2026 ICODE784 COMPETITION OUTLINE

The iCode784 Competition; “Using technology for a better world.”

Abstract

The iCode784 Competition provides participants with an opportunity to use their imagination, creativity, and technical skills to develop innovative solutions that address real-world challenges while showcasing the talent and ingenuity of young people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Introduction

The **2026 iCode784 Competition** encourages young innovators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to use technology as a tool for change. It provides a platform for participants to present groundbreaking mobile applications aimed at improving public and private sector services, and robotic solutions. This year, several updates have been made to enhance the competition experience.

We aim to engage participants from secondary, technical, and tertiary-level institutions in the Robotics and Secondary Mobile Application categories, as well as individuals aged 35 years and under in the Open Category, to develop innovative mobile applications and robotics projects based on the assigned challenges and themes.

Important Notes

1. **Robotics Category** focuses on building functional LEGO robots to solve specific challenges.
2. **Secondary Mobile Application** and **Open Category** focus on developing mobile applications designed to solve real-world problems.
3. For the **Robotics and Secondary Mobile Application** categories, prize winnings will be distributed as follows: 20% to the mentor and 80% to the participating team members.
4. The first-place winner of the **Open Category** will be invited to submit a grant proposal outlining plans for further development and commercialization of the application if they wish to bring the app to market.
5. All teams participating in the competition will be made up of **2 participants only**.

PRIZES

The prizes of the competition will be as follows:

Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Robotics	$7,000	$5,000	$3,000
Secondary Mobile Application	$10,000	$8,000	$6,000
Open	$15,000 (+ up to $30,000 grant funding to bring the application to market)	$10,000	$7,000

Other Prizes

- The school with the most entries will receive a cash prize of $1000.

Trophies will be presented to the first-place teams for each category.

The Categories of the competition

1. Robotics Category

The Robotics Category for the 2026 iCode784 Competition is designed to inspire students to apply principles of science and technology to solve challenges through robotics. It focuses on building functional LEGO robots to solve specific challenges.

1. Registration and Team Composition

- **Eligibility**: Secondary & Tertiary school students.
- **Team Size**: Two (2) members per team.
- **Registration Period**: July 1–September 18, 2026.
    - Only one (1) team per school will be permitted to enter for this category

2. Preliminary Stage

- Robot kits will be distributed to participating schools on a zone-by-zone basis according to the following schedule:
  - Zone 1-September 28- October 12, 2026.
  - Zone 2-October 19-November 2, 2026.
- Teams will receive in advance a challenge outlining the task or problem to be solved. Each team will have two weeks with the robot kit to prepare, build and program the robots to complete the challenge.
- Once the challenge has been announced, registered participants are encouraged to conduct independent research and utilize the provided training resources and tutorials to familiarize themselves with robot construction and programming. Tutorials can be found at: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM3EifjqSZA&list=PL_zXBalpjbu33gw5CML3DtL7fN8640qku&ab_channel=LEGOEngineering**
- Challenges combine technical problem-solving with LEGO robot design and programming skills.
- At the end of this event, the robot kits must be returned.
- Judging will occur across three zones as outlined below:

Zone 1	Zone 2
Judging- October 13, 2026	Judging- November 3, 2026
Petit Bordel Secondary School	
Troumaca Secondary	
St. Vincent Girls' High School	
Canouan Secondary School	
Thomas Saunders Secondary School	
Saint Joseph Convent Kingstown	
Georgetown Secondary School	
West St George Secondary School	
St Martin's Secondary School	
Mountain View Adventist Academy	
Union Island Secondary School	

- Judging will be conducted in person on the above dates between 9:00am-3:00pm

3. Finals

- The four (4) highest-scoring teams from each zone will advance to the finals. They will be joined by the three (3) valedictorian teams from the MyApp Summer Program, resulting in a total of eleven (11) teams competing in the final stage.
- Teams will be notified of who would advance to the finals at the end of each preliminary judging.
- The finals will take place between 8:00am and 11:00am on Tuesday January 19, 2027.
- Upon advancing to the finals, teams will be given a final challenge which will be announced on November 6, 2026, to complete for finals.
- Teams in the final stage will receive robot kits on January 4, 2027, to work on their challenges for finals.
- Teams will explain their design process, problem-solving approach, and lessons learned.
- The top three (3) scoring teams on January 19, 2027, will be announced as winners of this category and awarded prizes.
- The prize giving ceremony will take place from 4:00pm on January 19, 2027.

