6. Be conscientious.** You are representing your school and community. Be respectful of your surroundings and those around you.
- 7. Act with integrity.** Your team members and community partners are counting on you. Be honest and be reliable. Being on time and following through on your word is vital to building trustworthy relationships and will provide positive examples of what you are capable of accomplishing.
- 8. Respect privacy.** Respect privacy. Not everyone wishes to be photographed or videotaped. Please ask before you take photos. Please ask before you post pictures on social media of other Aspen Challenge participants. The Aspen Challenge will not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind.
- 9. Stay substance free.** Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and chemical or prescription medications that are not prescribed or recommended by a doctor may not be consumed at any time while you are engaged in Aspen Challenge. Should you violate this standard, immediate consequences will ensue.
- 10. HAVE FUN!**