AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge

Participant Handbook

Ascend Global Youth Initiative (AGYI)

Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge — Official Handbook

Host: Ascend Global Youth Initiative (AGYI)

External Brand: Ascend

Competition Name: AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge

Inaugural Season: 2026–2027

Launch Date: October 17, 2026

Finals: May 2027

Version: v1.0 Official External Edition

Release Date: October 2026

Copyright and Disclaimer

This handbook is formulated by the Ascend Global Youth Initiative (AGYI) for external guidance and participation instructions for the AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge.

AGYI reserves the right of final interpretation of this handbook and competition rules, and reserves the right to revise, update, or adjust the competition schedule, dates, formats, awards, mentors, partner institutions, and summer camp plans based on actual circumstances. All updates will be published via the

official AGYI website or official competition communication channels.

Specific arrangements regarding dates, venues, awards, mentors, partner institutions, and elite U.S. university summer camps contained in this handbook are subject to final notification by the Organizing Committee.

Table of Contents

AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge · Participant Handbook 1

Copyright and Disclaimer 2

Chapter 1: Competition Overview 7

1.1 About AGYI 7

1.2 Background 7

1.3 Competition Positioning 8

1.4 Core Philosophy 8

1.5 Distinctive Features 9

1.6 Objectives 11

1.7 Competition Timeline 11

1.8 Organizational Structure 12

Chapter 2: Eligibility and Registration 13

2.1 Eligibility 13

2.2 Team Composition 13

2.3 Project Requirements 13

2.4 Application Materials 14

2.5 Registration Method 15

2.6 Entry Fees 15

2.7 Intellectual Property and Originality 15

2.8 Data Privacy and Ethics 16
Chapter 3: Competition Tracks and Evaluation Criteria 17
3.1 Tracks 17
3.2 Evaluation Dimensions 17
3.3 Scoring Criteria (100-Point Scale) 18
3.4 Evaluation Process 18
3.5 Judging Panel Composition 19
3.6 Judging Principles and Fairness Mechanisms 19
Chapter 4: Competition Process and Fairness Mechanisms 20
4.1 Five-Stage System 20
4.2 Stage 1: Project Call (October–December 2026) 20
4.3 Stage 2: Preliminary Review (January 2027) 20
4.4 Stage 3: Mentorship and Online Roadshow (January–April 2027) 21
4.5 Stage 4: Finals (May 2027) 21
4.6 Stage 5: Post-Competition Project Growth (May 2027 Onward) 22
4.7 Key Milestones 22
Chapter 5: Submission Guidelines 23
5.1 Submission Checklist 23
5.2 Formatting Requirements 23
5.3 Submission Method 24
5.4 Deadlines and Version Control 24
5.5 Intellectual Property and Originality 24
5.6 Use and Citation of AI Tools 25
5.7 Data Privacy and Ethical Compliance 25
Chapter 6: Mentorship and Continuous Growth Program 27
6.1 Types of Mentors 27

6.2 Mentor Matching Mechanism 27
6.3 Mentor Roles and Boundaries 27
6.4 The Five Steps of Mentorship 28
6.5 Awardee Project Growth Program 28
Chapter 7: Awards and Honors System 30
7.1 Award Categories 30
7.2 Special Awards 30
7.3 Honors System 31
7.4 Award Determination Process 31
7.5 Award Announcement Principles 32
Chapter 8: Elite U.S. University Summer Camp Program 33
8.1 Program Overview 33
8.2 Key Themes 33
8.3 Reference Program Types 33
8.4 Eligibility and Fee Policy 34
Chapter 9: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 35
Chapter 10: Appendices 37
Appendix A: Registration Form 37
Appendix B: Academic Integrity Pledge (Student & Guardian) 38
Appendix C: Mentor Statement of Guidance 40
Appendix D: Sample Scoring Rubric 41
Appendix E: Project Proposal Outline Template 42
Appendix F: Pitch Deck (PPT) Outline Template 43
Appendix G: AI Ethics and Data Compliance Self-Assessment Checklist 44
Appendix H: Contact and Inquiries 45

Chapter 1: Competition Overview

1.1 About AGYI

Ascend Global Youth Initiative (AGYI) is a youth-led initiative platform initiated by youth and created for youth.

