

Assistive Tech Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a particular disability we should focus on?
 - a. We are seeking solutions in the following areas for people with visible and invisible disabilities:
 - i. Independent living
 - ii. Access to employment
 - iii. Support for care providers
 - iv. Social skill development
 - v. Improved public infrastructure.
 - b. We would encourage you to think broadly, giving some consideration to:
 - i. At home, at work, in public
 - ii. Product or service
 - iii. High tech or low tech
2. How do I find a problem to be solved for people with a disability?
 - a. We can connect you with organizations that support people with disabilities – they'll be a great source of information and insight
 - b. Reach out into your network of networks to find people with a disability who are willing to share information with you.
3. What is the difference between the "Open" and the "Professional" divisions?
 - a. The Professional Division is made up formal business entities (e.g. LLC, S Corp, etc) that have annual revenues up to \$200K.
 - b. The Open Division is for everyone else, such as student or community-based teams.
4. Who should be on my team?
 - a. The best team is made up of people with a shared vision for what they want to accomplish.
 - b. A team comprised of people with a diversity of strengths and skills is optimal. Think STEAM (science, technology, arts, engineering and math), not only STEM.
5. How can we possibly convey the awesomeness of our idea in a three-minute pitch?
 - a. Answer only the four questions the jurors want to hear:
 - i. What problem are you solving?

- ii. What is your business model (who will pay for it?) and who will be purchasing this product/service from you
 - iii. How are you solving the problem?
 - iv. Why is your team the one to solve it?
 - b. Be succinct, specific, and targeted with the information you share.
- 6. What is involved in making the pitch?
 - a. We will provide a computer and projector. You will send us your slide deck (PowerPoint or PDF only) in advance of the competition. It will be loaded and ready to go when your turn comes up.
- 7. I don't have the skills or equipment to make my product – does that matter?
 - a. Absolutely not. Ideas are valuable, and we can connect you with people who can help turn your idea into a product.
- 8. What happens if my team is not selected to pitch our idea?
 - a. We encourage you to attend the Assistive Tech Challenge anyway - to see pitches from the other teams.
 - b. We can provide feedback from the jurors that might be useful to you.
- 9. What happens after the Assistive Tech Challenge?
 - a. If you connected with one of our mentors, you can continue that relationship to move your idea forward.
 - b. We can connect you with a mentor if you don't already have one.
 - c. Winning teams are automatically qualified for the spring [Walleye Tank competition](#), if you are interested in participating, we will connect you with that group.
- 10. How do I apply or get more information?
 - a. Fill out the [application](#)
 - b. Questions: email info@dmc.mn