# AI Accelerated Spark Challenge

## June 23 - 30, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Collaborate and build agentic applications with machine learning and LLMs—powered by **ASU's Sol supercomputer** and NVIDIA's accelerated Python workflows.

## Challenge statement

Hosted virtually on Zoom, the **AI Accelerated Spark Challenge** is a week-long hackathon inviting teams to **accelerate machine learning models using GPUs**, **harness the power of large language models** through interactive notebooks, and **design an innovative tutoring system** using datasets and tools provided by challenge organizers, or bring your own data science/LLM related application idea to this challenge.

Teams start the challenge with a two-day bootcamp led by NVIDIA, ASU Research Computer, and Enterprise Technology, then **innovate around the theme of personalized learning with AI.** Projects will be built and tested on ASU's high-performance compute cluster, giving you real-world experience in scaling machine learning workflows.

## You'll learn

- How to run & accelerate ML models on GPUs!
- Techniques for dataset exploration & feature engineering!
- Strategies for defining & managing AI-driven projects!
- How to deploy & test on a compute cluster!

## Challenge prizes

- **First place team $3,000**
- **Second place team $2,000**
- **Third place team $1,000**
- **Digital credentials** for all challenge participants

## Challenge schedule

*All times hosted on Zoom from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

**Monday, June 23**
Kick-off, Day 1 bootcamp

**Tuesday, June 24**
Day 2 bootcamp

**Wednesday, June 25 - Friday, June 27**
Hacking and mentorship

**Saturday, June 28**
Submissions due by 11:59 p.m.

**Sunday, June 29**
Code review led by ASU Research Computing

**Monday, June 30**
Pitch competition, demos, and awards ceremony

## Challenge eligibility

**Open to undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines with programming experience in Python—no additional experience in ML or GPUs required!**

**Scan or click** to register by June 20!

Challenge sponsors

**NVIDIA**

**TiE PHOENIX** FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**ASU Arizona State University**

**AZNext**

**Workforce Training Accelerator Partnership**

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