

Blackwell NVFP4 Kernel Hackathon with NVIDIA and GPU MODE - Official Rules

By entering this Contest, you agree to be bound by these Official Rules and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER THIS CONTEST. THIS CONTEST IS VOID WHERE RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED BY LAW. OPEN TO LEGAL RESIDENTS OF AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA (EXCLUDING THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC), COLOMBIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HONG KONG, HUNGARY, IRELAND, JAPAN, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PERU, POLAND, ROMANIA, SINGAPORE, SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TAIWAN, THE NETHERLANDS, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (EXCLUDING NEW YORK AND FLORIDA, AS WELL AS PUERTO RICO AND ITS OTHER TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS).

1. Sponsor

This Contest is sponsored by NVIDIA Corporation, on behalf of itself and its affiliates, with an address at 2788 San Tomas Expressway, Santa Clara, CA 95051, U.S.A. (hereinafter “NVIDIA” or “Sponsor”).

2. Eligibility

You must be a resident of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada (excluding the Province of Quebec), Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, The United States of America (excluding New York and Florida, as well as Puerto Rico and its other territories and possessions), and eighteen (18) years of age or older to be eligible to participate in this Contest. This Contest is open to individuals only. No team entries and no corporate or institutional entries are permitted in this Contest. Employees of Sponsor, its affiliates, and their respective contractors, service providers and professional advisors connected with this Contest, as well as members of their immediate families and/or households, are NOT eligible to enter.

3. The Challenge

This Contest involves the following challenge:

This Contest consists of four (4) sequential kernel optimization challenges (each, a “Kernel Challenge”). Each Kernel Challenge will be released and conducted during the dates listed below. Participants may only submit entries during the applicable Kernel Challenge period. Upon the conclusion of one Kernel Challenge, the next Kernel Challenge will begin.

1. Kernel #1: NVFP4 Batched GEMV
 - a. Start: November 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM PT
 - b. End: November 28, 2025 at 11:59 PM PT
2. Kernel #2: NVFP4 GEMM
 - a. Start: November 29, 2025 at 12:00 AM PT
 - b. End: December 19, 2025 at 11:59 PM PT
3. Kernel #3: NVFP4 Gated Dual GEMM
 - a. Start: December 20, 2025 at 12:00 AM PT
 - b. End: January 16, 2026 at 11:59 PM PT
4. Kernel #4: NVFP4 Grouped GEMM

- a. Start: January 17, 2026 at 12:00 AM PT
- b. End: February 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM PT

The problem statement for each Kernel Challenge will be provided on the [GPU Mode Discord server](#) on the nvidia-competition channel at the start of the applicable Kernel Challenge period.

Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify Kernel Challenge descriptions, dates, or times as necessary, provided any such updates are publicly communicated prior to taking effect.

JUDGING

Each contestant may only win **two** times, maximum. There will be a total of up to thirteen (13) winner(s). The winner(s) of the prize(s) will be announced on the NVIDIA AI LinkedIn page on or around February 16th. NVIDIA judges will have the sole authority and discretion to select winners, and all decisions of NVIDIA judges will be FINAL. By entering this Contest, you agree to be bound by the decisions of NVIDIA judges.

4. Prizes: Odds of Winning

The prizes of this Contest are as follows:

Grand Prize: The participant whose submission across all four kernel challenges comes closest to the published peak performance benchmark wins: one Dell Pro Max with GB300 (value to be announced) and one GTC 2026 Conference Pass (\$1,200 USD). Only one Grand Prize will be awarded.

Individual Kernel Challenges: There are four (4) separate kernel challenges. Each kernel challenge will have three (3) winners, determined as follows:

First Place Prize per Kernel: One (1) NVIDIA DGX Spark (ARV: \$3,999 USD) and one GTC 2026 Conference Pass (ARV: \$1,200 USD).

Second Place Prize per Kernel: One (1) NVIDIA RTX 5090 GPU (ARV: \$1,999 USD) and one (1) GTC 2026 Conference Pass (ARV: \$1,200 USD).

Third Place Prize per Kernel: One (1) NVIDIA RTX 5080 GPU (ARV: \$999 USD)

Important Note: The Grand Prize winner must also be the top performer in at least one kernel challenge. If a kernel challenge's first-place winner also wins the Grand Prize, they receive only the Grand Prize and forfeit their kernel challenge prize. The remaining winners in that kernel challenge are promoted one position (second place becomes first place, third becomes second place, and so on).

The prizes are not assignable or transferable. Brand and model of prizes are subject to change by NVIDIA at any time for any reason and substitutions will be of equal or greater value. NVIDIA is not responsible or liable for the distribution of any prizes once they are shipped to the winner. The prizes offered, and the entrants that are successful, are not distinguishable by country and do not hold any bias and are equally attainable for all participating countries and their entrants. THIS CONTEST HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN OFFERED. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received.

