PROJECT POTUS®

JOIN THE MISSION.

CASE FILE: 2027002

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL:
High 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 & HIGH SCHOOL.

# MISSION BRIEF:

Over 90,000 days have passed since the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America. The first President of the United States took office more than 86,000 days ago. Change doesn't happen overnight, but it only takes one day to make history.

For the presidents of the United States, one day can be enough to chart a new course, reshape a perspective, or throw the world into disarray . One day can define a legacy. We need your help to tell the story of one consequential day in the life of a president... IN 90 SECONDS OR LESS.

## YOUR TASK:

Do research & create a video, 90 seconds or less, that tells the story of one momentous day in the life of an American President. Use at least three primary sources to help with your research or use in your video project. All sources used must be included in formal source citations that appear onscreen during or at the end of your video (Learn more about primary source research and source citation formats using resources at ProjectPOTUS.org)

You can choose to highlight ANY DAY during a president's life. The project should cover the story of that day, and can discuss what led to the day or came after, and how it affected the president or the larger story of American History.

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 2027 student winners will earn a prize ranging from $250 Presidential Awards to the $1500 Grand Prize. Review the official Project POTUS: 24 Hours rules and the 2027 AI policy to ensure that your submission is eligible for Contest Awards.

# OPERATION DETAILS:

Students can submit an entry to Project POTUS HQ at judgify.me/projectpotus beginning Election Day, November 3, 2026. The deadline for contest submissions is 11:59pm on Presidents Day, February 15, 2027. As you begin *researching the president of your choice, consider the following questions to guide your investigation.

- Learn about your chosen POTUS more generally - what was their life before, during, and after the presidency like?
- What major events or changes happened in the United States and globally during the president's life?
- Think about what days stick out to you from a chosen president's life - whether they're related to careers, family, their administration, an issue important to them, a hobby, etc.
- What was your President's personality like? How did it impact their time in the White House and their decisions about major policy?
- Track down primary sources like speeches, letters, photographs or artwork, executive orders, or policy passed from the time of the presidency you're investigating. What can they tell you about your chosen POTUS or American History as a whole?

## BE CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!

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*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. Make sure to use formal source citations in your video!

# Project POTUS® 24 Hours

## OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES: 2027

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 90 SECONDS OR LESS**. If your video exceeds the one-and-a-half-minute mark, it can only be for the inclusion of a formal source citation list or reference page with citations. *Any video content that runs past the mark must be related to crediting sources and not adding new information. To be safe, keep it to 90 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 new Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy for Project POTUS 2027, included at the end of the rules document.

5. **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 double check in these situations and clear a project, so please cite all resources used! **For extra assurance, submit your entry to Project POTUS Precheck.**

6. ***All high school entries must include formal source citations crediting all sources used in MLA, APA, or Chicago Style. Videos must use at least 3 primary sources of any kind.*** Source citations may be incorporated during the main part of your video (as captions, textboxes, sidebar text, etc.) or may be shown on screen as a list at the very end of your video. If you include a source list at the end of your project, the time it takes to show only citations onscreen can take your video over the 90 second mark if need be and will not count against your time allotment.

*Definition of primary sources from the University of Washington Tacoma Library*:
*"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."*

Resources to help you create your formal source citations:

- Purdue Owl Research and Citation Resources
- ASU Library: Cite your Sources

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.

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, or uploading their project to an online media player, and submitting their contest entry as a *link* instead.

8. **Video material including language, audio, and visual content must be respectful.** Profanity, references to violence, and derogatory content will disqualify a video from consideration for awards by the Project POTUS jury. 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.

10. **Using AI in the following ways is prohibited for qualifying entries:**
    a. Do not let it do the research for you. Chat GPT and other AI tools are often *very* unreliable sources for history questions – always be sure to take AI search result summaries with many grains of salt and do the research yourself.
    b. Do not use it to writing a script / narration, this is plagiarism. All writing for the project must be the authentic work of student entrants.
    c. Do not use it to produce an entirely AI - written song. Use creativity to write a song yourself if desired or use public domain music for your project.
    d. Do not use it to produce and create your entire video. The project will be strongest if your creative direction guides it.
    e. Do not use Chat GPT or similar tools to create human-looking fake portraits of the presidents, or to create a 'historic' looking image from a certain time period. Use a real photograph or art piece as a primary source instead or create your own authentic art! Beware of AI images that look vaguely like the presidents in search results and always double check that your photos come from a trusted resource on the presidency.

## Policy on Disqualifying Content

Any entry that does not clearly abide by these Project POTUS rules & requirements including appropriate content, length of content, and using citations for sources can be disqualified at the discretion of the Project POTUS team and will not be considered eligible for awards.

## Do you have a question about the video requirements and rules for Project POTUS 2027?

Contact Project POTUS HQ for help at projectpotus@bhpsite.org. Or, submit your video to Project POTUS Precheck anytime before the January 31 deadline to receive feedback regarding your entry's qualification from HQ HERE.

*Project POTUS is a national civics initiative for middle and high school students from the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. The program is made possible through generous support from Russell & Penny Fortune.*

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

