

YCL 2026

Registration & School Nomination Guide

YCL is a hands-on technology innovation challenge by Plaksha University for students in Classes 8 -12. Teams of 3–4 students identify a real-world problem and work towards building a physical, functional solution using technology, creativity, and problem-solving.

Before You Register

Who can participate?

- Students from Classes 8–12 can participate.
- Each team must have 3–4 students.
- Students from different schools may form one team.
- One student should be the Team Leader and coordinate registration and the application.
- Prior experience in coding, robotics, or engineering is not required.

Choose your YCL theme

- Select one theme and identify a specific problem within it.

HEALTHCARE | AGRICULTURE | WATER SECURITY | MOBILITY | ENERGY

School Nomination at a Glance

Question	Answer
Is school nomination mandatory?	No. Any eligible team can participate without being nominated by its school.
How many teams can a school nominate?	A school can nominate up to 2 teams in YCL.
What does nomination provide?	School-nominated teams receive additional weightage during evaluation.
Does nomination guarantee selection?	No. All teams continue to be evaluated on the depth of their problem research, solution and prototype.

What should a School Nomination be based on?

Nomination is not about selecting only students with the highest marks or the most advanced technical skills. It is about identifying teams who have demonstrated deep understanding of the problem they are solving, have invested significant time and effort in building the prototype, and stand out among the interested team in the school.

What to look for	What it means
Problem clarity	The team has identified a specific and meaningful problem.
Problem understanding	The team can explain who is affected and why the problem matters.
Solution potential	The proposed solution addresses the identified problem in a meaningful way.
Build potential	The team is prepared to develop and test a physical prototype.
Team commitment	All members are willing to contribute and take ownership of the project.
Curiosity & initiative	The team shows willingness to explore, experiment, learn, and improve.

A project does not need to be technically perfect at the nomination stage. The focus should be on the team's thinking, potential, and commitment to take the idea forward.

Registration & School Nomination: Step by Step

Form Your Team

Create a team of 3–4 students from Classes 8–12. Students from different schools may also form one team. Choose one Team Leader.

Choose Your Theme & Problem

Select one YCL theme and identify a specific problem within it. Start with the problem, the people are affected and what your team wants to solve.

Register Your Team

The Team Leader completes the YCL registration. Only one registration should be submitted per team. Check all team names, classes, school details, and contact information carefully.

Develop Your Application

Work on the problem statement, proposed solution and prototype. Your application should clearly communicate what you are solving, for whom, and how your solution is expected to work.

Decide Whether to Seek School Nomination

School nomination is optional. If your team wants the additional weightage associated with nomination, approach your school educator, teacher or relevant school representative.

Request the Nomination from Your School

Share your team details, chosen theme, problem statement, proposed solution and other information your school may need to review the project. The school may follow its own internal selection process.

Receive the School Nomination Letter

If the school chooses to nominate your team, the school will provide the nomination of a prescribed template. Students are not expected to create the letter themselves. The Nomination Letter Template is available [here](#).

Upload Nomination Details & Submit

Add the required school nomination details and upload the nomination letter wherever requested. Complete all remaining application requirements and submit them before the deadline.

What Makes a Strong YCL Application?

A strong YCL project is not necessarily the one using the most advanced technology. What matters is the connection between the problem, the user, the solution, and the prototype.

Problem	User	Solution	Prototype	Impact
What are you trying to solve?	Who experiences it?	What are you proposing?	How will you build and test it?	How could it make a difference?

AI, robotics, IoT, sensors, coding, 3D design or app development can be used where they genuinely strengthen the solution.

What Happens After You Apply?

Stage	What happens	Outcome
Round 1 Find & Build	Teams submit their problem, solution, and prototype through a Video Submission .	Top 100 teams advance to Round 2
Round 2 Pitch & Defend	Selected teams participate in an online team interview with a Plaksha panel.	Top 50 teams advance to Round 3
Round 3 Showcase & Impact	Finalists present their working prototypes at the Grand Exhibition at Plaksha University .	Jury evaluation, awards and recognition

Key Dates

Date	Milestone
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15 Sep – 30 Oct 2026	Registration and Round 1 submission
30 Oct 2026	Round 1 closes
1 – 5 Nov 2026	Screening and Top 100 selection
5 – 20 Nov 2026	Round 2: Online team interviews
25 Nov 2026	Top 50 finalists announced
26 Nov – 10 Dec 2026	Mentorship
19 Dec 2026	Grand Exhibition at Plaksha University

Keep in Mind

- School nomination is optional and does not guarantee selection.
- Students do not need advanced technical experience to participate.
- Start with the problem before choosing the technology.
- Every team member should understand the project and contribute meaningfully.
- The project should move beyond an idea towards a physical, functional prototype.

Questions about registration or school nomination?
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