5. Entry Period

The entry period for this Contest begins at 9:00 AM Pacific Standard Time on November 3, 2025 and ends 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time on February 13, 2026 (hereinafter the "Entry Period"). Following the entry period, an NVIDIA judge will select and announce the winners of the contest on or around **February 16, 2026**. This contest has the ability to register prior to the first question generated,

however points are not accrued, nor is the contest live, until the above stated time and date. In the alternative, entrants may also enter the Contest by submitting their entry via postal mail by printing out the current date, their name and full address, the name of the Contest and mailing it to NVIDIA Corporation, 2788 San Tomas Expressway, Santa Clara CA, 95051.

6. Winner Announcement: Claiming and Awarding of Prize

The winners of the contest will be announced on the Contest Winners page on or about **February 16, 2026**. Within 7 days following such announcement, the winners will be notified by NVIDIA via email or direct message. To claim the prize, the winner must do the following within 7 days from the date of NVIDIA's notification:

- a. confirm receipt of the notice by email/direct message (which confirmation must be sent from the same email address/account to which the notice was sent); and
- b. complete, sign and return a winner release form (as provided by NVIDIA along with its email notice) and such other requisite documentation (if any) listed in NVIDIA's email notice

Within 60 days following its receipt of the Required Winner Documents from the winner, NVIDIA will ship the prize via FedEx or similar courier service, at NVIDIA's expense, to the winner's mailing address specified in his/her winning entry. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if NVIDIA determines that the Required Winner Documents as returned by the winner are incomplete, erroneous, or otherwise not in order, NVIDIA may require the winner to provide complete or replacement documentation prior to shipment of prize. Digital prizes will be electronically emailed to the email address supplied as part of their contest submission.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL ENTRANTS: If a winner cannot be contacted or fails to claim the prize or to return the Required Winner Documents within the specified time period, or if the prize is returned as undeliverable, or if a winner fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Official Rules, such winner will be considered to have forfeited the prize. In such case, the prize will be awarded to the individual who submitted the next best entry as previously determined by NVIDIA.

7. Privacy

By entering this promotion you expressly consent to NVIDIA's collection, processing and use of your personal information that you provide in connection with this promotion (including, but not limited to, disclosure of your name and state of residence on a winners list and making such list available to the public) and under the terms of NVIDIA's privacy policy, which can be accessed at https://www.nvidia.com/object/privacy_policy.html.

8. Taxes

The winner of this Contest is solely responsible for any and all applicable taxes and government charges that result from his/her receipt and/or use of the prize. Sponsor reserves the right to withhold and deduct such taxes and charges from the prize if and to the extent required by law.

9. AGREEMENTS by Entrant

- a. By entering this Contest, each entrant agrees and acknowledges that Sponsor and Sponsor Related Parties shall not be responsible or liable for: (i) any late, lost, stolen, forged, mutilated, corrupted, incomplete, illegible or misdirected entries; (ii) any errors, omissions, misinformation, or misidentification in an entry; (iii) any dispute or claim arising from an entrant's participation in this Contest or his/her entry, or his/her receipt, ownership or use of the prize; (iv) any computer hardware, software, Internet, network, cable, phone, or

other communication or technical errors, failures, malfunctions, interruptions, or delays; or (v) any damage to an entrant's or any other person's computer hardware, software or data that results from participation in this Contest or accessing, downloading or using any tools, files, data, software, or other articles or materials in connection with this Contest.

- b. By entering this Contest, each entrant agrees and consents to Sponsor's collection, use and retention of his/her personal information for all purposes related to this Contest (including, without limitation, processing and administering entries, sharing an entrant's personal information with Sponsor Related Parties as necessary to conduct and operate this Contest,
- c. communicating with and awarding the prize to the winner, making public announcements about the winner, and advertising, promoting and publicizing this Contest).
- d. ANY ENTRY THAT IS IN BREACH OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES OR IS OTHERWISE IN VIOLATION OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES, WILL BE DEEMED VOID AND AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS CONTEST.

10. Reservation of Rights by SPONSOR

Sponsor reserves the right, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to terminate, cancel, modify or suspend this Contest, in whole or in part, if fraud, technical failures or any other factor beyond Sponsor's reasonable control impairs the integrity of this Contest as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. If this Contest or any web site associated therewith (or any portion thereof) becomes corrupted or otherwise does not permit entry, or if infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, actions by entrants, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes, in Sponsor's sole opinion, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper operation of this Contest, Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion and to the extent permitted by applicable law, to disqualify any individual implicated in such action, and/or to cancel, terminate, cancel, modify or suspend this Contest, in whole or in part. Any attempt by an entrant or any other individual to deliberately damage any online service or web site or undermine the legitimate operation of this Contest is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages and/or other remedies from any such person to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. In addition, Sponsor reserves the right to take down and remove any entry that becomes subject to a third-party claim for copyright infringement or for violation of any other right.

11. Governing Law; Jurisdiction

These Official Rules are governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, U.S.A., without giving effect to its conflicts of law rules. Each entrant hereby submits himself or herself to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state and federal courts sitting in Santa Clara, California, U.S.A.

12. Contest Information

The Sponsor of this promotion is NVIDIA. The winners will be posted on <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/nvidia-ai/>