

Consultant & Judge Information

<https://chicodatafest.netlify.com/>

Note: This document may be updated as the event approaches; any major updates will be clearly marked.

General Event Info

All information regarding the event can be found at <https://chicodatafest.netlify.com/>.

Location

Throughout the weekend students will work at CSU, Chico's Selvester's Cafe. There are many places to park around campus and downtown. Here is a link to an interactive map showing the cafe, and parking nearby.

When you get there

Please check in at registration desk at Selvester's Cafe, and grab your badge and consultant T-shirt (if you registered early) when you get in. It's helpful to students for instance, to be able to clearly identify consultants from participants. Judges will get a notepad and judging rubric along with their badge.

Contact

You are also welcome to join the event Slack workspace. The invitation link will be emailed along with your schedule. If you need to contact an organizer at any point during the event, email Robin at rdonatello@csuchico.edu or PM her through Slack.

Data

Please note that this information is currently TOP SECRET!!! We do not want it getting out to anybody until all other locations are done with their DataFest in later weeks.

All **judges** will receive a link to a Box document containing information on the data. Please let Robin know if you have not received the invite. Any consultants who would like access to this document, please contact Robin to request access.

The data set itself will **not** be provided to any consultants. We request that all computers be left at home.

Consultants

The most important thing is to keep the mood light and encouraging! We suspect by sometime Saturday afternoon things might seem rather dire to some of the students.

On Friday night, students will be busy trying to make sense of the data. We expect that some of them might have technical problems with getting started (loading the data, viewing it, etc.). Throughout the weekend the teams will be on their own, though we might have intermittent "check ins". We imagine they will get stuck and need advice. Sometimes, the advice could be highly technical and, depending on your background, outside your expertise. Don't worry. They know that you are not there to solve their problems, but to offer

advice. See if you can steer them towards standard problem-solving techniques: break the problem into smaller pieces, go online for advice, etc. Guide them to think about context. What sort of distribution do they expect? Why? What might cause that? How does that compare to what they saw?

This is a competition, but it is supposed to be friendly and collaborative, so don't worry about revealing any special knowledge. This is not an exam, and so if someone asks, please answer if you can, and don't worry about other teams over hearing. I'm hoping that, after the first evening, teams will be sharing basic technical advice on their own.

Everyone is welcome to the presentations and award ceremony.

A note about software

Most students will use R or Python but we also expect many to use SAP, Matlab, SAS, Excel, JMP, etc. as well. If asked for support on a platform you're not familiar with, simply stating so is sufficient. If asked for support on a platform you are familiar with, you are welcomed to assist at any capacity you feel comfortable/up to – from talking through the approach at a high level to sitting down and coding with them.

Judging

There are three prize categories:

- Best Insight
- Best Visualization
- Best Use of Outside Data

The latter category is meant to encourage students to find supporting information and/or data beyond what we give them.

An optional “Judges Choice” will be available to the judges to use if desired.

Teams will have 5 minutes (4 min presentation + 1 min Q&A) and 2 slides to make their case. Some teams may also submit a 1 page writeup with their presentation. This paper will be printed out and provided to you before judging starts.

At least one helper will also be in the room with you to run the session, keep time, etc. You will also be given a judging pack including a rubric and notepad to help keep things straight when you pick up your badge. It's strongly recommended that you make note of teams that are especially strong as you're watching the presentations so that the deliberation conversation can be as efficient as possible.

Feedback

ASA DataFest has become an annual event that is now being officially sponsored by the American Statistical Association and held at numerous locations with participation from a large number of universities. We hope to grow the event further in the coming years. With that in mind, please send us any advice or constructive criticisms that will help us improve this event in the future to datascience@csuchico.edu.

Our primary goal is to provide a rewarding experience for the undergraduates, an experience that sharpens their analytical skills and gives them some confidence that they can take what they learn here out into the real world.