AGYI Mission: Empowering youth to identify real-world problems, explore innovative ideas, and create positive community impact through concrete action.

English Proposition: Empowering youth to turn ideas into impact.

AGYI focuses on innovation, life and health sciences, psychology, education, AI, environment, engineering, and related fields, encouraging young individuals to address real-world challenges by integrating science, technology, business, and social values.

1.2 Background

Many young individuals possess promising ideas and enthusiasm but lack three crucial resources:

- Knowing how to execute;
- Guidance from mentors;
- Opportunities to showcase their work.

The AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge is purpose-built to address these three gaps. More than a simple competition, it serves as an end-to-end incubator from ideation to realization.

1.3 Competition Positioning

The AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge is a practical youth innovation and entrepreneurship platform launched by AGYI. Open to youth with innovative concepts, research outcomes, startup ventures, or social innovation plans, it encourages young people to tackle real problems and build innovative capabilities, entrepreneurial acumen, collaborative team skills, and a global perspective through project practice.

The positioning encompasses three levels:

- **A Competition:** A contest of youth innovation and startup projects;

- **A Growth Platform:** An ongoing advisory and cultivation platform for youth innovation;
- **An International Window:** A youth innovation bridge connecting North American universities, entrepreneurs, scientists, and investors.

Together, they form a cohesive youth innovation ecosystem: **Competition + Mentors + Projects + International Exchange**.

1.4 Core Philosophy

Competition Slogan:

Make Ideas Happen, Make Youth Innovation Truly Happen.

AGYI centers on three core questions:

- Is there a real problem?
- Is there genuine innovation?
- Can it genuinely be executed?

1.5 Distinctive Features

Feature 1: End-to-End Guidance from Entrepreneurs, Founders, and Investors

Unlike traditional student contests that only invite expert judges for the final evaluation, AGYI establishes a comprehensive mentor mechanism. Projects advancing to intensive incubation receive professional guidance from entrepreneurs, founders, investors, scientists, university professors, and industry experts.

Mentors assist teams specifically with:

- Project Positioning
- Technical Logic
- Business Model
- Market Analysis
- Team Building
- Pitch & Presentation Delivery

Feature 2: The End of the Contest is Not the Finish Line

AGYI does not treat the award ceremony as the conclusion of support. Outstanding award-winning projects enter the **AGYI Youth Innovation Project Growth Program**, continuing to receive tailored support:

- Expert mentor coaching
- Project optimization
- Business model advisory
- Industry resource connections
- Founder peer networking
- Investor dialogues
- Subsequent project showcase opportunities
- International exchange opportunities

Truly realizing: *Compete Once, Grow Continuously.*

Feature 3: Connecting Elite U.S. Universities and Global Innovation Resources

Top winning teams will receive priority access to the **Elite U.S. University Youth Innovation Summer Camp Program** organized by AGYI. Through campus visits, laboratory tours, innovation and entrepreneurship exchanges, interactions with young scientists, and corporate visits, youth will:

- Understand the global higher education innovation ecosystem;
- Learn about cutting-edge developments in life sciences and technology;
- Engage with scientists, founders, and investors;
- Broaden international perspectives;
- Enhance authentic practical experiences for college applications.

Specific universities, dates, program formats, and fee policies are subject to final annual arrangements.

1.6 Objectives

Dimension	**Target**
Participating Projects	30–50 registered projects
Finalist Teams	10 project teams
Mentors	5–10 entrepreneurs / founders / investors / scientists
Partner Institutions	2–3 partner organizations

Dimension	Target
Continuous Mentorship	Award-winning projects receive a 6–8 week Impact Accelerator
International Exchange	Outstanding teams receive priority for elite U.S. summer camps
Youth Engagement	50–100 youth participants
Impact Report	1 comprehensive report

1.7 Competition Timeline

Date / Period	Stage	Key Events
October 17, 2026	Launch	AGYI Inauguration Ceremony + Keynote Lecture + Competition Kickoff
October–December 2026	Project Call	Open registration & material submissions
January 2027	Preliminary Review	Online review of submissions; ~20 projects shortlisted
January–March 2027	Mentor Matching & Incubation	Mentor pairings and project refinement
March–April 2027	Online Roadshow & Semi-Final Review	Roadshow defense; selection of Top 10 finalists
April 2027	Finalist Confirmation	Official announcement of Top 10

