CASE FILE: 2027006

PROJECT POTUS®

JOIN THE MISSION.

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 have served in Congress. Just 115 have become Supreme Court Justices. As of November 3, 2026, only 45 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. You must use at least one primary source and include it on screen, in narration, or in a list of sources or citations. (Learn more about primary source research using this resource.)

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 the $100 Presidential Award to the $500 Grand Prize.

Review the official Project POTUS rules and the updated AI policy for 2027 to ensure that your submission is eligible for awards.

★ NEW! This year: Submit your project for an OPTIONAL pre-check process to ensure your video meets all guidelines of the national contest and qualifies for Project POTUS Awards. Check out the pre-check page on Google Classroom HERE.

*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 non-consecutive terms in the White House, broken up by #23 Benjamin Harrison. Only 45 people have been POTUS in 250 years of the U.S.

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 submission is 11:59pm on Presidents Day, February 15, 2027. As you begin *researching the president of your choice, consider the following questions.

- Determine the years the President served in office (term/s)
- What events in history happened during the president's life/time in office?
- 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 career and their time in the White House?
- MOST IMPORTANTLY: Track down primary sources like speeches, letters, photographs, film, legal documents, etc. from the time of the president you're investigating. What do they tell you about your chosen POTUS? What can you learn from reading the president's own words?

BE CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!

DECLASSIFIED & APPROVED FOR USE FOR 2027 BY PROJECT POTUS HQ

*POTUS BRIEF: Always double check the information you use, especially for the spelling of names and the accuracy of dates. See recommended sources HERE.

Project POTUS®

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 ONE MINUTE OR LESS**. If your video exceeds the one-minute mark, it can only be for the inclusion of a **REQUIRED** 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.* Keep the video content to 60 seconds OR LESS, then add your sources last after the minute mark if need be.

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 updated Artificial Intelligence policy for Project POTUS 2027.

5. ***All entries must include & credit at least one primary source.*** Please specify in your video's source citations, list of sources, or out loud in narration AT LEAST ONE primary source you used during your research. 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. To alleviate your worry, submit to (optional) Pre-check!** 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. In these cases - it's extra important to *cite your sources!* Citizen Jurors review all sources cited in the video to prevent a project from being disqualified and note where the source was wrong and not you - 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.

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 submitting an entry as a link.

Need help? Send us a note at projectpotus@bhpsite.org.

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.

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

Do you have questions about the video requirements or rules for Project POTUS 2027? Contact Project POTUS HQ for help at projectpotus@bhpsite.org

Project POTUS is a national education initiative for middle school students from the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. The program is made possible by Russell & Penny Fortune.

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

