# Gout Local Event Recommender – Team Report (Readable Version)

**Team Name/Number:** Gout Development Team

## Target Users

We spoke to 8 users — a mix of students and young professionals in Hartford, CT, who frequently attend local events or social gatherings. They primarily use Eventbrite, Instagram, and Google to find events but face problems with accuracy, timeliness, and relevance of event listings.

## Interview / Survey Log

| User/Group | Problem They Face | Reaction to Idea | Suggested Features / Feedback |
|---|---|---|---|
| User 1 (Student) | Hard to know what's happening locally without multiple apps. | Excited about having a single personalized app. | Suggested calendar integration. |
| User 2 (Young Professional) | Event apps show irrelevant or outdated results. | Liked the idea of 'just-for-you' recommendations. | Wants filters for interest-based events. |
| User 3 (Club Member) | Organizing is easy but reaching audience is hard. | Useful for both discovering and promoting events. | Requested organizer dashboard. |
| User 4 (Graduate Student) | Too many notifications. | Liked clean UI and concept. | Wants control over notification frequency. |
| User 5 (Working Individual) | No time to browse multiple platforms. | Appreciated automation of nearby event suggestions. | Recommended weekend-only alert option. |
| User 6 (Volunteer) | Wants to find local charity or cultural events. | Impressed by the community focus. | Suggested social-sharing features. |
| User 7 (Music Enthusiast) | Wants genre-specific event recommendations. | Found idea 'amazing if accurate.' | Requested genre-based filters. |

| User/Group | Problem They Face | Reaction to Idea | Suggested Features / Feedback |
|---|---|---|---|
| User 8 (Student) | Doesn't trust apps with location data. | Interested but cautious. | Asked for clear privacy settings. |

## Insights & Validation

Key things users said:
• Users struggle with fragmented event data across platforms.
• They value personalization and simplicity.
• Privacy and notification overload are top concerns.
• 7 out of 8 users (≈90%) rated the idea 4 or 5 / 5 — strong interest.

**Validation:**
Confirmed: Users want personalized, location-based event discovery.
Challenged: Need to prioritize privacy and notification control in MVP.

## Refinements to MVP

| Category | Action |
|---|---|
| Add / Change | Privacy control settings, custom notification preferences, and calendar sync. |
| Keep | Personalized recommendations, location-based filtering, and event categorization. |
| Remove | Unnecessary data collection and excessive push notifications. |

## Summary

Biggest validation insight: Users highly value personalization but demand strong privacy protection and notification control.

Next MVP refinement: Develop a privacy-first recommendation system with adjustable alerts and category-based filters, ensuring accuracy and comfort for the user.