Date / Period	Stage	Key Events
		finalists
May 2027	Grand Finals	On-site pitch presentations and award ceremonies
May 2027 Onward	Ongoing Support	Impact Accelerator
Summer 2027	Elite U.S. University Summer Camp	Participation of top winning teams

1.8 Organizational Structure

Body	Responsibilities
Competition Organizing Committee	Overall planning and major strategic decision-making
Competition Executive Committee	Registration, publicity, event coordination, roadshows, and operational execution
Expert Evaluation Committee	Professional project evaluation and judging
Mentor Committee	Ongoing project guidance and advisory
International Cooperation Committee	Partnerships with overseas universities, research institutes, corporations, and international resources

---

Chapter 2: Eligibility and Registration

2.1 Eligibility

- **Age:** High school students aged 14–18 (Grades 9–12);
- **Geography:** Primarily focused on Canadian Chinese youth, while warmly welcoming youth from other regions globally;
- **Format:** Team participation; inter-school, cross-disciplinary, and cross-regional teams are strongly encouraged.

2.2 Team Composition

- **Team Size:** 2–6 members per team;
- Each team must designate 1 Team Lead;
- Each team must designate 1 Adult Advisor (aged 21+) responsible for liaison and coordination;
- Each student may participate in only one team;
- Each team may submit only one project.

2.3 Project Requirements

- Projects must be original work created by the team;
- No restriction on project domain;
- **Inaugural Priority Track:** Life Sciences and Biopharmaceuticals;
- Also welcome: Psychology, education, AI, environment, engineering, social innovation, etc.;
- **Project Stage:** Idea phase, prototype phase, or projects with preliminary tangible outcomes;
- Projects must not have secured external funding exceeding pre-specified thresholds;
- Projects must not infringe on any third-party intellectual property.

2.4 Application Materials

Material	Requirement
Project Registration Form	Standard template covering team information and basic project profiles
Project Proposal	3–5 pages detailing: Problem, Target Audience, Solution, Innovations, and Feasibility Analysis

Material	Requirement
Team Member Profiles	Name, school, grade, and defined role/division of responsibilities for each member
Key Innovations	Clear explanation of the novelty and uniqueness of the project
Problem Statement	Description of the real-world issue addressed, preferably backed by data or field surveys
Market / User Analysis	Target users and demand analysis
Current Progress	Current development phase and milestones achieved
Business Model / Social Value	Pathways to sustainability and value generation
Future Development Plan	Next steps and resource requirements
Introduction Video	60-second video introducing the team and project
Pitch Deck (PPT)	Maximum of 15 slides
Adult Advisor Information	Full name and contact details
Participation Agreement & Disclaimer	Signed by all team members and their legal guardians
Originality Declaration	Signed by all team members

2.5 Registration Method

- Submit application materials online;
- Portal: AGYI Official Website / Designated Registration Platform;
- Deadline: December 31, 2026;

- Language: All materials must be in English or bilingual (Chinese and English);
- File Naming Convention: TeamID_DocumentType_ProjectName.

2.6 Entry Fees

Participation in the inaugural challenge is free of charge. Separate notices will be provided should any offline finals or summer camp activities involve travel or logistical costs. Specific fee policies remain subject to final notification by the Organizing Committee.

2.7 Intellectual Property and Originality

- Submissions must be original creations of the team;
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited;
- Any incorporation of third-party IP must be fully disclosed;
- Participating teams retain full intellectual property rights to their work;
- AGYI claims no ownership over participant projects;
- AGYI reserves the right to use team names, project titles, and executive summaries for promotional and non-commercial purposes;
- For sensitive projects, submissions may be designated as "Confidential", balancing confidentiality with evaluation clarity.

2.8 Data Privacy and Ethics

- Projects involving personal data must comply with established privacy best practices;
- Informed consent must be secured from data subjects;
- AI ethics, fairness, and algorithmic accountability must be addressed;
- Fundamental regulatory and ethical compliance reviews must be conducted;
- All personal or sensitive data must be strictly anonymized.

