

Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge Rules and Eligibility

Note: Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge reserves the right to update these rules at any time. Every attempt will be made to notify applicants of any modification to this document; however, it is ultimately the responsibility of Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge applicants to stay current with Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge Rules and Regulations by visiting yepitchchallenge.com.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be enrolled in high school (grades 9-12) in the spring of 2018. Applicant may be home schooled or enrolled in online schools.
- Applicant must reside in one of the 21 counties of Northeast Ohio: Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Holmes, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, Trumbull, Wayne.
- Applicant's parent or guardian must complete the electronic permission section of the Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge entry form on the website.
- Video entries must be no longer than 90 seconds. It is recommended that entries be not less than 45 seconds. File types accepted include mp4, mov, avi, mpg, and wmv.
- Applicant and his/her parent/guardian must give consent to all photographs, audio recordings and video recordings taken of him/her, and all Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge work presented in association with Young Entrepreneur Institute. All media recordings become the property of the Young Entrepreneur Institute and may be used by Young Entrepreneur Institute for educational, instructional or promotional purposes in print, broadcast or electronic media formats now existing or in the future created. This includes but is not limited to the video entry submission. There will be no compensation for the use of any photographs, audio or video recordings or any other media.
- Applicants may not work in teams. Only single applicant entries will be accepted.
- Finalists and winners may not be the child of any Young Entrepreneur Institute employee.
- The deadline for submission is February 20, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.

Business Pitch Criteria

- The proposed idea can be any type of business – a product business, a service business, a social enterprise that helps people or the environment, or a technology business.
- Entries will be judged on the Creativity of the idea, business name and video; the Persuasiveness of the elevator pitch; and the Overall Quality of the idea, pitch and video.

Prizes

Fifteen (15) finalists and five (5) winners will receive both monetary and “in-kind” prizes. There is no cash value to “in-kind” prizes and no exchanges or refunds will be offered. Prizes are non-transferrable.

Five (5) winners will receive:

- \$100 cash
- One-year supply of Coca-Cola sparkling beverages (two cases per month, your choice of beverage)
- Four (4) Cleveland Indians tickets for Wednesday, May 22, 2019
- \$25 Chipotle gift card
- Freshman Book scholarship up to \$300 for each of the fall and spring semesters at CSU for students who elect to study at Cleveland State University, Monte Ahuja College of Business
- Paid entry fee to participate in the Cleveland State University annual StartUp Vikes program at <https://startupvikes.com/> (Feb 2020) as current CSU student or non-CSU student
- Access to use the Cleveland State University Weston Ideation Lab <https://www.csuohio.edu/business/entrepreneurship/weston-i-lab> for up to a year starting April 2019 to April 2020 as a non-CSU student and for current CSU students unlimited access
- Entry to [Become a Business Student for the Day](#) at the Monte Ahuja College of Business and learn about majors and scholarship options

Fifteen (15) finalists will receive:

- \$50 cash
- Two (2) Cleveland Indians tickets for Wednesday, May 22, 2019
- \$25 iTunes or Google Play Music gift card

All applicants get the chance to apply for the Ahuja Business Leadership Scholarship based on the required educational criteria if they elect to study business at Cleveland State University, Monte Ahuja College of Business. The Ahuja Business Leadership Scholarship is contingent on meeting specific additional criteria, including but not limited to: being an incoming freshman admitted directly from high school into the Monte Ahuja College of Business and Cleveland State University; accepting admission to CSU and the Monte Ahuja College of Business by **March 1** of the spring prior to the fall semester that the recipient plans to enroll; and having a minimum ACT composite score of 26 or a combined 1190 SAT score; having a minimum 3.4 high school GPA, and completing an essay to demonstrate leadership abilities. The scholarship award is intended to encourage students to remain in the program and graduate in four years. Recipients will receive a scholarship for their freshman year of \$1,000 - \$2,000, which may be renewed annually for even greater awards during their sophomore through senior years. Recipients are eligible to receive up to eight semesters of scholarship funding provided they remain in the Monte Ahuja College of Business, remain on pace to graduate in four years, and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Certain additional eligibility criteria and requirements apply.

Judging

Round One

- Applicant will complete a registration form, entry form, and submit a video, up to 90 seconds, to yepitchchallenge.com. Entries that do not meet the requirements under the rules section or submit incomplete registration forms may be disqualified. Twenty finalists will be selected from all eligible entries meeting the Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge contest rules and requirements.
- Applicants should enter using the registration form on yepitchchallenge.com. Applicant will receive a message confirming receipt of their entry.
- Electronic submission: Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on February 20, 2019.
- Entries will be disqualified if Parent/Guardian Permission is not provided by February 20, 2019 at 11:59 p.m.
- Submission title and description of the business idea must be submitted in the form provided on yepitchchallenge.com.
- Submissions will be reviewed and judged according to:
 - **Creativity** of the idea, business name and video
 - **Persuasiveness** of the elevator pitch
 - **Overall Quality** of the idea, pitch and video.
- Twenty (20) finalists will be selected by a team of judges to participate in the final round. Notification will be provided via email by March 5, 2019.

Round Two

- Twenty (20) finalists will be showcased on yepitchchallenge.com from March 5 through March 12, 2019. Four winners will be determined by a panel of judges from the youth entrepreneurship education ecosystem in Northeast Ohio. Public voting via an online link at yepitchchallenge.com will determine a fifth winner.
- Public voting begins on March 5, 2019 and ends on March 12, 2019. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the site during the voting period and vote for their favorite entries. Voting is limited to one (1) vote per entry, per person during the voting period.
- The use of robotic, automatic, programmed or similar methods or devices for voting is prohibited. Young Entrepreneur Institute and Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge reserve the right to nullify all such votes and to disqualify the responsible individual from voting. Young Entrepreneur Institute and Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge, in their sole discretion, also reserve the right to disqualify the affected applicant based on any attempt by any person to vote more than the authorized number of times using any third-party proxy voting service, multiple names or invalid e-mail addresses, or any other fraudulent mechanism including but not limited to those described above. Young Entrepreneur Institute and Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge use their best efforts to verify all votes. No applicant will be deemed a winner until confirmed by Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge. All decisions by Young Entrepreneur Institute and Young Entrepreneur Pitch Challenge are final.
- Finalists will be notified by March 15, 2019 whether they have been selected as one of the five winners.

- Winners will be acknowledged on yepitchchallenge.com. Prizes will be awarded on April 10, 2019 at the Celebrate Youth Entrepreneurship event at University School, 2785 SOM Center Drive, Hunting Valley, Ohio.
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