2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge
Participant Guide

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Program Overview

A Brief History

CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is a mobile app challenge for high school girls. Small teams partner with CGI mentors to develop a smart-phone app utilizing a mobile app building platform. Each team will present their mobile app to a panel of judges. The team with the most innovative, applicable and creative mobile app design will receive college scholarship funds.

The challenge originated at one of CGI’s Innovation Centers in Pittsburgh. Thanks to CGI’s Dream Connectors program, it has now become an annual event in Pittsburgh and has plans to expand across the U.S.

The CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is one of our mentorship programs of STEM@CGI, a nationwide K-12 program that aims to train and mentor young people for STEM careers. It strives to provide experiences that inspire students with the drive to learn for a bright future in the digital workforce.

STEM@CGI

STEM@CGI exists to introduce, inspire and mentor students to help increase diversity in the IT industry. The program focuses on groups underrepresented in STEM including students who are female, Black, Latino, Indigenous, have disabilities and/or are economically underserved.

This Year’s Challenge in Pittsburgh

For the 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge, we are approaching the virtual model head-on. The Challenge will be comprised of 20 CGI-led Mentor hours spread over a 12 week period. The division of these hours into separate mentor sessions is left to the discretion of the teams. These sessions will take place over Microsoft Teams, provided (and managed) by CGI mentors. The award for the winning team will be a $20,000.00 scholarship split between members of the winning team.

Key Dates

The below dates are the most critical for participating in the CGI I.T. Girl Challenge:

- Team application due: **Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EDT**
- Team assignments: **Monday, February 8, 2021**
- Kickoff week: **Monday, February 15, 2021**
- Photo Release Forms: **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EDT**
- Final submission: **Friday, April 30, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EDT**
- Day of Challenge: **Friday, May 21, 2021**
Joining the Challenge

Gender-Identity Inclusivity Statement

The CGI I.T. Girl Challenge does not discriminate based on identification assignment at birth. Our goal is to increase the number of girls and other underrepresented groups pursuing STEM career fields. In CGI’s pursuit of a STEM-focused female learning environment, we proudly accept female-identifying, non-binary, and gender nonconforming participants.

Participant Requirements

- No minimum GPA
- No design or programming experience required

Participants are eligible if they:

- Are
  - 10th & 11th graders in good academic standing
  - Identify as female or non-binary seeking involvement in a STEM based female environment
  - Enrolled with one of the following community partners:
    - Pittsburgh Public Schools
    - New Outlook Academy
    - Best of the Batch Foundation
- Have
  - A computer
    - **Acceptable Devices**: Chromebooks, any Windows laptop, any Mac/MacBook, RaspberryPI
    - **Unacceptable Devices**: Tablets, Smartphones
  - Internet access
  - An active email account
- Attend (virtually)
  - Kickoff week
  - Mentoring sessions
    - 20 hours over 12 weeks
    - Schedules drafted by teams individually to ensure time that works for all parties
- Day of Challenge
- Submit
  - **Photo Release Form** by Monday March 1, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST
    - Judging Only Photo Release available upon request
  - Completed **Participant Oath**
  - Signed **Acknowledgements Form**
Team Requirements
The CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is, a team effort, with a core tenant being inclusion and collaboration. Therefore, in order to qualify for participation, a team must meet the following criteria:

- 2 – 4 members
  - Teams can consist of participants across eligible grade levels
  - Participants may only be on 1 team
- Complete and submit the following on time and accurately
  - Team application
  - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Legal Consent & Acknowledgement Form
  - Participant Photo Release Forms
    - It is not required that team members release their photos
    - The form has an option to abstain from providing consent
  - Participant’s Oath
- Enlist a team sponsor from the organization

Team Sponsor Requirements
The Team Sponsor roles include

- Attend all of the mentoring sessions
  - Team Sponsors are to attend and help nurture the relationships between mentors and students
  - Team Sponsors are forbidden to contribute to the Final Submission
  - Team Sponsors are welcome to participate as much as they choose in Mentor Sessions
- Facilitate the exchange of communications (via Microsoft Teams or email) by
  - Submitting the Team Application
    - Communicating with CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Leadership Team Co-Leads to make alternate Team Application arrangements
    - Assisting Participants and Mentors with turning over the Final Submission
  - Attend the Day of Challenge and root for your team!

For Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
We outline some of the expectations from Parent(s)/Guardian(s) for our participants.

- NO COST – The CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is free to all who meet the participation requirements
- Sign and return Acknowledgements Form
- Support (but do not contribute solutions to) participants as they work through the Challenge
- Join us on Friday, May 21, 2021 for the Day of Challenge
  - Details to be provided at a later date
Contact Information & Closing Comments

Contact information
Below are some key contacts across CGI and our community partners. Participants and parent(s)/guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to direct any question to the CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Leadership Team Co-Leads. For more specific questions, we provide a breakdown of key partners and points-of-contact.

CGI IT Girl Challenge - Pittsburgh
For questions specific to the 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge hosted by CGI Great Lakes Business Unit in Pittsburgh, see
Franco Colaizzi | Co-Lead of CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Pittsburgh
Staceylyn Machi | Co-Lead of CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Pittsburgh

Community partners
For questions best answered by our community partners, we provide the following points-of-contact
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Franco Colaizzi | CGI Representative to Pittsburgh Public Schools, Co-Lead of CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Pittsburgh

New Outlook Academy
Franco Colaizzi | CGI Representative to New Outlook Academy, Co-Lead of CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Pittsburgh

Best of the Batch Foundation
Elizabeth Bujak | CGI Representative to Best of the Batch Foundation

Closing
The CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Leadership Team is excited to host this event and looks forward to interacting with all of our community partners. One of the goals with the Challenge is to reach as many eligible participants as possible with this opportunity. After all, the 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is only possible if we have participants to challenge. We cannot wait to collaborate with participants (and their parent(s)/guardian(s)) across our community!
Team Application Outline

The Team Application consists of:

- A team name
- A team roster
  - The following per participant
    - First and last name
    - Current grade
    - Parent/guardian information
      - First and last name
      - Contact phone number and email (email strongly encouraged)
- School information
  - Name/Address
  - Sponsor information (all are required)
    - First and last name
    - Contact phone number
    - Contact email
    - Position/Title
- Availability
  - Monday through Friday only
  - Up to 20 hours of mentor sessions
- Required documents
  - Photo Release Form for each Participant
  - Judging Only Photo Release available upon request
  - Photo Release Form for Team Sponsor
  - Acknowledgement Form for each Participant
  - Participant’s Oath for each Participant
Acknowledgement Form

As the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of ___________________________________________________________________, express consent is hereby granted to CGI and Community Partners allowing the aforementioned to become a Participant. It is agreed that the information in this packet was reviewed and understood. It is, also, agreed that the Contact Information (provided at the end of the packet) was reviewed and understood as means for Parent(s)/Guardian(s) to contact any of the participating organizations involved in the 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge.

By signing this document, the CGI I.T. Girl Challenge is permitted to communicate with the Participant through the appropriate Community Partner channel as necessary for the Challenge.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), at all times, retain the ability to fully withdraw any Participant over which they preside. A withdrawn Participant faces no penalty, aside from disqualification for the Prize.

Name of Participant (Print): _______________________________________________________________________

Date: _________________________________________________________________________________________

**Required:**
Parent/Guardian (Print): _______________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian (Sign): _________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Participant: ___________________________________________________________________

**Optional:**
Parent/Guardian (Print): _______________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian (Sign): _________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Participant: ___________________________________________________________________

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Contact Information:**

Email Addresses: ______________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone Numbers: ______________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Addresses: ____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________
Participant’s Oath

As an aspiring Participant, I, ________________________________, do solemnly swear to uphold all of the values required to partake in the 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge. I promise I will:

- Attend all key events, including (but not limited to):
  - Kickoff Week
  - all Mentor Sessions
    - Otherwise, promptly inform my Mentor(s) through my Team Sponsor if unable to join
  - Day of Challenge
    - Otherwise, promptly inform the CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Leadership Team Co-Leads through my Team Sponsor if unable to join
- Not include vulgar or copyrighted material in the final submission
- Respect others, treating them how I would like to be treated
- Work diligently with my peers
- Ask for help whenever I need it and offer it whenever I can
- **Never Plagiarize**
- **Be Inclusive**
- **Have Fun**
- **Learn Something**

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Printed Name: ________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________________