Chapter 3: Competition Tracks and Evaluation Criteria

3.1 Tracks

The competition is open to multi-disciplinary innovations with an emphasis on technology-driven ventures. The inaugural season places particular focus on **Life Sciences and Biopharmaceuticals**, encouraging original and socially impactful projects.

Reference Categories:

- **Life Sciences & Health:** Disease prevention, health monitoring, mental health, nutrition & sports science, elderly care support;
- **Biopharmaceuticals & Medical Technology:** Drug discovery, diagnostic tools, medical devices, digital healthcare;
- **AI & Data Science:** AI-assisted diagnostics, health analytics, bioinformatics;
- **Environment & Sustainability:** Environmental monitoring, waste management, clean energy solutions;
- **Education & Community:** Educational equity, learning tools, community services;
- **Engineering & Design:** Assistive devices, smart hardware, user experience innovations;
- **Open Category:** Other initiatives embodying "Real Problem + Innovative Solution + Social Value".

3.2 Evaluation Dimensions

Dimension	Core Question	Weight
Innovation	What is novel about the project?	25%
Problem Significance	What real-world problem does it solve?	20%
Feasibility	Can it realistically be implemented?	20%
Social Value	Does it generate positive societal or environmental impact?	15%
Team Capability	Does the team possess the	10%

Dimension	Core Question	Weight
	capacity to execute the project?	
Presentation Quality	Is the pitch articulate, coherent, and compelling?	10%

3.3 Scoring Criteria (100-Point Scale)

Scoring Item	Max Points	Description
Innovation	25	Novel concepts, addressing real problems, distinct unique advantages
Problem Significance	20	Authentic real problem, supported by data or surveys, clear target audience
Feasibility	20	Actionable plan, accessible resources, required team capabilities
Social Value	15	Positive contribution to community, society, or the environment
Team Capability	10	Sensible division of labor, clear roles, cohesive collaboration
Presentation Quality	10	Clear and persuasive pitch, professional slide deck and oral delivery

3.4 Evaluation Process

- **Preliminary Review:** Online desk review of materials, evaluated independently by at least 3 judges;
- **Semi-Final Review:** Online roadshow presentations with real-time scoring by judges;
- **Finals:** On-site pitch roadshows with comprehensive scoring;
- All score records are systematically archived to guarantee fairness and transparency.

3.5 Judging Panel Composition

The panel adheres to the principle of integrating **Professionalism + Industry + Investment + Education**, comprising:

- Entrepreneurs, startup founders, and venture investors;
- Scientists, university professors, and sector researchers;
- Pharmaceutical industry leaders and technology executives;
- Experienced educators and youth development mentors.

3.6 Judging Principles and Fairness Mechanisms

- **Blind Review:** Preliminary reviews redact team names, school affiliations, and member names;
- **Recusal Principle:** Judges must recuse themselves where direct conflicts of interest exist;
- **Outlier Truncation:** Highest and lowest scores are discarded, calculating the arithmetic mean;
- **Feedback Mechanism:** All shortlisted teams receive written commentary and feedback from judges;
- **Finality Principle:** Judgments rendered by the committee are final; appeals are not admitted;
- **Transparency Principle:** Evaluation criteria are published openly, and score records are securely preserved.

Chapter 4: Competition Process and Fairness Mechanisms

4.1 Five-Stage System

1. Project Call & Registration
2. Preliminary Review
3. Mentorship & Online Roadshow
4. Grand Finals
5. Post-Competition Project Growth

4.2 Stage 1: Project Call (October–December 2026)

- Online registration opens;
- Teams submit project proposals, 60-second video introductions, and pitch decks;
- Organizing Committee conducts eligibility checks and preliminary dossier verification.

4.3 Stage 2: Preliminary Review (January 2027)

- Judges evaluate submissions online;
- Criteria: Innovation, problem significance, technical/solution merit, market potential, social value, team capability, and growth potential;
- Approximately 20 top projects advance to the next stage;
- Conducted via blind review to guarantee impartiality.

