**Ms. Geek Africa 2018 Application**

**ABOUT MS GEEK COMPETITION**

This year, Girls in ICT Rwanda Celebrates the 5th anniversary of Ms. Geek with the 2nd edition of Ms. Geek Africa. For the past five(5) years we have successfully held a Ms. Geek competition to inspire girls into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields and be part of solving the continent’s challenges using technology.

Finalists undergo a weeklong intensive training program with a trainer who has gone through the same journey and is now a successful entrepreneur. The program equips them with presentation, public speaking and critical thinking skills to ensure they are prepared for competition day. Ms. Geek is selected by a high-level panel of judges, upon successful presentation and demo of their solution, and receives a wide range of prizes including a cash prize, phone, laptop, tablet, a trip to an international technology conference, among others.

Last year, Girls in ICT Rwanda partnered with Smart Africa to expand the competition to all member states and crowned the first ever **Ms. Geek Africa, Ruth Njeri** from **Kenya** during the annual Transform Africa Summit. The experience provides semi-finalists the opportunity to compete and collaborate with peers as well as participate in the summit where they interact with many industry leaders and their government, as they determine how to accelerate Africa’s transformation using technology. All expenses will be covered for all selected semi-finalists.

Application for the 2nd Edition of Ms. Geek Africa are open now till Friday, **March 30th at 5pm (CAT)**. Girls in ICT and Smart Africa Secretariat shall select the best solution from every country to participate in a weeklong training. After which, they will go through two rounds of presentation where the top 3 shall be chosen and Ms. Geek Africa 2018 crowned during the closing events of the summit.

**ABOUT GIRLS IN ICT**

Girls in ICT Rwanda is a group of women professionals in STEM, who have come together as role models to mentor Rwandan girls and beyond, encouraging them consider careers in STEM fields.

**ELIGIBILITY**

* Female between ages of 13 and 21 years old
* Citizen of any of Smart Africa member states: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo DRC, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda
* Contestants must be available to be in Rwanda between May, 1st – 11th 2018 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 **March 30 2018**. There shall be NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. If you have questions, please contact us on twitter [@GirlsInICTRW](https://twitter.com/GirlsInICTRW) or Facebook Page “Girls In ICT Rwanda.” More information at [www.girlsinict.rw](http://www.girlsinict.rw) and smartafrica.org.

**Ms. Geek Africa Application Form**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Transform Africa Summit 2018 theme is “Accelerating Africa’s Single Digital Market” with a goal of charting ways to harness technology in creating a single digital Market in Africa, where our people can exchange information and trade with ease through common platforms.

Interested applicants should identify opportunities in any sector and suggest a solution that can allow Africans to collaborate, interact and especially trade easily as a single digital market. 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 a single digital market for Africa? (50 words)
2. What is the main issue or challenge hindering the realization of a single digital market for 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)