# Contest Rules

**Submission Requirements:**
- Contestants must create an Amazon developer account and a MindSumo account using his/her university affiliated email address to build a working submission.
- The submission must be a new, functioning Alexa skill, not previously published on the Alexa skills store. Applications must be submitted to Amazon for certification during the Submission Period listed above.
- Contestants are allowed to make minor changes or bug fixes during the Certification Period to move through the certification phase. No substantial changes will be allowed.
- Skills that do not pass Amazon certification and become published during the Submission Period listed above will still be reviewed by the Judges but will not be eligible for points awarded to published skills. See Judging Criteria (below) for details.  Submissions must be eligible for publication, meaning they should comply with our content guidelines, should not be directed at children under 13, and cannot infringe third-party IP.
- The submission must include:
    - the first and last name of the contestant;
    - the university the contestant is currently enrolled at;
    - the contestant's university-affiliated email address;
    - current major;
    - graduation year;
    - the name of the skill;
    - the SKILL ID (this will help Amazon accelerate the review process for certification. It can be found in your Amazon Developer Console: Alexa → Alexa Skills Kit → Your Skills → Skill Information → Application Id. The ID for your skill is unique and starts with amzn1.ask.skill.);
    - a description of the skill explaining its use;
    - a short brief of how the contestant created the project including images, screenshots, and/or video;
    - the link to the source code via GitHub; and
- Skills cannot have been selected as a winning skill in any other contest or promotion sponsored by or otherwise affiliated with Amazon.
- Submissions and skills must be in English (U.S).
- Contestants may submit multiple skills, but all skills must be substantially different from any other skill submitted by the same contestant/team/organization.
- The submission must be the original work of the submitter, be solely owned by the submitter, and not violate the IP rights of any other person or entity.
- Contestants must have obtained any and all consents, approvals or licenses required to submit his/her entry.
- Entries may not include any third party trademarks (logos, names) or copyrighted materials (music, images, video, recognizable people) unless the contestant has obtained permission to use the materials.

No hardware is required to participate. Students that do not have access to an Amazon Echo device will be able to test their skills using third-party Alexa-enabled endpoints, such as the Amazon Echo Simulator (EchoSim), a browser-based interface to Alexa created and hosted by iQuarius Media (see here: https://echosim.io/).

**Submission Recommendations:**
- Integrate third-party APIs, SDKs, datasets, and third-party hardware provided the developer is authorized to use them.
- Integrate AWS services other than AWS Lambda (learn more about the [AWS Free Tier](#)).

**Eligibility criteria:**
Each contestant must:
- be at least the age of majority in the relevant jurisdiction at the time of entry;
- be an enrolled university student;
- be a resident of the United States; and
- not be an immediate family member or a household member of a MindSumo or Amazon employee.

**Prizes:**
The total prize value will be administered by MindSumo and is included in the agreed upon cost of the contest. The winning entries will receive prizes as follows:

- First place: US $1,000 and an Amazon Echo
- Second place: US $300 and an Amazon Tap
- Third place: US $300 and an All-New Echo Dot (2nd Generation)
- The first 10 participants to publish their skills and submit a contest entry and who are not selected as first, second or third place winners will receive an Amazon Tap.

**Judging criteria:**
A panel of 3-5 Amazon judges will review all entries and determine the winner using the following criteria:

- Creativity (20 points)
- Usefulness (20 points)
- Use of Voice user interface best practices (10 points)
- Use of third-party SDK, API, dataset, or Hardware (10 points)
- Use of AWS services other than AWS Lambda (10 points)
- Quality of instructions of how you created your project including images, screenshots, and/or video (10 points)
- Published skill (20 points)

**Contest Timeline:**

- Contest begin date: November 17, 9:00 AM PST
- Contest end date: December 31, 11:59:59 PM PST
- Certification period: January 1, 2017 to January 20, 2017
- Winners announced: January 31, 2017