

2026 Invest Student Challenge

REAL WORLD READY:

What Every 18 Year Old Should Know Before Life Hits



All entries must be submitted between December 10, 2025 and February 6, 2026.
investprogram.org/studentchallenge

THE CHALLENGE

You are a creative marketing team focused on educating and empowering young adults. Your latest task is to develop a video campaign to help young adults ranging between 18 and 22 (Gen Z) understand the real-world importance of insurance as they step into adulthood.

Gen Z is entering a new phase of life – getting their first jobs, buying cars, signing leases, traveling, and managing their own finances. Yet most have little to no understanding of what insurance is, why it matters, or how it impacts their daily lives. Your task is to design a bold marketing campaign that answers the question: “What should every 18-year-old know about insurance before entering the real world?”

Your campaign should:

- Break down the basics of insurance in a relatable way
- Highlight how insurance protects one's lifestyle, goals and financial future
- Use creative ways to make the message stick
- Debunk insurance myths and show how insurance is relevant now and in the future
- BONUS: Include an insurance professional

TIMELINE

- Entry submissions begin December 10, 2025
- Submission deadline is February 6, 2026
- The top 3 teams will be announced by March 13, 2025.
- Each winning team will be presented their official award in person or virtually by a member of the National Invest Team.



ADDITIONAL DETAILS

This challenge consists of two major parts: insurance knowledge and the video presentation.

- Each team should be comprised of two to four high school students.
- Participants will present their campaign in a video that is between 3 to 5 minutes.
- Submissions must be completed through the online registration form available [here](#).
- Submissions must be received no later than February 6, 2026 to be eligible for awards.
- All entries will be evaluated to determine the top three submissions.
- Late entries and entries with videos over five minutes will be disqualified.
- Please note teams must be based in the United States.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

The participants will present their campaign to the National Invest Program in a video that is a maximum of five minutes in length. All videos must include the following components:

I. Introduction

- a. Identify which types of insurance your campaign will focus on and why they are relevant to Gen Z.
- b. Identify your target audience, including demographics, region.
- c. Describe key marketing strategies your team will use to connect with Gen Z and stand out from traditional insurance messaging.
- d. Describe how you will change the perception of insurance from boring and confusing to empowering and essential.

II. Proposed Marketing Campaign

- a. Clearly define the goal of the campaign.
- b. Proposed key performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of your campaign.
- c. Incorporate social, print, and email direct marketing strategies.
- d. Include project proposal outlining the budget, timeline, campaign expectations, potential challenges.

III. Overall Presentation

- a. Focus on key points to stay within the 3-5 minute guideline
 - b. Be visually creative when presenting the marketing campaign
 - c. Include art, style, tone and sound that is relevant to your target audience
 - d. Animation, soundtrack and/or any special effects may be used to enhance your overall video presentation, not distract from purpose
 - e. Consistent volume with audible voices, playback video speed at normal
- BONUS: Include an insurance professional

NOTE TO TEACHERS

If your students produce a winning submission, Invest will also provide a pizza lunch to your classroom in honor of you and the winner(s)!



QUESTIONS?

Please reach out to our Invest team

- Whitnee Dillard, Executive Director, whitnee.dillard@iiaba.net
- Tania Johnson, Education Program Manager, tania.johnson@iiaba.net
- Johanna Holling, Volunteer Relations Program Manager, johanna.holling@iiaba.net

AWARDS

The top three teams will be recognized virtually by the National Invest Board.

FIRST PLACE: \$1,500 cash prize

The first-place winner(s) will also be featured on the Invest Hall of Fame webpage viewed by insurance business professionals nationwide. In addition, the winning video will be featured on Invest and Invest company partner social media platforms. Lastly, each winner interested in pursuing an insurance career will also be eligible for an Invest classroom to career scholarship. The scholarship will provide a \$500 reimbursement for insurance related continued education including insurance pre-licensing courses, certifications, designations and/or collegiate course work focused on insurance and/or risk management. For those interested in pursuing an insurance certification or designation please visit The Institutes and/or The Risk and Insurance Education Alliance to learn more.

SECOND PLACE: \$1,000 cash prize

The second-place winner(s) will also be featured on the Invest Hall of Fame webpage viewed by insurance business professionals nationwide. In addition, the winning video will be featured on Invest and Invest company partner social media platforms. Lastly, each winner interested in pursuing an insurance career will also be eligible for an Invest classroom to career scholarship. The scholarship will provide a \$500 reimbursement for insurance related continued education including insurance pre-licensing courses, certifications, designations and/or collegiate course work focused on insurance and/or risk management. For those interested in pursuing an insurance certification or designation please visit The Institutes and/or The Risk and Insurance Education Alliance to learn more.

THIRD PLACE: \$500 cash prize

The third-place winner(s) will also be featured on the Invest Hall of Fame webpage viewed by insurance business professionals nationwide. In addition, the winning video will be featured on Invest and Invest company partner social media platforms. Lastly, each winner interested in pursuing an insurance career will also be eligible for an Invest classroom to career scholarship. The scholarship will provide a \$500 reimbursement for insurance related continued education including insurance pre-licensing courses, certifications, designations and/or collegiate course work focused on insurance and/or risk management. For those interested in pursuing an insurance certification or designation please visit The Institutes and/or The Risk and Insurance Education Alliance to learn more.