4.4 Stage 3: Mentorship and Online Roadshow (January–April 2027)

- Each shortlisted project is paired with specialized mentors;
- Mentor categories: Entrepreneurial mentors, startup founders, investment mentors, scientists/technical specialists;
- Each project receives at least one systematic diagnostic consultation;
- **Five-Step Mentorship:** Diagnosis → Positioning → Refinement → Pitch Training → Finals Preparation;
- Online Roadshow: 8-minute presentation + 5-minute expert Q&A;
- Top 10 finalist teams are selected based on overall evaluation.

4.5 Stage 4: Finals (May 2027)

- Top 10 finalist teams deliver live on-site pitches;
- Format: 10-minute presentation + 5-minute judge Q&A;
- Judged by distinguished entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and industry experts;
- Winners determined and awarded;
- Event structure: Project pitches + Expert Q&A + Award Ceremony.

4.6 Stage 5: Post-Competition Project Growth (May 2027 Onward)

- Winning projects enter the AGYI Youth Innovation Project Growth Program;
- Ongoing 1-on-1 coaching by industry experts;
- Priority access to the elite U.S. university summer camp initiative;
- Execution of at least one real-world trial, service deployment, or verification milestone.

4.7 Key Milestones

Date	Event
October 17, 2026	AGYI Official Launch, Inaugural Lecture, Competition Kickoff
October–December 2026	Project Call and Registration
January 2027	Preliminary Review
January–March 2027	Mentor Matching and Project Incubation
March–April 2027	Online Roadshow and Semi-Final Evaluation
April 2027	Confirmation and Announcement of Top 10 Finalists
May 2027	AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge Grand Finals
May 2027 Onward	Ongoing Project Incubation & Mentorship

Date	Event
Summer 2027	Elite U.S. University Youth Innovation Summer Camp

---

Chapter 5: Submission Guidelines

5.1 Submission Checklist

Material Category	Format	Core Function
Project Proposal	PDF, 3–5 pages	Demonstrates overall project logic and feasibility
Product Prototype / MVP	Video or Demo	Demonstrates technical implementation and user experience
Pitch Deck (PPT)	PPT / PDF, max 15 slides	Demonstrates presentation clarity and persuasiveness
User Validation & Data	PDF, max 3 pages	Demonstrates research and validation methodologies
Team Profile	Standard Form	Presents member details and credentials
Adult Advisor Information	Standard Form	Presents advisor contact information
Participation Agreement	Signed Form	Signed by all members and legal

Material Category	Format	Core Function
		guardians
Originality Declaration	Signed Form	Signed by all team members

5.2 Formatting Requirements

- All materials must be in English;
- Written dossiers must be submitted in PDF format;
- Slide presentations must be in PDF or PowerPoint format;
- Video demonstrations may be submitted via online URLs or MP4 video files;
- File naming standard: TeamID_DocumentType_ProjectName;
- Do not disclose school names or participant names within file names or body text (preliminary round is blind-reviewed).

5.3 Submission Method

- All submissions are handled through the official AGYI Challenge Online Portal;
- Login credentials will be dispatched following registration;
- Upload all project components according to portal instructions;
- Verify that all files are securely stored;
- An official confirmation receipt will be issued upon successful transmission.

5.4 Deadlines and Version Control

- Submission Deadline: December 31, 2026;
- Files may be updated or replaced at any time prior to the deadline;
- No late submissions or modifications are permitted after the deadline;
- Each team is permitted only one active submission package;
- Teams seeking withdrawal should notify organizers promptly.

5.5 Intellectual Property and Originality

- All submissions must be the original creations of the student team;

- Plagiarism in any form is strictly banned;
- Any third-party IP used must be explicitly disclosed;
- Participating teams retain all ownership and IP rights to their innovations;
- AGYI asserts no proprietary claims over project IP;
- Mentors provide direction and advice, but must not produce deliverables on behalf of students;
- Every team member and guardian must execute an Academic Integrity Pledge.

5.6 Use and Citation of AI Tools

- The use of Generative AI tools is permitted;
- Any usage of AI must be transparently disclosed and properly cited;
- Undisclosed AI usage will be treated as plagiarism;
- Core intellectual synthesis and critical thinking must be performed by the student team;
- Teams must append an "AI Usage and References" section to their proposals;
- Recommended citation formats: APA or MLA.

