

Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge

MAY 30-31, 2020

Judging and Awards Guide

You have the passion, the talent, and the knowledge – so how can you put it together to develop a winning Space Apps solution?

Here are some tips from the very people who will be judging your solutions, so read closely!

The Purpose of Space Apps

We know that awards are exciting and compelling reasons to participate in Space Apps, but we can't emphasize enough that Space Apps is a collaborative enterprise — not a competitive one.

This year NASA is excited to emphasize its own collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), and the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES). We hope you enjoy engaging with the resources collected by all of these agencies and find creative ways to incorporate the data into your projects!

As you create your teams and craft your solutions, please consider the goals of the Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge:

- + To address critical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- + To inspire collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking
- + To foster interest in Earth and space science and exploration
- + To raise awareness of NASA, ESA, JAXA, CNES, and CSA data around the world
- + To encourage growth and diversity of the next generation of scientists, technologists, designers, engineers, and artists

Eligibility and Global Judging Process

The brightest ideas across the Space Apps universe receive global recognition. To be eligible for Global Judging, your team and/or project must meet the following minimum requirements:

- + Respond to one of the official Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge statements.
- + Clearly show how NASA, ESA, JAXA, CNES, or CSA datasets, products, or resources were integrated into your project.
- + Provide a demo of showcasing your project by sharing a public link to slides (up to 5), screenshots (up to 5), or video (30 second limit).
- + Include a link to code in a public repository on your project page (if applicable). Space Apps is all about open data and collaboration!
- + Use English language on the project page (demonstrations can be in other languages but must include English language subtitles).
- + Make sure that the project does not contain profanity or inappropriate language.
- + Ensure that all team members are registered and identified on the team's webpage.
- + Have no more than six people on your team.
- + Finish updating your project page on the Space Apps website by midnight, Sunday, May 31 in your local timezone. If your team spans multiple time zones, your project must be submitted in accordance with local time of the member in the latest time zone.
- + Complete all of the required fields on the project submission page.
- + Adhere to all rules within the Space Apps Participant Terms and Conditions.
- + Check the box on the project submission page that says, "I want my project to be considered for Global Judging."

Global Judging

All projects that adequately meet the requirements above will advance to Global Judging, where they will be reviewed by subject-matter experts from NASA, ESA, JAXA, CNES, CSA, and other partner agencies. Each project will be evaluated by at least three experts blindly according to the judging criteria (below). The average of the votes will determine the top teams, who will be known as the "Global Finalists." Once notified, Global Finalists will be requested to submit their country of residence, country of birth, and country of citizenship.

Executive Judging

The Global Finalists will be reviewed by an executive committee from NASA, ESA, JAXA, CNES, CSA, and other partner agencies. These judges are leaders and executives at the agencies with a variety of subject matter expertise. Each Global Finalist project will be evaluated by each executive judge. This committee will nominate teams for one of six Global Awards:

- + Best Use of Data
- + Best Use of Hardware
- + Galactic Impact
- + Most Inspirational
- + Best Mission Concept
- + Best Use of Science

The winning submission for each of the categories above will be known as the “Global Winners.” Global Winners will be announced in early August via social media and the Space Apps website: <https://covid19.spaceappschallenge.org>.

You can find last year’s Global Finalists and Global Winners here:
<https://2019.spaceappschallenge.org/awards>.

Judging Criteria

In addition to the minimum criteria outlined above (concerning the use of data, the quality of your demonstration, etc.), global and executive judges evaluate the projects according to the following standards:

- + **Impact:** How much impact (quality and quantity) can this project have? Does it solve a big problem or a little problem? Will it inspire or help many, or a few?
- + **Creativity:** How creative/innovative is the approach? Is the project novel and something that hasn’t been attempted before, or is it an incremental improvement on something that already exists?
- + **Validity:** Is the solution scientifically valid? Will it do what it sets out to do? Can it work in the real world?
- + **Relevance:** Is this project responsive to the challenge for which it was submitted? Is it a complete solution or does it have a long way to go? Is it technically feasible? How usable or user friendly is the solution?

- + **Presentation:** How well did the team communicate their project? Were they effective in telling the story of the project: the challenge, the solution, and why is it important?

While many Space Apps teams consider the first four judging criteria carefully and excel at developing solutions with great potential, the best of these teams pay equal attention to the final criterion: presentation. After all, how can your solution make a difference if you can't effectively present and explain your solution in a way that will convince people to implement it? We recommend devoting time and resources to developing your pitch and building a great story around your project. Be sure to recruit team members with expertise in storytelling, design, and other skills to help document your project and share the value of your solution!

Global Awards

The six Global Winners will be featured on the Space Apps website and receive an invitation to present their projects to NASA, ESA, JAXA, CNES, and CSA personnel.

If travel is deemed safe, the winners will also be invited to visit a NASA site with the Space Apps Global Organizing Team to view a spacecraft launch. Each member of each winning team and one guest each will be invited and will be responsible for covering their own costs for their personal travel, meals and incidental expenses, and accommodation expenses. Winners typically conduct fundraising activities to cover the costs of their trips.

Suitable Space Apps projects from among the Global Finalists and Global Winners will also be eligible for the opportunity to up-scale the project idea to global information layers using the Euro Data Cube environment, giving access to NASA, ESA/Copernicus, JAXA, CSA, and CNES data in the Euro Data Cube with a 1-year Euro Data Cube Enterprise license, valued at 5,000 EUR and provided by ESA, and free processing resources. Ideas for comparative investigation of phenomena across global regions are specifically encouraged.