



## THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOUNDATION **CASE STUDY COMPETITION**

### WHAT IS THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD?

The Congressional Award is a public-private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize the achievements of young Americans. The program is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. Open to youth ages 14 to 24, The Congressional Award gives participants the opportunity to build valuable skills such as goal setting, time management, and organization, all while bettering themselves and their communities along the way.

Participants earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Medals based on their hours of engagement in the four program areas:

- **Voluntary Public Service:** providing service to others;
- **Personal Development:** developing personal interests, social or employment skills;
- **Physical Fitness:** improving quality of life and health through fitness challenges;
- **Expedition & Exploration:** undertaking an outdoor, wilderness or unique historical, cultural, or environmental experience.

### INDUSTRY CASE STUDY COMPETITION

Congressional Award Case Study Competitions provide the opportunity to engage with local Congressional Award participants and/or a school where you have an existing partnership. They can be held virtually, in-person or a hybrid of both.

Students are given a case study in an area of interest for your industry. Students use the specialized knowledge they learn in school to present innovative solutions to a panel of judges, who may include corporate leadership and congressional representation. The hours that participants put toward the competition and their presentations are used toward their Congressional Award journey. Case Study Competitions allow corporations to:

- Engage with your state or district congressional delegation.
- Amplify brand awareness among local partners.
- Increase employee engagement.
- Access a talented and diverse student population.
- Help students make connections that lead to careers.
- Connect employees to Congress in a meaningful and impactful way.



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### COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The competition structure is flexible based on the number of students and size of the organization. Typically, they are made of **5-7 teams**, made up of 4-5 students each. Students are either from a school where the corporate partner has an existing relationship, or local Congressional Award participants. Hours spent at the Case Study Competition can count toward earning a Congressional Award.

As the subject matter expert, the corporate partner provides **3-5 competition questions** that the teams will be answering. Teams will have **2-3 months** to complete their projects. Each team is assigned a corporate leader to serve as a **volunteer mentor**. Mentors are asked to meet with their team at least twice (likely virtually) before the competition date to help prepare the team.

The corporate partner hosts a special event for the teams to **present their innovative solutions** to a **panel of judges**. Judges can be made up of corporate leadership, partners and congressional delegation members. This is also an excellent opportunity for networking with a potential pipeline of talent. The team with the highest score receives a prize. Trophies are given to the top three teams.

### AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CASE COMPETITION | FMC CORPORATION



**The Congressional Award Agricultural Case Competition** with **FMC Corporation** brought together W.B. Saul High School and Lankenau High School of Philadelphia. FMC challenged student-led teams to develop innovative solutions with the guidance of corporate advisors made up of FMC employee volunteers. Students utilized practical, real-world knowledge gained from their studies at school. The teams and their teachers visited FMC's Philadelphia headquarters to network with company leadership and present their solutions.

"We were blown away by the creativity and passion demonstrated by all the students to come up with sustainable, effective case study solutions."

**Shawn Whitman**, FMC Vice President, Government Affairs  
Congressional Award Board Member