NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE

Canadian Space Agency | Agence spatiale canadienne

CANADIAN SPACE SOCIETY

SPACE APPS IN OTTAWA 2026

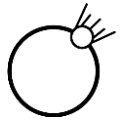


PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Last updated: 2026-11-13

Agenda

- What It's About
- Before the weekend
- During the weekend
- After the weekend
- Q&A
- Resources







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Join our Ottawa event Discord: https://discord.gg/Bnsw5edG4

WHAT IT'S ABOUT



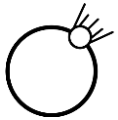
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What It's About – History & Purpose



Began: **2012**

Total Engaged: **280k** people from **185** countries

Goals:

- **Inspire** collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking
- Foster **interest** in Earth and space science and exploration
- Raise **awareness** of NASA and space agency partners' data around the world
- Encourage **growth and diversity** of the next generation of scientists, technologists, designers, engineers, and artists

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Canada Coast to Coast

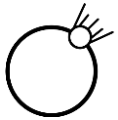
Hundreds of Canadians just like you have participated over the years!

- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Halifax
- Kitchener-Waterloo
- Montreal
- Ottawa
- St John's
- Toronto
- Vancouver
- Youth events
- And more!

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What It's About - Space Apps, eh !



Our 10th Anniversary hosting this in Ottawa!

Canadian Space Agency (CSA)

- Primary federal organization supporting Space Apps in Canada
- Offers mentors and support from scientists, engineers, and astronauts!



Canadian Space Society (CSS)



- Founded as a non-profit organization and charity in 1983
- Objective is to sponsor and promote the involvement of Canadians in the space sector

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With thanks to our venue hosts!

Carleton University Technology Innovation Management (TIM) Program

- A unique master's program which is internationally known for successfully training aspiring entrepreneurs and technology innovation managers on creating wealth at the early stages of new companies or developing new business opportunities in existing firms.

Sprott School of Business

The Carleton Planetary Robotics Team







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BEFORE THE WEEKEND



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Before the weekend

Get ready for the weekend now!

- Form a team
- Pick a challenge
- Plan your solution
- Gather data
- Choose technology and tools



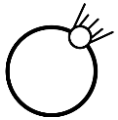




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Before - Form a team





Don't have a team?

- NASA Global site: https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2026/find-a-team/
- Hop on our Ottawa local Discord and join the "join-a-team-joinez-une-équipe" channel
- Introduce yourself , mention your goals for the hackathon and your skills
- If you are struggling to form a team, ask an organizer for help in Discord

Have a team?

- Give yourselves a great team name!



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Before - Pick a challenge

There are 14 official challenges to pick from and a unique unofficial Hardware Challenge

- **NASA Global Challenges (14)**
  - Visit the NASA Global Hackathon website https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2026/challenges
- **Space Apps Ottawa Hardware Challenge (Unofficial)**
  - Visit the NASA Global Hackathon website
  - Register your project but choose the option “Create your own challenge”
  - In this stream your team will still be judged locally, but will **not be eligible for NASA judging or prizes**

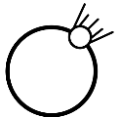
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Before - Plan your solution

- **Take stock and get inspired**
  - What kind of skills and experience do you and your team have?
  - What problems are you interested in?
  - Learn from last year's winners
- **Decide on the minimum requirements (MVP)**
  - Easy wins your team can quickly solve (connect to data, display data)
  - Decide on the minimum requirements (MVP) that you need to accomplish to
- **Define stretch goals**
  - Tackle stretch goals after you have solved your minimum requirements
- **How will you present**
  - How you are going to "tell your solution story"

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Before - Gather data



Data associated with challenges can be large and difficult to work with

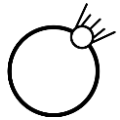
- **Find the best data for your problem**
  - Most challenges will have suggested data resources
  - Ask a mentor for help if you are stumped (at Carleton, or in Ottawa Discord)
- **Explore and learn**
  - Download the data sets, learn about their format and structures
- **Condense**
  - Data sets can be huge. It may be beneficial to create smaller subsets
- **Decide**
  - Where are you going to store the data? How is your team going to produce and share the data?





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Before - Choose your tech & tools



Define and setup which tools your team will use for the hack

- **Source control**
  - Setup a free shared source code repository on **Github** or **Azure**
- **Media**
  - Web, standalone, mobile app, game, video?
- **Development**
  - Which programming languages and development tools will you use?
- **Hosting**
  - How will you run and demo your solution to the world?!





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DURING THE WEEKEND



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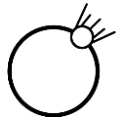
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During the Weekend

- Schedule
- Open data
- Hack
- Help and feedback
- Code of conduct
- Submit your solution







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Schedule

13 November – 7 PM to Midnight	**CARLETON AND VIRTUAL KICK-OFF CEREMONY + GET STARTED**
14 NOV – All Day	**Solution Hacking! We're available at NI 6010 & 6011 (6th Floor) and on Discord from 7AM**
15 NOV – All Day	**Keep on Hacking! We're available at Carleton and on Discord from 7 AM**
15 NOV – 2 PM & 6PM	**Optional: 2PM Get feedback on your solution and presentation (your work-in-progress). 6PM Hardware Challenge Judging**
15 NOV - Midnight EST	**Submit your solution (see the NASA Ottawa Team Registration page)**

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Available Rooms

- **There is an exam taking place in our old room, NI 4010. Please do not enter it and be careful of noise!**
- **Our Space Hardware Challenge are on the 6th floor:**
- **6010 & 6011**
- We have Software Challenge rooms:
- 1020
- 3022
- 4022
- 4024

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JOIN THE
SPACE APPS OTTAWA
DISCORD SERVER

Scan the QR code
to connect with the community

discord.gg/Bnsw5edG4



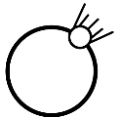
During - Open Data

There are many sources for open data that your team can use for free:

- NASA Open Data
- Canadian Space Agency Data
- Canadian Government Open Data
- AWS Open Data Registry
- Google Dataset Search

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During - Hack



It's time to get to work, but **don't over do it**!