2. Secondary Mobile App Category

The Secondary Mobile App Category consists of teams made up of two(2) students attending secondary schools submitting a Mobile application. Students entering this category must present their Mobile applications based on the selected theme to the judges via a video submission explaining the app and its functionality at the Preliminary Round of the competition. Final presentations will be done in person. Participants must use the outlined theme as the foundation for their application, which will be presented in both the **preliminary and final rounds**.

- **Registration:** July 1–September 30, 2026.
- **Preliminaries:**
    - Teams must submit a video presentation of no more than seven (7) minutes in length by **1:00 pm on November 9, 2026** for judging on November 10, 2026. The video must demonstrate the app's design and functionality. As such, participants are not required to attend judging for this stage of the competition.
    - The finalists will be announced and published on NTRC's website, Instagram, and Facebook Pages on November 10, 2026.
    - Presentation Skills Workshop: Finalists will receive presentation coaching from Toastmasters on November 30, 2026.
    - **N.B**: the judging scores will be based on the oral and visual presentations submitted during the preliminary stage. These scores will determine whether participants advance to the final rounds.
- **Finals:**
    - Finalists will present a working prototype of their app in person during the Grand Finale.
    - The finals will take place between 11:00am and 2:00pm on Tuesday **January 19, 2027**.
    - The winners from each category will then be presented with their prizes. The prize giving ceremony will take place from 4:00pm on **January 19, 2027**.
- **Submissions**
    - Below is a summary of the judging criteria for the **Secondary Mobile App Category**. Consider these when developing your mobile application.

Innovation & Technical Development
- Originality of the concept.
- Level of innovation demonstrated.
- Differentiation from existing solutions.
- Effective technical implementation in addressing the identified problem.

User Experience
- Provide a clear outline of your mobile application, including:
    - Clarity of purpose and how it works.
    - Ease of use and navigation.
    - Value provided to intended users.
    - Key features and functionalities.

Presentation
- Clarity and confidence of presentation delivery and communication.
- Clear organization and readability of slides or videos.

3. Open Category

The Open Category is designed for Individuals or teams of up to two (2) persons, each aged 35 years or younger. This includes tertiary students, technical institutes, and secondary school students. Participants entering this category must present their Mobile applications to the judges via a video submission explaining the app and its functionality at the Preliminary Round of the competition**.** Final presentations will be done in person. Mobile applications should be aimed at improving public and private sector services within St. Vincent and the Grenadines and can be based on any subject area. Participants may submit **multiple applications**, provided that each one is unique and not a duplicate.

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    - **N.B**: the judging scores will be based on the oral and visual presentations submitted during the preliminary stage. These scores will determine whether participants advance to the final rounds.
- **Finals:**
    - Finalists will present a working prototype of their app in person during the Grand Finale.
    - The finals will take place between 2:00pm and 4:00pm on **January 19, 2027**.
    - The winners from each category will then be presented with their prizes. The prize giving ceremony will take place from 4:00pm on **January 19, 2027**.
    - **Submissions**
    - Below is a summary of the judging criteria for the **Open Category**. Consider these when developing your mobile application.

Innovation & Technical Development

- Originality of the concept.
- Level of innovation demonstrated.
- Differentiation from existing solutions.
- Effective technical implementation in addressing the identified problem.

User Experience

- Provide a clear outline of your mobile application, including:
    - Clarity of purpose and how it works.
    - Ease of use and navigation.
    - Value provided to intended users.
    - Key features and functionalities.

Presentation

- Clarity and confidence of presentation delivery and communication.
- Clear organization and readability of slides or videos.

THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION

The benefits of participating in such a competition include but are not limited to:

- Fostering teamwork
- Building research skills
- Encouraging innovation
- Promoting problem-solving and critical thinking
- Improving efficiency and productivity
- Enhancing entrepreneurship
- Developing creativity, analytical thinking, and presentation skills

For more information on the rules and guidelines that governs the competition, please visit

https://www.ntrc.vc/general/ntrcs-i-code784-competition/

Registration for the competition can be done on our website **www.ntrc.vc**.