5.7 Data Privacy and Ethical Compliance

- Projects collecting or analyzing personal data must adhere to established data privacy best practices;
- Informed consent must be obtained where primary data is collected;
- Adhere strictly to relevant data protection regulations;
- Account for AI ethics, algorithmic fairness, and bias mitigation;
- Conduct baseline compliance assessments;
- Complete the AI Ethics and Data Compliance Self-Assessment Checklist prior to submission.

Chapter 6: Mentorship and Continuous Growth Program

6.1 Types of Mentors

Mentor Category	Problems Addressed for Teams
Entrepreneurial Mentors	Understanding real-world business dynamics and operations
Startup Mentors	Startup pathways, team coordination, product execution, and go-to-market strategies
Investment Mentors	Investment logic, valuation, fundraising, and capital market dynamics
Scientists / Technical Experts	Technical feasibility, research methodology, and scientific rigor
University Professors	Academic perspectives, literature synthesis, and research rigor

6.2 Mentor Matching Mechanism

- Each shortlisted project is matched with at least 1 qualified mentor;
- Pairings are based on project domains and mentor expertise;
- Mutual confirmation between mentors and teams;
- Each team is assigned a primary mentor, with optional backup mentors;
- At least one online mentoring session per month (30–60 minutes).

6.3 Mentor Roles and Boundaries

- Mentors provide directional and strategic advice only;
- Mentors must not write or generate project content for students;
- Mentors must not make executive decisions on behalf of students;
- Mentors ensure originality is safeguarded;
- During official evaluations, mentors must remain impartial and avoid real-time coaching or interference;
- All mentors must sign the Mentor Statement of Guidance.

6.4 The Five Steps of Mentorship

1. **Project Diagnosis:** Identify the primary challenges and operational bottlenecks of the project;
2. **Project Positioning:** Refine exactly what problem is being addressed and for whom;
3. **Project Refinement:** Polish core content across product design, market fit, and user validation;
4. **Pitch Training:** Coach the team to articulate clearly: *Why this? What is it? Why you? How will you execute? Why will it succeed?*
5. **Finals Preparation:** Finalize roadshow materials, slide visuals, and defense tactics.

6.5 Awardee Project Growth Program

Winning teams automatically transition into the **AGYI Youth Innovation Project Growth Program**, unlocking:

- Continuous one-on-one coaching with expert mentors;
- Ongoing project refinement and technical optimization;
- Business model and commercialization advisory;
- Direct connections to industry partnerships;
- Founder networking sessions;
- Dialogue and showcases with prospective investors;
- Showcase opportunities at follow-up forums;
- International exchange opportunities.

Chapter 7: Awards and Honors System

7.1 Award Categories

Award	Quota	Incentives
First Prize · AGYI Youth Innovation Grand Prize	1 Team	Certificate + Cash Prize + Priority for U.S. Elite Summer Camp + Ongoing Mentorship
Second Prize · AGYI Youth Innovation Excellence Award	2 Teams	Certificate + Cash Prize + Alternate Priority for U.S. Elite Summer Camp + Ongoing Mentorship
Third Prize · AGYI Youth Innovation Potential Award	3 Teams	Certificate + Cash Prize + Ongoing Mentorship
Outstanding Project Award	Multiple	Certificate + Mentor Recommendation Letter

7.2 Special Awards

Conferred based on standout qualities of participating projects:

- Best Scientific Innovation Award
- Best Business Innovation Award
- Best Social Impact Award
- Most Promising Investment Potential Award
- Outstanding Youth Team Award

Special awards are discretionary and granted based on the final merits of competing projects.

7.3 Honors System

Participants receive official credentials recognizing achievement:

- AGYI Certificate of Participation
- AGYI Finalist Certificate
- AGYI Award Winner Certificate
- AGYI Mentorship Completion Certificate

- AGYI Practical Project Certificate

Active youth may advance along a progressive development trajectory:

Participant → Project Member → Awardee → Youth Innovation Practitioner → AGYI Youth Leader

7.4 Award Determination Process

Stage	Content
Stage 1: System Score Aggregation	Outlier Truncation → Weighted Average → Rank Ordering
Stage 2: Panel Review of Marginal Teams	Deliberation over teams separated by ≤0.2 points
Stage 3: General Award Determination	Score-led allocation complemented by panel vote (no grade-jumping permitted)
Stage 4: Special Award Determination	Judge ballot voting supported by qualitative and quantitative rationales
Stage 5: Official Result Publication	Announcement of Team IDs and category scores (judges' identities withheld)
Stage 6: Participant Feedback Package	Distribution of consolidated judge comments and feedback to each team

7.5 Award Announcement Principles

- **Transparency:** Disclosure of score ranges and mean scores;
- **Privacy Protection:** Redaction of individual judges' names and sensitive commentary;
- **Auditability:** Complete score logs archived and accessible for committee audit;
- **Fairness:** Strict alignment of all honors with the official judging rubric.

