



INNOSpark Pitch Competition

April 2026 | \$20,000 Global Virtual Pitch
Competition

Participant Package



About INNOSpark

INNOSpark is a youth-led nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs. Our mission is to make entrepreneurship education accessible to all students worldwide. Most students never get the chance to create something their own because the resources, mentorship, and opportunities simply aren't available to them. INNOSpark exists to close that gap. We bring entrepreneurship education directly to students through workshops, content, and competitions that turn ideas into actual projects. [Our Instagram](#)



INNOSpark Pitch Competition

In April 2026, INNOSpark is hosting the **largest student-led pitch competition in the world** — a virtual event where high school students from around the world can pitch their business, nonprofit, or passion project, gain exposure to industry mentors, and compete for a **\$20,000 prize pool**.

Whether you have a fully-built startup or just a compelling idea, this is your stage. We're looking for ideas that **tackle a real problem in the community/in the world!**

Teams can now submit **MULTIPLE IDEAS** to the INNOSpark Pitch competition!

Who Can Participate?

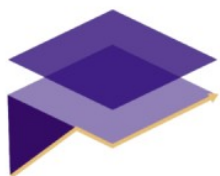
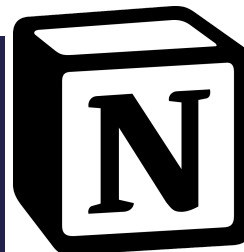
- High school students worldwide (all grades)
- Solo founders or teams (up to 4 members)
- Businesses, nonprofits, social ventures, and passion projects
- Students with or without an existing startup/business

Cost: 100% free to enter.

Submission Form: [Submission Link](#)



Our Partners & Sponsors



For partners & sponsors inquiries, please email info@innospark.dev



Key Dates

Date & Time (EST)	Milestone
March 1	Applications Open
April 4 11:59pm (Sat)	Submission Deadline
April 11 (Sat)	Top 15 Finalists Announced
April 18 (TBD) (Sat)	Live Pitch Event & Winners Announced

Prizes

Placement	Cash prize	Additional prizes
1st Place	\$1,500	\$480 Replit Core subscription (6 months) \$240 Notion Subscription
2nd Place	\$1000	\$240 Replit Core subscription (3 months) \$240 Notion Subscription
3rd Place	\$500	\$160 Replit Core subscription (2 months) \$240 Notion Subscription
Top 15 finalists	All finalist teams get 1 month of Replit Core subscription (\$80)	
Finalists from Richmond Hill, Markham, Toronto	Automatic interview to the \$3,000 Summer Company Grant (Can be multiple teams from 1 region)	

NEW

The INNOSpark team has previously built various business, non-profits and passion projects. We know what it feels like to have an idea and no idea what to do with it.

EVERY SINGLE project submitted will receive

- Personalized feedback
- Advice on how you can actually start your project (if it's still in the ideation stage)
- Our take on how you can improve your project (if it's executed)

You can expect the feedback document within 1-2 weeks of the finalist announcement date.



Submission Guide

What to Submit

A video pitch of **maximum** 5 minutes in length, **accompanied by a slide deck**.

Your pitch should cover:

1. The Problem

- What problem are you solving, and why does it matter?
- Who is most affected, and how does it impact their lives today?

2. Your Solution & Venture

- What is your company, nonprofit, or project?
- Describe your product, service, or initiative
- What makes your approach unique or different?
- Who is your target audience, and how will you reach them?
- What's your plan to grow or sustain this venture?
- Any early traction, research, or interest you've received

3. Your Story

- Why does this problem matter to you personally?/How did you have this idea?

4. Your Ask

- What do you want from the judges? (Feedback, mentorship, funding, connections?)

[Sample Video](#)

Submission & Competition Process

- **Preliminary Submission**

All participants must submit their 5-minute video by April 4, 2026.

- **Review Process (Apr 4-11)**

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of mentors, investors, and the INNOSpark team.

- **Finalists**

Top teams (up to 15) will be selected as finalists and invited to pitch live on April 18, 2026.

