High School Programming Contest

March 14th, 2026
[HS CS](#)

Contest Rules

1. **You must currently be a high school student. (DUH.)**
2. **Equipment**
   a. Ideally you should bring your own laptop, but we will have computers set up if you need to use them.
3. **Team Formation**
   a. A team can consist of **1 or 2 or 3 members.** You can participate **individually** if you prefer.
   b. Being in a team does not decrease the scholarship prize for winning. We encourage participants to be in a team, because whether or not you win as an individual or win as a team of 3, each winner receives the same amount of scholarship prize. The scholarship prize of this contest is not stackable with certain Columbia College scholarships. However there are no restrictions on the cash prizes The cash prizes are most likely in the form of Amazon gift/cash cards. Details will be announced on the day of the contest.
4. **Allowed Programming Languages**
   a. The allowed programming languages are **C++, Python and Java**
5. **Original Work**
   a. The solution must be from your group.
   b. **No googling** or using **AI tools** for assistance.
   c. No online chatting with friends or external help.
6. **Coaches and Assistance**
   a. If coaches are present, they **cannot provide aid** of any form during the contest.
   b. Some help will be provided by CCCS leaders/counselors. We can assist with **syntax questions** and general guidance, but not with solving the problems**.**
7. **Team Collaboration**
   a. Discussion within your group is encouraged, but please keep the noise level down so that other teams can focus. (You don't want to leak your ideas to the other teams right?)

8. Rule Changes
   a. The organizers reserve the right to add, delete, or modify the contest rules. We promise to be reasonable!