



## Girls on Fire Application Form

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member(s)	Grade	Age	Email	Guardian

**In case of an emergency, notify the following:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use the space below to describe the problem your team is proposing to address for the Girls on Fire Challenge.**

**Problem Statement:**

**Please read the following carefully before signing this application form:**

I understand that this is an application for participating in the Girls on Fire Challenge, which is an initiative for girls 13-18 years of age. I understand each team participating in the challenge, whether as an individual or a group, will be required to present original thoughts and ideas to address the problem statement described above. Therefore, if I submit known or pre-existing solutions created by others as a solution, the team forfeits its right to compete and right to any awards/prizes obtained in this challenge. I also understand participation in this challenge will require both a written report and oral presentation. Failure to comply with both requirements will automatically disqualify my team from the competition. I certify the information provided on this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that misrepresentations or omissions may be cause for immediate rejection as a participant in the Girls on Fire Challenge.

Team Lead Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please email completed application to Tonnia Thomas at [tonnia@twinnonprofit.org](mailto:tonnia@twinnonprofit.org) by February 18, 2019.



## Competition Rules and Guidelines

### Eligibility & Team Structure

- Girls 13-18 years of age are eligible to compete in the challenge
- Teams may consist of 1-4 persons (individual or group can make up a team)
- Each team must select a team name and team leader (identify team leader on application form).
- Any announcements from TWIN during the competition shall be communicated to the team leader via email (hence, must have a valid email for each team). Thereafter, it shall be the team leader's responsibility to notify and inform their team members of communications.

### Team Entries & Report Out

- The aim of the Girls on Fire Challenge is to foster creative and critical thinking skills for problem solving. With that said, each team must define a problem (of their own choosing) in which they would like to investigate and explore during the challenge to create potential solution(s) for. The problem may be of any type and concerning any topic of interest. The problem chosen to address must be written in the form of a problem statement on the application form (see attachments for application form and a document called "Problem Statement vs. Problem Solving" to understand what a problem statement is and what it should consist of.
- Interested parties may enter the challenge by completing and submitting an application form to Dr. Tonnia Thomas at [tonnia@twinnonprofit.org](mailto:tonnia@twinnonprofit.org) by **February 18, 2019**. Applications submitted after the **February 18, 2019** deadline will be rejected. The attached application form is also available for download online at the following link:  
<http://twinnonprofit.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/GoF-Application-Form.pdf>
- Team leaders please be sure to sign the application form acknowledging you have read and understood the challenge guidelines.
- A confirmation email will be sent to all team leaders that submit an application before the deadline. Participating teams must be sure to include a valid contact email address on the application form.
- Solutions proposed by each team participating in the challenge shall be their original thoughts and ideas to address the problem statement described above. Therefore, teams are not allowed to present known or pre-existing solutions created by others as their own solution to their problem statement. If a team copy and submit a pre-existing solution, the team forfeits its right to compete and right to any awards/prizes obtained in this challenge. However, a team can provide solutions that are improvement over pre-existing solutions (i.e. results in less steps, increased efficiency, reduce cycle time, reduced cost, etc.).
- Participation in this challenge requires both a written report and oral presentation from each team. Both report outs shall explain the essences of the problem chosen to explore (i.e. what is

the problem, why is it important, who is it important to, etc.), as well as, the solution proposed. In other words, the team must make a case for addressing the problem highlighted and the value of their solution.

- **Written reports** shall be limited to 2-pages. Anything over the two-page limit will not be read by the judges. Written reports are to be emailed to Dr. Tonnia Thomas by **Thursday, April 18, 2019** at [tonnia@twinnonprofit.org](mailto:tonnia@twinnonprofit.org). Each team shall also give an **oral presentation** on their problem and solution in front of a judging panel on **Saturday, April 20, 2019 (starting at 10:00 am)**. Each team shall be allowed seven (7) minutes to present their case; followed by five (5) minutes of questions by the judging panel. Each member of a team must participate in their team presentation. Failure to comply with both the oral and written report requirements will automatically disqualify a team from the competition. The order in which teams shall report shall be decided prior to the start of the competition.
- TWIN shall host a **mid-point check-in** on **Saturday, March 23, 2019 (2:30 pm)**. The purpose of the check-in is to answer any follow-up or clarifying questions, provide guidance and ensure participants are working within the guidelines.

### **Judging Panel**

- The sole purpose of the judging panel is to ensure all teams adhere to the competition rules & guidelines.
- Judges shall rate all teams using the same scoring criteria. Parameters contestants could be rated upon may include but not limited to the following:
  - Communication & presentation skills - the ability to articulate the problem identified and proposed solution; ability to make and state the case and use supporting factors
  - Working approach - Ability to explain the steps and/or process to derive the solution proposed
  - Creativity - originality and likelihood of proposed solution to address the problem statement.
  - Ability to stay within the time allotted

### **Prizes**

- a. A first, second, and third place winner shall be selected at the competition. Cash prizes to be awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> (\$400), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$200), and 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$100)

# Problem Statement vs. Problem Solving

## Problem Statement

The most critical component to solving a problem is making sure one understands what the problem is. Hence, the objective of the problem statement. A problem statement is not a solution but a brief statement to define an issue, concern, frustration, or pain point. A problem statement should include information as to the what, why, who, when, or where; such as, the following:

- What frustration or pain point are you addressing?
- Why is it important? Why is it happening?
- Who is it important? Who is affected by it? Who would or should care about it?
- When did the issue arise? When does it need to be addressed?
- Where is it happening?

## Problem Solving

Only after the problem has been defined and clearly understood, should one move forward with devising a plan for how to solve it. Problem solving should answer the how; for instance:

- How would your proposed solution address the problem or yield a different output or outcome?

Problem solving often involves exploring, reasoning, decision-making, critical thinking, and creative thinking. There are various approaches one may take to problem solving. The chart below list a few models or practices commonly used in the problem solving process.

IDEAL	DMAIC	DMADV	DEEPER
Identify	Define	Define	Determine
Define	Measure	Measure	Examine
Explore	Analyze	Analyze	Evaluate
Analyze	Improve	Design	Propose
Look back	Control	Verify	Explain
			Report