Claude Build Club x ACT Rice Hackathon

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Welcome!

Welcome to the Claude Builder Club x ACT Rice Hackathon 2025!

We're thrilled to have you here for Rice University's first-ever hackathon centered on solving real-world business problems using Anthropic's Claude AI tools.

This handbook contains everything you'll need — from the schedule and judging details to submission requirements, prizes, and resources.

You'll spend 24 hours **vibe coding** creative, business-focused AI solutions in small teams using Claude's tools.

Before you start:
- ✅ Make sure you're registered with the Claude Builder Club — this is required to participate.
- 💬 Join our GroupMe to get live updates, announcements, and ask any questions. If anything changes, it will first be coordinated here!
- 💡 Apply for your free Claude API credits early using this form (it can take 2–3 days to receive them). For "what CBC meeting did you attend?", you can put down 9/29/2025. These credits will let you use the Claude API for free throughout the hackathon.
- 📝 Check in before the event using this form [will be released at 11:00 AM on Saturday] — all participants must complete this before the hackathon begins.

We can't wait to see what you build — let's get hacking!

– The Claude Builder Club Hackathon Team

Schedule

- Join our GroupMe for announcements/updates: [LinkTree](#)
- All times are **Central Time (CT).**

Saturday, Nov 8

11:00 AM	Begin Checking In Online
1:00 PM – 1:20 PM	Opening Ceremony @ Kraft 110 (will be recorded)
1:20 PM	Hacking Begins!

Sunday, Nov 9

1:00 PM	Submissions Close on Devpost
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Judging
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Closing Ceremony & Awards @ Kraft 110

FAQ

What is the theme of this hackathon?
Teams will build AI solutions that address **real business problems** using Anthropic's Claude tools. Focus on impact, creativity, and practical applications. Some examples include:

- Automating customer feedback analysis
- Summarizing internal reports
- Building AI copilots for specific departments (HR, marketing, ops)
- Streamlining data workflows

Do I need a team?
No! You can join solo, or in teams of up to 4.

Do I need prior experience with Claude or AI?
Not at all — the hackathon is beginner-friendly. You'll learn as you build.

Do I need to use advanced Claude tools?
Nope! You don't need to use complex Claude features, "vibe coding" with Claude itself is perfectly fine. Judges will consider creativity and how you use Claude, but there's no expectation to tackle advanced technical features.

Will there be food?
Yes! Snacks and juice will be available at the opening ceremony, and boba will be provided at the closing ceremony for competitors who checked in.

Is there a code of conduct?
Yes, there is a form you must agree to in the sign up form. Be respectful, collaborative, and inclusive. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

Prizes
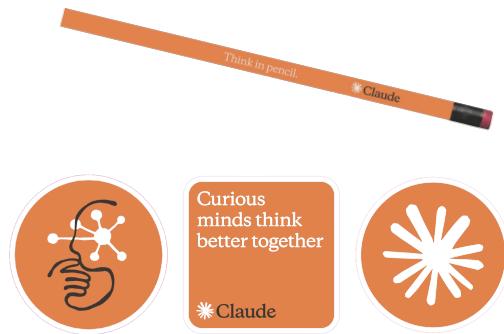
🏆 1st Place
$200 Gift Card + $250 Claude API Credits + Anthropic Swag Bag per Team Member

🥈 2nd Place
$100 Gift Card + $125 Claude API Credits + Anthropic Swag Bag per Team Member

🥉 3rd Place
 $125 Claude API Credits + Anthropic Swag Bag per Team Member

Note: Cash + API Credit prizes are awarded *per team* and will be split evenly among members. Prizes are not per individual unless otherwise noted. Our team will contact winning teams directly to coordinate digital prize delivery.

Submission Guidelines

All teams must submit via **Devpost** before judging begins.

Submission Requirements:

- Github Repository Link (or similar).

- Short demo video (~2-3 minutes)

- Project description (goal, technologies, and business value)

- Team member list

Recommended Video Structure:

- 30s – Intro (project name, members, problem statement)

- 1 min – Demo of your product/solution

- 30s – Technical overview

- 30s – Real-world impact and next steps

Rules

To keep the competition fair and fun for everyone, please follow these guidelines:

- **No pre-work:** All coding, design, and development must begin *after* the official hackathon start time (1:00 PM, Nov 8). This includes no GitHub commits or any other work on your project before the hackathon begins.

- **Pre-existing resources:** You may use public APIs, open-source libraries, or datasets, as long as they're available to everyone.

- **Team size:** Teams may have up to **4 members**.

- **One submission per team** on Devpost.

- **Respect deadlines:** Submissions must be completed before the judging period begins.

- **Code of conduct:** Be respectful, collaborative, and inclusive. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

- **Ownership:** You retain rights to your code and ideas, but by submitting, you grant permission for demo and judging purposes.

Judging Guidelines

Impact & Relevance

Projects should address a clear business challenge with meaningful potential for adoption. Judges will look for solutions that solve a problem companies actually face, rather than hypothetical or low-value scenarios. Strong entries show a solid understanding of the need, articulate why it matters, and demonstrate how the solution could be used in practice.

Creativity

We want ideas that feel fresh. This could be a new idea or a distinctive take on an existing one. A strong project shows thoughtful creativity in the approach, execution, or use of tools, something that makes the judges say, "I haven't seen it done quite like that."

Technical Execution

Judges will assess how well the solution works and how much care went into building it. A project doesn't have to be massive to score well—it just needs to be built with intention. Effective prototypes, solid implementation choices, and evidence of real functionality will stand out.

Presentation Clarity

Your explanation should be easy to follow and well-organized. The best submissions guide judges through the problem, the solution, and the demonstration without confusion. Clear communication, helpful visuals, and a structured walkthrough make a big difference.

Best Use of Claude (Bonus)

This category rewards teams that integrate Claude in a thoughtful or inventive way. Whether it powers a feature, speeds up development, or meaningfully enhances the user experience, we're looking for intentional and skillful use of the tool rather than a simple add-on.

[More Details](example rubric) (example rubric)

Resources

Claude API Documentation (Anthropic): https://www.anthropic.com/learn/build-with-claude

Workshops:
- Claude Code w/ Alex Notov
- Building Agents w/ Alex Notov
- Building with MCP w/ Alex Notov

Devpost Submission Page: https://claude-act-hackathon.devpost.com/

Claude Builder Club Links: https://linktr.ee/riceclaudebuilders

GroupMe: https://groupme.com/join_group/110210964/g4Kuut7w
- Announcements and questions will be answered here!