**Ms. Geek Africa 2020 Application**

**ABOUT Ms. GEEK COMPETITION**

2020 marks 4th anniversary of Ms. Geek Africa, a competition inspired by Ms. Geek Rwanda, aimed at inspiring more girls into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) by devising solutions to challenges faced in their community and across Africa.

Finalists undergo an intensive training program conducted by successful entrepreneurs. The training equips them with presentation, public speaking and critical thinking skills to prepare them for the competition. Ms. Geek Africa is selected by a panel of judges upon successful presentation of their solution. She receives a wide range of prizes including a cash reward, phone, laptop, tablet, a trip to an international technology event and more.

Smart Africa partnered with Girls in ICT Rwanda to expand the Ms. Geek competition to all member states and we have now crowned three Ms. Geeks hailing from **Kenya**, **Niger** and **DRC**. All finalists have equal opportunity to learn and prepare for the day, and each of them will go home with a laptop and other prizes. The top three winners will be awarded cash prizes. They also get an opportunity to participate in the Transform Africa Summit where they interact with many industry leaders and their governments. All expenses are covered for all selected finalists.

Application for Ms. Geek Africa 2020 is open until Saturday, **February 29th at 5pm (CAT)**. Girls in ICT and Smart Africa Secretariat shall select the best solution from every country to participate in the finals. Finalists shall present in two rounds, after which Ms. Geek Africa and two runners up shall be rewarded during the summit.

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. Girls between the ages of 13 and 21 years old
2. Be as a citizen of one of the Smart Africa member states: **Algeria,** **Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, DRCongo, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia**, **Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**
3. Contestants **must be available to travel to The Republic of Guinea** between April 19th – 23rd2020 for training and Transform Africa Summit.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. Your application must describe the problem you want to solve, how your solution will solve it, a conceptual design, what technologies you are using/should be used to develop it, key stakeholders, how content will be generated, and shared.
2. Your solution must be original or an innovative improvement to existing technologies.
3. You must consider that most Africans have limited access to internet and smart devices.
4. A graphical presentation must accompany the concept note, demonstrating how the solution will work and an example of the user interface

**SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

1. Submit solution to msgeekafrica@smartafrica.org
2. All applications must be submitted in English or French.
3. Name the submitted application in this format: YOUR NAME-COUNTRY
4. Deadline for submission is **February 29 2020**. There shall be NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. If you have any inquiry, please reach us on twitter @GirlsInICTRw or on the Girls In ICT Rwanda Facebook page. You can find more information at [www.girlsinict.rw](http://www.girlsinict.rw) and smartafrica.org.

**Ms. GEEK AFRICA 2020 APPLICATION FORM**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Transform Africa Summit 2020 theme is “Integrating Africa” with a goal of accelerating socio-economic development through affordable access to broadband & efficient supply chains.

Regional integration is a development priority for Africa. Supply chains and connectivity are the key factors to the continent’s economic growth. As Africa still lags behind the rest of the world in its digital transformation, and in spite of a growing number of innovative solutions, the ongoing lack of adequate infrastructure and connectivity is preventing the continent from realizing its true economic potential. This is why Smart Africa is committed to transform Africa into a single digital market by accelerating sustainable socio-economic development on the continent through affordable access to Broadband and usage of ICT.

Interested applicants should identify opportunities in any sector and suggest a solution that can allow Africans to freely integrate and easily trade. What technology solution do you recommend and how will it work to solve the issue you have identified?

**REQUIRED INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Names |  |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Nationality, Country of Origin |  |
| Name of School & Grade/Class |  |
| Phone number (must be valid) |  |
| Email (must be valid) |  |

**SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN THE FORMAT BELOW.**

**SOLUTION**

1. What is required to achieve Integrate Africa? (50 words)
2. What is the main issue or challenge hindering the Integration of Africa? (50 words)
3. Describe your product/service and briefly explain how it will address the identified challenge/issue? (200 words)
4. Who will be your potential customers or end users and partners? How does your product/service deliver value to your customer or end user? (100 words)
5. Any additional information you wish to add? (50 words)