Chapter 8: Elite U.S. University Summer Camp Program

8.1 Program Overview

AGYI will provide top-performing awardee teams with prioritized access to participate in the **Elite U.S. University Youth Innovation Summer Camp Program**.

8.2 Key Themes

- **University Visits:** Explore elite U.S. university environments, academic ecosystems, and research facilities;
- **Laboratory Tours:** Witness state-of-the-art research in life sciences, medicine, and AI;
- **Dialogue with Young Scientists:** Exchange ideas directly with leading researchers, faculty, and graduate scholars;
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship Exchanges:** Visit university entrepreneurship centers, startup incubators, founders, and venture funds;
- **Corporate Visits:** Study the operational paradigms of high-growth technology and innovation enterprises.

8.3 Reference Program Types

- University of Washington Foster School of Business: Business and Leadership Program (2 Weeks);
- University of Washington: Business Startup Bootcamp (1 Week);
- Purdue University: Summer Camps (5 Days);
- Michigan State University: Entrepreneur Leadership Camp (4 Days).

Specific universities, dates, program formats, and fee structures are subject to final annual arrangements.

8.4 Eligibility and Fee Policy

- Winning teams enjoy priority qualification status;
- Available spots, application procedures, and fee schedules will be announced separately;
- Expenses may encompass program tuition, transit, accommodation, and insurance;

- AGYI will provide administrative support including formal invitation letters and visa documentation.

Chapter 9: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: High school students aged 14–18, regardless of academic curriculum or nationality.

Q: How many members can a team have?

A: 2 to 6 members. Each team must designate 1 Team Lead and 1 Adult Advisor.

Q: Are inter-school teams allowed?

A: Yes. Cross-school, cross-disciplinary, and cross-regional collaborations are highly encouraged.

Q: Must the project be related to life sciences?

A: No. While the inaugural edition emphasizes Life Sciences and Biopharmaceuticals, innovative projects from all fields are welcome.

Q: Are AI tools allowed?

A: Yes, provided that their use is explicitly cited and disclosed. Undisclosed use of AI will be treated as plagiarism.

Q: Can mentors write application materials for our team?

A: No. Mentors provide directional guidance only and must not author content or make project decisions.

Q: What support is available after the competition concludes?

A: Award-winning teams join the AGYI Youth Innovation Project Growth Program for continuous expert mentorship.

Q: Is the U.S. University Summer Camp free of charge?

A: Specific fee structures will be detailed in the official announcement for the relevant annual camp.

Q: What if we have inquiries or objections regarding the judging scores?

A: All judges' decisions are final, and no appeals are admitted. Rigorous evaluation processes are maintained to ensure fairness.

Q: Must all team members attend the finals in person?

A: At least one member must attend in person, though full team attendance is strongly encouraged.

Q: Is there an entry fee for registration?

A: Participation in the inaugural challenge is entirely free. Any logistics costs associated with offline finals or summer camps will be notified separately.

Q: Where can we access the latest announcements?

A: Please visit the official AGYI website or follow official competition community communication channels.

Chapter 10: Appendices

Appendix A: Registration Form

AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge Registration Form

Item	Details
Team Name	
Team ID	
Project Title	
Track / Field	
Team Lead	
Contact Information	
Team Members	
Adult Advisor	

Item	Details
School / Grade	
Project Executive Summary	
Key Innovations	
Current Phase	
Required Support	

Appendix B: Academic Integrity Pledge (Student & Guardian)

AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge Academic Integrity Pledge

By signing below, the team solemnly affirms and pledges:

- The submitted project represents the authentic ideas and efforts of our team;
- All members have actively contributed to the deliverables;
- No portion of the submission involves plagiarism or unattributed copying;
- All external data, content, or conceptual inspirations have been properly cited;
- We will uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical conduct throughout the competition;
- We will not participate in cheating, deception, or misrepresentation;
- We understand and agree to adhere strictly to all competition guidelines;
- We respect the final decisions of the evaluation panel;
- We pledge mutual respect toward all peers, judges, and organizing staff;
- We confirm our eligibility and verify that all registration data is true and accurate;
- We acknowledge that any violation of this pledge or contest rules will result in disciplinary measures, including team disqualification and forfeiture of awards.

