

# Judging and Prizes

## How does local judging work?

Judging occurs at each location under the direction of the Local Leads. If desired, each location may add its own judging criteria to the overall Space Apps criteria, and Local Leads may establish local awards if they wish. In addition to any that you determine locally, here are the core Space Apps criteria that your judges should consider:

- + Impact: How much impact (quality and quantity) can this project have? Does it solve a big problem or a little problem? Will it inspire or help many, or a few?
- + Creativity: How creative/innovative is the approach? Is the project novel and something that hasn't been attempted before, or is it an incremental improvement on something that already exists?
- + Validity: Is the solution scientifically valid? Will it do what it sets out to do? Can it work in the real world?
- + Relevance: Is this project responsive to the challenge for which it was submitted? Is it a complete solution or does it have a long way to go? Is it technically feasible? How usable or user friendly is the solution? **Are there some aspects ignored in the solution that could have a significant impact on its effectiveness?**
- + Presentation: How well did the team communicate their project? Were they effective in telling the story of the project: the challenge, the solution, and why it is important? **Were team skills adequate for the solution?**
- + Orientation:  
Is the solution oriented towards one of the following aspects?
  - a) **Best Use of Data**: the solution that best makes space data accessible, or leverages it to a unique application;
  - b) **Best Use of Hardware**: the solution that exemplifies the most innovative use of hardware.
  - c) **Best Mission Concept**: the solution with the most plausible solution concept and design.
  - d) **Galactic Impact**: the solution with the most potential to improve life on Earth or in the universe.
  - e) **Most Inspirational**: the solution that captures our hearts.
  - f) **Best Use of Science**: the solution that makes the best and most valid use of science and/or the scientific method.

Note that when local judging is completed, each local event can nominate up to two projects to advance to global judging, which will be conducted using the criteria listed above. Therefore, it is highly recommended that each Local Lead share the judging criteria above with participants at the start of the hackathon, so that all teams know what to expect of the judging process.