

GENIUS OLYMPIAD APPLICATION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- The GENIUS Olympiad is open to all international and U.S. students in **grades eight through twelve** (or the equivalent).
- All students under 17 years old must attend the GENIUS Olympiad with an adult chaperone (a teacher or a family member). Students who are 17 years old and study in high school may participate without an adult chaperone.
- Our minimum age requirement for student participants is 13. Even if a project is accepted as a finalist, the student may be rejected to participate if s/he is younger than 13 years old.
- Individuals may open an account to make submissions. We prefer that if there are multiple projects from a school, these should be submitted under one account, if possible. Also, we highly advise that international schools with multiple branches should manage all branches under the same account. GENIUS Olympiad may merge accounts under one account if there are multiple submissions from the same school or may deny the projects.
- The same projects can NOT be submitted in consecutive years without significant progress or changes.
- Projects that are submitted to other organizations/fairs can be submitted without changes.
- A valid application must be submitted (including affiliated fair Genius Certificate winners) using the GENIUS Olympiad application system by the deadline with application fee payment. Please see our schedule for deadlines under the program tab.
- All students must communicate in English to present their projects. Translators for presenters are NOT allowed.
- Projects can NOT be presented online.
- Students/chaperones must be present at the Olympiad to present their work to be eligible for a participation certificate or any awards.
- The chaperone refers to any adult, such as a teacher, parent, adult sibling, or relative, who has the right to accompany the minor student at the Olympiad.
- Guest refers to any additional participants on projects, such as additional chaperones (more than allowed), siblings, teachers, additional parents/relatives other than chaperone etc.) and are permitted if space is available. There is a limit on the number of adult chaperones. To maximize the number of projects and student participation, we allow only one adult chaperone for every 6 students from the same school/organization. Two chaperones are allowed, if there are 7-12 finalist students from the same school/organization. Additional chaperones/relatives other than the allowed ones will be recognized as guests and will be asked to pay the guest fee.

DEADLINES

- The Project Application will start on **December 1** on our website; all applications are made online.
- The Project Application Deadline is **March 1** for all individual/school applications and International Fairs.
- The Application deadline for students selected by regional/national fairs AND who don't need US Visa is **April 18**.
- Rolling admission and registration. Project Finalists will be announced on our website on **April 3**.
- Visa letters are issued when you register. The registration deadline is **May 1** to be eligible to participate.

Fee Type	Fees	Refunds by May 10	Refunds by June 1	Refunds after June 1
Application Fee	\$50	None	None	None
Participation Fee	\$425	Full minus \$75	50%	None
Guest Fee	\$500 or \$850	Full minus \$75	Full Minus \$75	50%
Trip Fee	\$695, \$745, \$925, \$1150	Full	50%	None
JFK Bus Fee	\$100	Full	None	None

FEES

- **The application fee is \$50 per project and is non-refundable.** The application fee must be paid before the application deadline to complete your application. All applicants, including GENIUS Certificate winners, must pay the application fee. Projects without an application fee will not be considered for evaluation.
- **The participation fee is \$425 per attendee** (including student and adult chaperone) who will attend the GENIUS Olympiad, **and \$75 is non-refundable under any circumstances.** The full participation fee must be paid before the registration deadline (May 1) to guarantee your place at the GENIUS Olympiad. All finalists and their chaperones and guests must pay the participation fee. Only 50% of the fee is refundable between May 10 and June 1, and **NO refunds after June 1.**
- **The Guests participation fee is \$850 per guest.** Guests fees must be paid during participant registration. The \$775 of the guest fee is refundable until **June 1 and \$75 is non-refundable under any circumstances.** Only 50% of the fee is refundable after June 1. The guest fee is **\$500** for those who will stay off-campus (they will pay for the hotel and make their own arrangements), and \$75 is non-refundable under any circumstances **and** only 50% is refundable after June 1.
- **What is included with the participation fee?** All events will take place on the RIT university campus, except the Niagara Falls trip. The following services are included within your program as part of your registration fee: Registration package (including a T-shirt, bag, water bottle, and certificates), on campus stay in dorms, dining at select dining hall on campus, the Niagara Falls trip (1.5 hr away), Maid of the Mist Boat tour at Niagara Falls, and Greater Rochester Airport pick-up and drop-off at specific dates and times.
- **Optional trips ([for more information](#)):** GENIUS offers three trips starting after GENIUS Olympiad: **1- DC/NY City/Six Flags (\$925, 4 nights&3 days), 2- DC/NY City (\$695, 3 nights&2 days), 3-Extended DC/NY City (\$845, 4 nights&3 days), 4-DC/NY/Boston City options (\$1150, 6 nights&5 days).** Chaperones will receive a 10% discount for every student/guest attending the trips. Trip registration is made within the application site during participant registration. The payment will be made during participation registration. May 10 is the deadline for requesting a full refund for trips. Half of the trip fees will be refundable if canceled between **May 10 and June 1.** After June 1, no refunds will be issued. The DC/NY city trip participants will be dropped off at JFK Airport ONLY. The DC/NYC/Boston trip participants will be dropped at Boston airport. For more information, please visit trips site under the program tab.
- **JFK Airport Pick up fee is \$100 (one-way) per attendee and is non-refundable.** The JFK airport pick-up service is only for those who will attend one of our optional trips. The fee is for a service bus to pick you at a specific JFK terminal on **Monday, June 10**, the arrival day of the Olympiad and bring you to our site.
- Fees will be paid online using a credit card during application and registration within the application site.

