

2026 EDITION · 11TH EVENT

AI-JAM US

OFFICIAL

GUIDEBOOK

International AI Invention Challenge

Since 2015 · Mountain View, California

10,000+

PAST PARTICIPANTS

72+

COUNTRIES

527

AWARDS 2025

11th

ANNIVERSARY

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

August 30, 2026 · 11:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)

RESULTS ANNOUNCED

September 6, 2026

Welcome

Dear Participant, welcome to the **11th AI-JAM US** — one of the world's most dynamic stages for student AI innovation. Since 2015, we have connected more than **10,000 participants from 72+ countries** who share one belief: young people can use AI to solve real problems.

This Guidebook contains everything you need to submit a strong entry. Read it carefully, follow the steps, and use the checklist before submitting.

Mr. Rayn Koo

Founder, AI-JAM Association · Mountain View, California

Competition Overview

Who can participate?	Students grades 7–12 and university students worldwide. Individuals or teams of up to 5 members.
What do I submit?	3 slides (PDF or PowerPoint) + 1 video (maximum 30 seconds)
Language?	Any language. English captions recommended but not required.
Online?	100% online. No travel required.
Coding skills?	No. A great idea and clear explanation is all you need.
Previous Grand Prix?	Not eligible to win Grand Prix again, but may enter other categories.

2026 Key Dates

Now Open	Registration Open	Submit at www.aijam-us.com
Jan–Jun 2026	Shadow Season	Monthly practice challenges
Aug 30, 2026	Final Submission Deadline	11:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)
Sep 6, 2026	Results Announced Online	Online only · No physical ceremony

■ Important

The portal closes automatically at 11:59 PM Pacific Time on August 30. Submit at least 48 hours early to avoid technical issues. No late submissions accepted.

Shadow Season (January – June 2026)

Monthly practice challenges to build your skills before the final submission deadline.

January	Visual Impact Challenge	Create 1 slide that communicates your concept instantly to a stranger
February	30-Second Pitch	Record a verbal explanation of your project idea
March	Data Visualization	Present your project's impact through statistics and numbers
June	Full Mock Submission	Complete 3-slide + 30-second video practice with expert feedback

Slide 1 — The Problem

Goal: Make the judge immediately understand what problem exists, who is affected, and why it matters.

What to include:

- **What is the problem?** Describe clearly in 1–2 sentences. Avoid jargon.
- **Who is affected?** Be specific — "elderly people in rural Korea" beats "people."
- **Why does it matter?** Explain the consequence of this problem going unsolved.
- **One key statistic.** ONE strong data point showing the scale. Source it if possible.
- **Make it visual.** Use an image, chart, or icon. Text-only slides are hard to absorb in 30 seconds.

Strong Example:

"Over 2 billion people worldwide lack access to clean water within 30 minutes of their home. In rural Vietnam, children miss school to collect water, losing an average of 200 school days per year."

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- ✗ Too vague: "Climate change is a big problem" — Who? Where? How big?
- ✗ Too long: More than 80 words on one slide loses the judge's attention
- ✗ No visual: Text-only slides are very hard to absorb in 30 seconds

Slide 2 — Your AI Solution

Goal: Make the judge understand exactly how your AI-powered solution works and why AI is the right tool.

What to include:

- **What does it do?** Explain in plain language. What does it actually do for the user?

- **What AI technology?** Mention the approach (machine learning, computer vision, NLP, chatbot, etc.).
- **Simple diagram or flow.** "Input → AI Process → Output" is very effective.
- **Prototype or mockup (optional).** A screenshot if you have one. Not required to win.
- **No coding required.** A well-described concept counts fully.

Strong Example:

"WaterFinder uses satellite imagery and machine learning to locate underground water sources. Farmers photograph their land with a smartphone. Our AI analyzes soil patterns and suggests optimal drilling locations — reducing search time from weeks to hours."

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- ✗ Too technical: Judges are not all engineers. Keep it simple and accessible.
- ✗ No AI connection: Make it clear WHY AI is the right tool for this specific problem.
- ✗ No diagram: Even a hand-drawn diagram photographed and placed on the slide helps.

Slide 3 — Impact & Vision

Goal: This is the most important slide. Show judges real, measurable change with specific numbers.

What to include:

- **Quantify the impact.** Use numbers. "Helps 500,000 families" beats "helps many families."
- **Is it feasible?** Show you considered real-world constraints: cost, access, technology.
- **Next step.** What needs to happen first? A pilot? A partnership? Funding?
- **Vision for the future.** Where could this go in 5–10 years?