- Ask for help whenever you get blocked
- Take regular breaks
- Get some shut eye
- Get some food and stay hydrated
- Clear your mind
- Use **#SpaceApps** on **SOCIAL MEDIA** to let everyone know about the hack
- HAVE FUN!

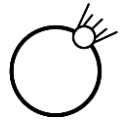




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During - Help & Feedback



Any time you are blocked or have a problem reach out to **get help!**

- Organizers
- Mentors
- Volunteers
- Discord (see discussion under “challenge help”)
- NASA Global Hackathon chat
- GitHub issues





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During - Code of Conduct

- Space Apps is committed to providing a professional and productive forum for all participants to engage in a robust exchange of ideas regarding the challenges. All participants are responsible for maintaining professional decorum and treating each other with respect and dignity. **Bullying, discrimination, or harassment on any basis will not be tolerated** in the Space Apps Challenge
- **Please reach out right away** and contact your local organizers privately if you experience or witness discrimination, harassment, or any form of bullying during the Space Apps Challenge
    - Discord (please ensure discord usernames are respectful and appropriate)
    - conduct@spaceappschallenge.org

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During - Submit your solution

- Solution submission must be done **before midnight (Eastern Time), Sunday Nov 15**
- Register yourself and your team on our local Ottawa event page
- You can store your solution video, code etc on a publicly available file storage system such as Dropbox, GitHub, Google Drive, etc. You must stop making changes after midnight on Sunday.
- **IMPORTANT:** Remember that your solution must not require judges to sign in or have an account, so make sure you test that by logging out and trying to access your links. Test this well ahead of time!!!
- If you chose to Invent your own challenge, you are eligible for judging, but not eligible for prizes – register and submit your team but choose "Invent your own challenge".

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AFTER THE WEEKEND





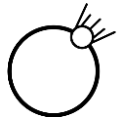
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After – Global Judging



Local

- Due to the virtual nature of the event, local winner selection and announcements will take a week (to at least Nov 22).
- We'll announce the winners via our Discord and email newsletter (if you haven't signed up, let the organizers know)



Global

- Our local winners are put forward for further selection rounds by Global judges
- More details on the Global judging process and schedule will be provided during the weekend



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After – Nasa Global Prizes

Best Use of Science	The best and most valid use of science and/or the scientific method
Best Use of Data	Best makes space data accessible, or leverages it to a unique application
Best Use of Technology	Exemplifies the most innovative use of technology
Galactic Impact	The most potential to improve life on Earth or in the universe
Best Mission Concept	The most plausible concept and design
Most Inspirational	Captures our hearts
Best Storytelling Award	Most creatively communicates the potential of open data through the art of storytelling
Global Connection Award	The solution that best connects people around the world through technology
Art & Technology Award	The solution that most effectively combines technical and creative skills
Local Impact Award	The solution that demonstrates the greatest potential for local impact

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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RESOURCE CENTRE



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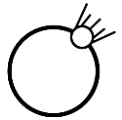
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Resources - Global NASA

NASA Space Apps Challenge	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/
Last year's results	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/about/results-and-metrics/
Challenges	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2026/challenges/
Resources	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/resources/ Participant FAQ Team Formation Guide Chat Guide Project Submission Guide Project Demo Guide Judging and Awards Guide
Virtual Bootcamp	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/resources/virtual-bootcamp/







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Resources - Global NASA

Hashtag #SpaceApps

X (formerly Twitter)	https://twitter.com/spaceapps / (@SpaceApps)
Instagram	https://www.Instagram.com/nasa_spaceapps
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/spaceappschallenge
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/c/NASASpaceAppsChallenge







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Resources – Canadian Space Agency

Canadian Space Agency - Open data and information portal	https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/open-data/
Satellite data: From space to you	https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/multimedia/search/video/19046

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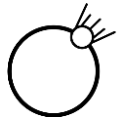
Hashtag #SpaceApps

X (formerly Twitter)	Canadian Space Agency (@csa_asc) / X (twitter.com) (@CSA_ASC)
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/canadianspaceagency/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/CanadianSpaceAgency
Youtube	http://www.youtube.com/user/Canadianspaceagency

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Resources - Data and Tools

NASA Open Data	https://data.nasa.gov/
Canadian Space Agency Data	https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/open-data
Canadian Government Open Data	https://open.canada.ca/en/open-data
AWS Open Data Registry	https://registry.opendata.aws/
Google Dataset Search	https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/
Github	https://www.github.com







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Resources - Chat

Ottawa Discord	https://discord.gg/Bnsw5edG4
NASA Connect chat	https://github.com/nasa/spaceapps/discussions
NASA Global Hackathon Chat Guide	https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/resources/space-app-connect-guide/







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