Each student team member and parent/guardian (if the student is under 18) must sign below.

Team Name: _____

Team ID: _____

#	Student Name	Signature	Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Appendix C: Mentor Statement of Guidance

AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge Mentor Statement of Guidance

As the designated mentor for Team _____ [Team ID], I pledge to uphold the following principles:

- **Advisory Role Exclusively:** My duty is to guide, consult, and instruct, not to execute the project. I will not draft text, write code, produce designs, or fabricate deliverables. All decisions and work products must stem directly from the students.
- **Student Ownership:** Ideation, implementation, and finished deliverables belong entirely to the students. My advice is consultative, fostering independent, critical problem-solving.
- **Fairness & Integrity:** I will strictly comply with contest regulations and preserve confidentiality, conferring no unfair advantage. I will promptly seek clarification from organizers if boundaries are unclear and remind teams to cite external assistance properly.
- **Non-Interference During Evaluations:** During official presentations, I will not participate, provide prompts, or communicate in any real-time manner. I will not contact judges to influence outcomes.
- **Educational Focus:** My commitment is to nurture student growth across technical skills, entrepreneurial mindsets, scientific research, communication, collaboration, and resilience.

Mentor Name: _____

Organization / Institution: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to Team: Teacher / Coach / Parent / Industry Advisor / Other _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Appendix D: Sample Scoring Rubric

Dimension	Weight	Criteria	Max Score
Innovation	25%	Novelty of idea, solving real problems, distinct competitive advantages	25
Problem Significance	20%	Authentic real problem, substantiated by data/surveys, defined user persona	20
Feasibility	20%	Actionable roadmap, accessible resources, team competence	20
Social Value	15%	Positive impact on community, society, or environment	15
Team Capability	10%	Balanced division of labor, dedicated roles, smooth teamwork	10
Presentation Quality	10%	Clarity, persuasiveness,	10

Dimension	Weight	Criteria	Max Score
		professional slides and delivery	

Appendix E: Project Proposal Outline Template

1. Project Title
2. Team Information
3. Problem Statement
4. Target Users / Beneficiaries
5. Proposed Solution
6. Key Innovations
7. Feasibility Analysis
8. Market / User Needs Analysis
9. Business Model or Social Value
10. Current Progress
11. Future Development Plan
12. Team Roles & Division of Responsibilities

Appendix F: Pitch Deck (PPT) Outline Template

1. Project Title & Team Introduction
2. Problem Statement & Insights
3. Proposed Solution
4. Key Innovations
5. Market Analysis
6. Business Model / Value Proposition
7. Current Progress
8. Social Value & Impact
9. Future Roadmap
10. Team Members & Division of Labor

Appendix G: AI Ethics and Data Compliance Self-Assessment Checklist

Check each box upon satisfactory compliance:

□ AI Ethics Statement Prepared

□ Algorithmic Bias Mitigation

□ Data Privacy Protection

□ Legality of Data Sourcing

□ Transparency and Explainability

□ Human Oversight Mechanism

□ Mitigation of Potential Misuse Risks

□ Environmental & Computational Considerations

□ Alignment with Competition Ethics Guidelines

□ Final Ethics Review Completed

Appendix H: Contact and Inquiries

For any questions, please reach out to the AGYI Organizing Committee through:

- **Official Website:** agyi.org
- **Instagram**: @join_agyi
- **Email:** agyisummit@gmail.com
- **Official Community Channel:** Provided upon successful registration

Organizing Committee of the AGYI Youth Innovation & Entrepreneurship Challenge

Ascend Global Youth Initiative (AGYI)

October 2026

Make Ideas Happen, Make Youth Innovation Truly Happen.