Strong Example:

"WaterFinder could help 50 million rural households in Southeast Asia within 5 years. Each deployment costs \$200 — 10x cheaper than current methods. We plan to pilot in 3 Vietnamese villages in 2026. By 2030, we envision a world where no child misses school to collect water."

Judge's Tip:

Teams that win have ONE thing in common: **specific, credible impact numbers on Slide 3.** "This will help millions" without evidence does not impress. "This can reduce X by Y% based on Z data" does.

30-Second Video Presentation

Your chance to make a personal connection with the judges. Clarity and confidence matter more than production quality.

Duration	Maximum 30 seconds. Going over will disqualify your video.
Format	MP4, MOV, or AVI. Maximum file size: 100MB.
Language	Any language. English captions recommended but not required.
Equipment	Smartphone video is completely acceptable. Clarity over production.
Content	Introduce yourself, describe the problem, explain the solution, state the impact.

30-Second Script Template:

0:00–0:05	Introduction	<i>"Hi, I am [Name] from [Country]. My team created [Project Name]."</i>
0:05–0:12	The Problem	<i>"Every year, [statistic] because of [problem]. This affects [audience]."</i>
0:12–0:22	AI Solution	<i>"We built an AI solution that [does X]. It uses [approach] to [solve it]."</i>
0:22–0:28	Impact	<i>"Our solution could help [number] people. It costs [cost] and is [scalable]."</i>
0:28–0:30	Close	<i>"Thank you. We hope to see this become a reality."</i>

Judging Criteria

Clarity	25%	Can you communicate simply? Can a non-expert understand in 30 seconds?
Novelty	25%	Is your approach original? Does it combine ideas in a creative or unexpected way?
Impact	30%	How many people does this help? Are the benefits quantified and credible?
Feasibility	20%	Is it realistically achievable? Have you considered cost, access, constraints?

Awards & Recognition

■ Grand Prix	1 winner selected globally. The single highest honor at AI-JAM US.
■ Gold Award	Top-tier recognition across multiple categories and countries.
■ Silver Award	Excellent innovation recognized at the international level.
■ Bronze Award	Outstanding entry worthy of global recognition.

All Participants Receive:

- ✓ Digital certificate of participation
- ✓ AI-enhanced poster of your project
- ✓ Social media content package (TikTok, Instagram, LinkedIn formats)
- ✓ Access to the AI-JAM US global community of 10,000+ innovators

Submission Checklist

Use this in the 48 hours before you submit. Every item must be confirmed.

Slides

- Exactly 3 slides — no more, no less
- Slide 1: problem description, target audience, 1 statistic, visual element
- Slide 2: AI solution description, technology used, diagram or mockup
- Slide 3: impact with numbers, feasibility, next steps, future vision
- File format: PDF or PowerPoint (.pptx) · File size under 50MB
- No copyrighted images without permission

Video

- Video is 30 seconds or LESS
- Format: MP4, MOV, or AVI · File size under 100MB
- You can clearly hear yourself speaking
- You introduce yourself by name and country at the start
- You cover: the problem, your solution, and the impact
- English captions added (optional but recommended)

Registration & Payment

- Registration completed at www.aijam-us.com
- Confirmation email received from Team@aijam.org
- Participation fee paid (details in confirmation email)
- Submission portal access link received and tested

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is registration free?

A. Registration is open to all. Participation fee details are sent to your email after registration.

Q. Can I submit as an individual?

A. Yes. Both individual and team submissions (up to 5 members) are welcome.

Q. What grade levels are eligible?

A. Grades 7–12 (middle and high school) and university/college students worldwide.

Q. Do I need a working prototype?

A. No. A well-described concept is sufficient. A prototype is impressive but not required.

Q. Can I submit in my own language?

A. Yes. Any language is accepted. English captions in your video are recommended.

Q. Can I submit multiple projects?

A. Yes, but each submission requires a separate registration and participation fee.

Q. What if I miss the deadline?

A. The portal closes at 11:59 PM Pacific Time on August 30. No exceptions. Submit early.

Q. When will results be announced?

A. September 6, 2026 — online only. No physical ceremony.

Q. Can my teacher register for our class?

A. Yes. Teachers can use our Class Pack. Check the teacher option when registering.

Q. What is the difference between Grand Prix and Gold?

A. Grand Prix is one global winner. Gold recognizes top projects across multiple categories.

Contact Us

AI-JAM US Organizing Team

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Response: Within 24 hours on business days

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