

CASE FILE: 2026004



AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL:
Middle school teachers
& students

OPERATION: Project POTUS®

BENJAMIN HARRISON
PRESIDENTIAL SITE

* FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

CLASSIFIED

PROJECT POTUS® IS A NATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE OF THE
BENJAMIN HARRISON PRESIDENTIAL SITE, FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL.

MISSION BRIEF:

Since the founding of our nation, there have been nearly half a billion American citizens. Of those, over 12,000 of us have served in Congress. Just 116 have become Supreme Court Justices. As of 2025, only *47 have become President of the United States.

There's something exceptional about each POTUS- good, bad, or otherwise. We want your help to tell the world why...

IN ONE-MINUTE OR LESS.

YOUR TASK:

Choose one of the American Presidents to research, & create a video, **one-minute or less**, that shares the information you discovered. **Use at least one primary source.** (Learn more about primary source research using resources at ProjectPOTUS.org)

Entries will be reviewed for awards consideration by Project POTUS HQ & a qualified panel - the Citizen Jury. Out of all qualifying entries, 1 video per president will win. All 2025 student winners will earn a prize ranging from the \$100 Presidential Award to the \$500 Grand Prize.

Review the official Project POTUS rules and the updated AI policy) for 2026 to ensure that your submission is eligible for awards.

*POTUS BRIEF: Note that though there are 47 administrations, that doesn't represent the number of individuals who have been a POTUS. Grover Cleveland (22 and 24) had two non-consecutive terms in the White House, broken up by #23 Benjamin Harrison.



OPERATION DETAILS:

Students can submit an entry to Project POTUS HQ at judgify.me/projectpotus beginning Election Day, November 4, 2025. The deadline for contest submissions is 11:59pm on Presidents Day, February 16, 2026. As you begin *researching the president of your choice, consider the following questions.

- Determine the years the President served in office (term/s)
- Which political party nominated the President?
- What major actions did the President take while in office?
- Were they re-elected/died/denied?
- What was your President's personality like? How did it impact their time in the White House?
- Track down primary sources like speeches, letters, and photographs from the time of the presidency you're investigating. What can they tell you about your chosen POTUS?

BE CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!

DECLASSIFIED & APPROVED FOR USE
FOR 2026 BY PROJECT POTUS HQ

*POTUS BRIEF: Always double check the information you use, especially for the spelling of names and the accuracy of dates. Use recommended sources like the Miller Center, the American Presidency Project, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Learning Lab, White House Historical Association, New American History, and others.

Project POTUS®

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES: 2025

- 1. ELIGIBILITY: Students in middle school, or the equivalent, are eligible for entry in Project POTUS.** Homeschool and non-traditional students are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Students living in any state in the United States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories (including military bases, embassies, etc.) are eligible to participate and earn awards for Project POTUS submissions.
- 2. To ensure your video is eligible for awards, ensure that your project's run time is ONE MINUTE OR LESS.** If your video exceeds the one-minute mark, it can only be for the inclusion of a source list or reference page with citations. *Any video content that runs past the one-minute mark must be related to crediting sources and not adding new information. To be safe, keep it to 60 seconds or less.*
- 3. One entry per student.** This can be an individual project or a collaborative group project, with a maximum of three students working to submit a project as a group. Whether students are permitted to work in groups of up to 3 or must work individually is at the discretion of their teacher in a classroom setting.
- 4. All entries must be the authentic work of the individual/s submitting to the contest.** If using text or other materials that are not your own, be sure to mention them, list them, or cite them during or at the end of your video. For help with research and citations, check out the resource guide available at projectpotus.org. Students who have participated in Project POTUS in a previous year may enter more than once but may not submit the same project more than once. Please keep in mind the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy for Project POTUS 2026, linked at projectpotus.org in the resources section.

5. ****All entries must include & credit at least one primary source.**

Using a text box to identify the source on the screen as it is shown or talked about in your video or including a list of sources or citations as a visual at the conclusion of a video are a few valid ways to meet this requirement. Note the definition of primary sources below:

"Primary sources include documents or artifacts created by a witness to or participant in an event. They can be firsthand testimony or evidence created during the time period that you are studying. Primary sources may include diaries, letters, interviews, oral histories, photographs, newspaper articles, government documents, poems, novels, plays, and music."

Definition from the University of Washington Tacoma Library.

6. **Grammatical or spelling errors & obvious historical errors are grounds for removing entries from awards consideration.** Please look over your video project before submitting to double check dates, images used, spelling, etc. Historical inaccuracies that come directly from an otherwise credible source (like the ones recommended on our source guide) will not disqualify a project from consideration for prizes. Citizen Jurors review all sources cited in the video to verify that your information came from a credible source, so please cite all resources used!

7. **Video files must be accessible for download, visible on alternative submission options like Google Drive or YouTube, or otherwise able to be successfully viewed when submitted.** Any video file entries which are corrupted, unable to be downloaded, or have major issues with sound or imagery display will not be able to be judged and thus will not be eligible for awards in the Project POTUS competition. *Project POTUS HQ may reach out to you if we cannot access your video to ask you to reupload your entry- please check for emails from the contest after you submit!*

Eligible video projects should be uploaded to Judgify, which has a file size limit. If the maximum file size is exceeded, students will not be able to submit an entry without reducing the file size.

8. Video material including language, audio, and visual content must be respectful. References to violence and other inappropriate or derogatory content will disqualify a video from consideration for awards. As a benchmark, consider what would be appropriate to display in the classroom, according to teachers and school administration.

9. Any copyrighted material used in a Project POTUS submission must fall under fair use rules. ([Click here to learn about the term 'fair use'](#)) If you're still unsure after talking to a teacher or adult whether you're able to use a certain copyrighted material, err on the side of caution and check out [these sources](#) to find music, photographs, video clips, and more that fall within the public domain, and may be freely used.

Any entry that does not abide by these rules and the Project POTUS requirements, including using and mentioning or citing at least one primary source, can be disqualified at the discretion of Project POTUS HQ and will not be considered eligible for awards. Please review also the AI policy for 2026, linked at projectpotus.org.

Do you have questions about the video requirements or rules for Project POTUS 2026? Contact Project POTUS HQ for help at projectpotus@bhpsite.org.

Project POTUS is a national education initiative from the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. Thank you to Russell & Penny Fortune for making Project POTUS possible.

For more about the 23rd President, visit PresidentBenjaminHarrison.org.