Submission Form: [Submission Link](#)



Judging Rubric ****CHANGED****

Category	Points	What We're Looking For
Problem	25	Does the team identify a real, meaningful problem? Is there a clear and demonstrated need?
Solution & Innovation	35	Is the solution creative, practical, and well-matched to the problem? Does it bring a fresh or differentiated approach that goes beyond theory?
Storytelling & Narrative	20	Why does this problem matter to you specifically? Is there a real, personal connection to the work that makes you the right person to solve this?
Traction	10	Have you tested this in the real world? This could be customer interviews, a prototype, signups, a pilot.
Pitch Quality	10	Is the video pitch engaging, clear, and built to inspire? Does the deck tell a compelling story that makes you believe in both the idea and the team?

Sample Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE092JIOkAs&t=153s>

Join our discord to receive updates!

<https://discord.gg/uthZ3DwvFe>

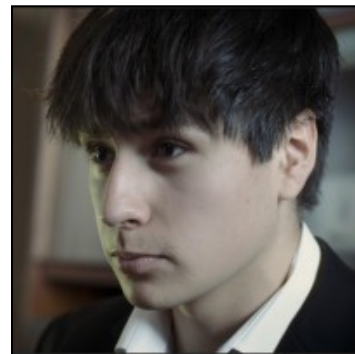


Keynote Speaker

[Daniel Martinez](#)

CEO @ TypeOS(YCX25)

Daniel Martinez is a Canadian teenage entrepreneur and Y Combinator-backed founder who dropped out of high school to build [VibeGrade](#), an AI grading tool that helps teachers give better feedback faster, now used to grade over 12,000 papers and featured in [Forbes](#). He's currently building [TypeOS](#), an AI writing platform designed to preserve human voice and taste.

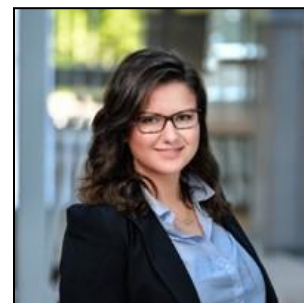


Judges

Neda Mitchell

Director @ MaRS Discovery District

Neda Mitchell is the Director of Core Startup Services at MaRS Discovery District, one of North America's largest innovation hubs.



Laurie Baker

Executive Director @ Treefrog Accelerator

Laurie Baker is the Executive Director of Treefrog Accelerator, a founder-first startup hub based in Newmarket, Ontario that has supported over 1,000 entrepreneurs and helped facilitate \$50M in funding.



Megan Ruan

Partnerships @ Replit

Megan is a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree and Yale and Stanford GSB alum, she brings a mix of finance, venture, and community-building experience to one of the fastest-growing platforms in AI development.





Code of Conduct & Expectations

- You **CAN ABSOLUTELY** pitch the **SAME idea or venture** you've entered elsewhere, but make sure to cover our judging rubric sections! (Founder Story, Traction, Concrete Ask)
- Be respectful and professional in all communications
- Meet all deadlines
- Maintain integrity and sportsmanship

INNOSpark reserves the right to disqualify participants who violate these standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need an existing project to apply?

No. You can enter with a fully built venture, an early-stage idea, or even a concept you've been thinking about. We evaluate potential just as much as progress.

Can I participate solo?

Yes! Solo founders and teams of up to 4 members are both welcome.

What if my idea isn't a business — can I still enter?

Absolutely. Nonprofits, social enterprises, community initiatives, and passion projects are all eligible and encouraged.

What format should my pitch video be in?

Any standard video format (MP4, MOV, etc.) submitted via the youtube link provided in your application confirmation. Max length: 5 minutes.

Do I need a pitch deck?

A deck included in the video initial submission is strongly recommended. If you make it to the live finals, having some form of visual presentation prepared is expected.

Will pitches be recorded?

Finalist pitches from the live event may be shared on INNOSpark's social media.

Submission Form: [Submission Link](#)



If you have questions:

Reach out to us at **info@innospark.dev** and we'll get back to you within 48 hours!

[Our Instagram](#)