

# 2021 CGI I.T. Girl Challenge

## Participant Guide



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## Program Overview

### A Brief History

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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

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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

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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 scholarship split between members of the winning team.

### Key Dates

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

- Team application due: **Monday, February 08, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST**
- Team assignments: **Tuesday, February 09, 2021**
- Kickoff week: **Monday, February 15, 2021**
- Photo Release Forms: **Monday, March 01, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST**
- Final submission: **Friday, April 30, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST**
- Day of Challenge: **Friday, May 21, 2021**

## Joining the Challenge

### Gender-Identity Inclusivity Statement

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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

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- **No minimum GPA**
- **No design or programming experience required**

#### Participants are eligible if they:

##### Are

- 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> graders in good academic standing
- Identify as female or non-binary seeking involvement in a STEM-focused female learning 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:** any ChromebookOS/Windows/MacOS device, latest 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 01, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST**
  - › Judging Only Photo Release [available upon request](#)
- Completed [Participant's Oath](#)
- Signed [Acknowledgement Form](#)

## Team Requirements

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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:

### Be accompanied by a Team Sponsor from the organization

- The [Team Sponsor Requirements](#) section outlines the role

### Have 2 to 4 participants

- Team members do not have to be in the same grade
- Participants may only be on 1 team

### Provide the following for each participant timely and accurately

- [Acknowledgement Form](#)
- [Photo Release Form](#)
  - › Judging Only Photo Release [available upon request](#)
- [Participant's Oath](#)

## Team Sponsor Requirements

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Aside from attending the **Day of Challenge** to root for your team, the Team Sponsor is responsible for

### Attending 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

### Exchanging communications (via Microsoft Teams or email) to

- Submit the Team Application
  - › Make alternate Team Application arrangements with CGI I.T. Girl Challenge Leadership Team Co-Leads
- Assist participants and mentors with turning over the final submission

## For Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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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 virtual **Closing Ceremony**
  - › Details to be provided at a later date

## Contact Information & Closing Comments

### Contact information

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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, please contact

- [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, please contact

##### Pittsburgh Public Schools

- [Franco Colaizzi](#) | CGI representative to Pittsburgh Public Schools

##### New Outlook Academy

- [Franco Colaizzi](#) | CGI representative to New Outlook Academy

##### Best of the Batch Foundation

- [Elizabeth Bujak](#) | CGI representative to Best of the Batch Foundation

### Closing Comments

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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!

## Appendices

### Team Application Outline

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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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional (Strongly Encouraged):*

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

*Email Addresses:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Phone Numbers:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Mailing Addresses:* \_\_\_\_\_



## Participant's Oath

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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: \_\_\_\_\_