What is new this year?

As we celebrate our 15th year, the Conrad Challenge has added three special categories focused specifically on today’s greatest sustainability challenges: Eliminating & Reducing E-Cigarette Waste, presented by the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World; Oceans: The Plastic Problem presented by the Winsor Foundation, in collaboration with the Prince Albert II Foundation; and a special sustainable packaging challenge within the Energy & Environment category presented by Dell Technologies.

What competition fees are required for the Conrad Challenge?

The Conrad Foundation is a 501(c)(3) education foundation operating on individual donations, corporate sponsorships and team fees. The registration fees assist in offsetting the cost of the program.

All fees are required per team, not individual.

- Team Registration for Round One: Investor Pitch is $149 per team due Friday, November 6, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Team Registration for Round Two: Business Plan is $499 per team due Friday, January 8, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

If teams are not able to meet the fee requirements, please contact the Conrad team at info@conradchallenge.org, as we offer discounted pricing for qualifying teams (such as participants from title 1 schools).

Do teams need to consist of students from the same school?

No, we encourage collaboration without borders! Teams can consist of students from various schools, cities, states and even countries. The Conrad Challenge provides a unique opportunity for students to easily collaborate through our digital platforms. The only requirement is that teams must consist of 2-5 students, ages 13-18. The rest is up to you!

Are teams permitted to compete in more than one category?

Yes, but each category requires a separate registration fee per team. Teams participating in more than one category are required to create a new team name and register in the Conrad Portal for each category submission.
Are teams permitted to submit the same innovation in multiple categories?

No, an innovation may only be submitted in one category. We suggest thoroughly reviewing the category descriptions to determine the best category fit for that entry. If a team feels their innovation qualifies for multiple categories, they are encouraged to consult with their coach, a subject matter expert, or our alumni on Conrad’s SLACK channel.

Are students allowed to participate on multiple teams?

Yes, a student may participate on multiple teams as long as they are fulfilling their duties to each team and there is no conflict of interest between the teams. Should multiple teams on which a student is competing advance to the final round, prize incentives will not be duplicated for this student. If you have questions concerning your role in a team, please contact the Conrad team at info@conradchallenge.org.

Do all teams require a coach?

Yes, all teams must have one coach (adult supervisor) 18 years or older. The coach’s role in the Challenge is to guide and support the team as they progress in the competition. The coach is not allowed to contribute to original work or submission requirements.

Can our team name match the name of our innovation?

Yes, although it is not recommended. We recommend teams create a separate business name from their product or service name. (For example: Team Name would be Apple and the product name would be iPhone).

Do all team members need to create a profile in the Conrad Portal?

No, each team will have one account within their Conrad Portal that will be utilized by all team members. If preferred, teams can appoint one member to complete all team member and coach registration information. In addition, each team member must submit a signed Rules & Regulations document in the portal. Instructions will be available within the platform.

Are teams required to create a physical prototype of their product?

No, this is not a requirement for the competition. There are requirements in the Round 2: The Business Plan to illustrate proof-of-concept testing which will be detailed in the Student Guide, but a physical prototype is not a requirement.

Will there be an in-person Innovation Summit this year?

The Foundation will continue to monitor and follow all recommendations from government and health organizations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the safety and well-being of our participants. The Foundation is committed to providing a final decision on an in-person or virtual Summit by February 1, 2021.

More information will be published on our website on Friday, August 21 with the official launch of the 2020-2021 Conrad Challenge.