



**Challenge Guide**

# Global **AI Hackathon** 2026

**High School Core Challenge:** AI for Good in Your World

**For Students in Grades 9–12**

**Build AI solutions that make a real impact in your community.**

A Global Initiative by the United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAI®)

**Hackathon Date: June 20–21, 2026** |||

## Overview

USAI<sup>®</sup> Global AI Hackathon 2026 is a fully virtual competition, open to **high school students (Grade 9-12)** worldwide. Teams will design, build, and present real-world AI solutions to meaningful challenges, collaborating across borders and showcasing their work to experienced judges.

Students will receive mentor support, curated resources, and structured guidance throughout, making this an accessible and high-impact learning experience for builders of all skill levels and disciplines.

For high school students, the event takes place on **June 20–21, 2026**. The **High School Core Challenge: AI for Good in Your World** invites teams to design AI-powered tools that help communities find support, live healthier, or take meaningful environmental action. Solutions are judged on creativity, responsible AI use, and real-world impact, not technical perfection.

## High School Core Challenge: AI for Good in your World

Around the world, communities face everyday challenges that technology could help solve — but many solutions never reach the people who need them most.

In this track, high school teams will design AI-powered tools that help communities learn, live healthier, or care for their environment.

Participants will work from real-world inspiration provided by nonprofits and community organizations and build a working prototype that could realistically be piloted in a local setting.

Teams may focus on challenges such as improving access to community resources, supporting students and families, or helping communities take meaningful environmental action.

Solutions should use open, synthetic, or publicly available data and demonstrate how AI can be used responsibly to create practical benefits for everyday life.

You don't need to be an expert in AI. You don't need to solve the whole problem — just build a working idea that could make a real difference.

The detailed challenge directions will be revealed at the Hackathon Kickoff





**Challenge Brief 1: Community - Help is Hard to Find - Make Support Obvious**

Many people struggle to access help because information is confusing, scattered, or difficult to trust. Even when resources exist, navigating the system can feel overwhelming.

Solutions might focus on improving how people discover resources, understand important information, or verify claims circulating in their community.

Students are encouraged to think about how technology can make complex systems **clear, safe, and human-centered**.

**Core idea:** In this challenge, teams will design AI tools that help people find the right support quickly, understand what to do next, and feel confident asking for help. Inspiration From Organizations Like



United Way



Feeding America



Crisis Text Line



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



UNHCR

## Challenge Brief 2: Environment - Make Climate Action Local and Real - Build Tools People Will Use

Young people care deeply about the environment, but many climate solutions feel distant or abstract. Communities need tools that help people see how everyday choices affect the environment and what actions actually make a difference.

Solutions might explore ways to track waste, reduce resource use, protect local ecosystems, or make sustainability decisions easier and more visible.

Teams are encouraged to build tools that make environmental action practical, measurable, and engaging at the local level.

**Core idea:** In this challenge, teams will design AI tools that help individuals, schools, or communities understand their environmental impact and take meaningful action.

### Inspiration From Organizations Like



World Wildlife Fund



Project Drawdown



Water.org



Sustainable Ocean Alliance



The Ocean Cleanup

**DISCLAIMER:** USAI's Global AI Hackathon 2026 is exclusive to students only. Full-time students from any degree or doctoral program are also eligible. Working professionals enrolled in any Degree or Doctoral Programs are not eligible to participate in the competition. Should anyone win the competition (in any category) and be discovered as a working professional, the prize and other benefits will be awarded to the next-best team/s.

## About USAII<sup>®</sup>

The United States Artificial Intelligence Institute (USAII<sup>®</sup>) is the world's leading Artificial Intelligence certifications provider for aspiring professionals and leaders at any stage of their career, organizations, institutions, academia, or governments, looking to upskill and reskill their expertise in the ever-evolving Artificial Intelligence domain.

**Step into  
the High School  
Challenge**

**Register on Devpost**

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