GENERAL RULES

- GENIUS Judging Committee has the right to deny any project without explanation.
- Chaperones are not allowed to serve as a judge.
- Finalists/Applicants who do not submit the required information on time and in the requested format shall be disqualified.
- In all aspects of the projects, participants must maintain integrity.
- Participants must avoid any misconduct or fraud, such as falsifying data or records, piracy or plagiarism (presenting another person's work as one's own).
- All students must adhere to the rules set by the GENIUS Olympiad. GENIUS Olympiad may disqualify and ask to leave without refund if a student misbehaves and is against the rules.
- By attending the GENIUS Olympiad, you and/or your guardian agree to all statements, rules, code of conduct, and media consent agreements stated in the [finalist guide](#) posted on our website.

LIMITATIONS ON STUDENTS, CHAPERONES, & PROJECTS

- **Each student may present only one project.** In the case of being a finalist for multiple projects, the applicant must choose which project to present.
- Students may apply with multiple projects in any discipline to increase their chance of acceptance but will be selected as a finalist for only one project.
- A maximum of two students may present a science, business, coding, or short film project.
- Only one student may present creative writing, poster art, photography, mixed media, music singer or music solo performance projects.
- A maximum of three students may present a robotics or music group performance project.
- There is no limit to how many projects may be submitted from the same school/organization.
- There is no limit to the number of projects selected as finalists from any school.
- All projects from the same school or organization **MUST** be submitted under one application login to control communication and projects more efficiently.
- Only one chaperone is allowed up to 6 student participants during registration (or 2 chaperones for up to 12 students, etc). If more chaperones would like to attend with the group, they can attend only as guests and must pay the guest fee.

HOW TO APPLY and REGISTER?

- Applications and registrations will be made through our online application system, which will be available on the first date of application on our main page.
- Check [the Schedule](#) for the application start date, application deadline, and registration deadline.
- There are two steps: 1- Application to be evaluated and become a finalist, 2- Participant registration for those who are announced as finalists to attend the event. The second step starts after finalists are announced using the application platform. **Completed projects can be reviewed and admitted before the application deadline; allowing you to register and receive visa invitation letter before the application deadline.**
- All applicants (including GENIUS Certificate holders from affiliated fairs) **MUST** submit an online application by the deadline.
- Multiple projects can be submitted using one login name. Each school/organization **MUST** create only one username to submit multiple projects.
- Once the Finalists are announced, you **MUST** confirm their participation before the registration deadline by completing the participant registration process for each participant who will attend the GENIUS Olympiad.
- International applicants must complete the registration and the registration payment as soon as possible to receive their invitation letters for visa application.

CATEGORY SPECIFIC RULES

Category specific (science, business, music etc.) rules for application and the project examples are provided under each category page on our website.

[FINALIST GUIDE](#) provides information and rules for finalists who will attend the event regarding arrival, accommodations, dining, dressing, and other rules.

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