

# CLIMB Stock Market Experience



We are pleased to announce the details for the 2026 CLIMB Stock Market Experience (SME). Youth, adults, parents, extended family and Community Organizations can now “earn while they learn” by participating in the 2026 SME. Cash prizes will be awarded to participants who meet the below requirements.

**\*Though anyone from any country may participate in the CLIMB Stock Market Experience, only participants residing in the United States will be eligible for cash prizes.**

The top 3 youth, top 3 adult, and top 3 Team winners will be awarded as follows:

- 1st Prize = \$750
- 2nd Prize = \$500
- 3rd Prize = \$250

**Youth is defined as anyone ages 21 and under and adults are defined as anyone over the age of 21. Teams can be a mix of youth and adults, all youth, or all adults.**

Winners will be determined based on their overall portfolio valuations at the close of the NYSE on July 31st (3 PM CST/4 PM EST). The youth and adult participants with the highest

portfolio returns will earn first place, second highest will earn second place, and so on. Team winners are determined by the highest percent increase on the team's combined portfolio value. Winners must follow the rules and complete the curriculum as stipulated. See Official Rules Below.

## [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

### Program Cost

Beginning in 2026, participants in the Stock Market Experience will register using a Pay-What-You-Can model. The full program value per participant is \$100. Participants may choose the amount that feels appropriate for their situation:

- \$100 - Full Program Fee
- \$75 -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Scholarship
- \$50 -  $\frac{1}{2}$  Scholarship
- \$25 -  $\frac{3}{4}$  Scholarship
- \$0 - Full Scholarship

There is no application process and no documentation required. Simply select the level that works for you. Your choice is confidential and does not affect your experience, recognition, or eligibility for awards. This model allows those who are able to contribute at the full rate to help sustain and strengthen the program - while ensuring that financial barriers never prevent participation.

### Official Rules

- The program is open to youth and adults who may compete individually and/or as part of a team. You must choose and register with your own team.
- To be eligible for monetary prizes, participants must reside in the United States.
- Registration opens **Friday, May 1, 2026**, and closes at 11:59 PM ET on **Monday, June 15, 2026**.
- Teams may have a **minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 members**. This allows for efficient auditing at the end of the competition. Organizations with more than 6 members participating may form more than one team.

- Trading begins **Monday, June 15, 2026**, and will run through 3:00 PM CST/ 4:00 PM EST on **July 31, 2026**.
- Participants will start with \$100,000 in virtual cash and have the ability to earn more along the way.
- Participants can trade in publicly held U.S. stocks, ETFs, mutual funds, and bonds.
- There will be a position limit enforced so participants cannot invest more than 25% of their money in any one security.
- **Day trading and short selling are NOT allowed.**
- Buying fractional shares, and buying on margin are allowed.
- To be declared an **Individual winner**, participants MUST
  - Place a minimum of 1 trade during the event.
  - Complete all the Curriculum Lessons by 3:00 PM CST/ 4:00 PM EST on **Friday, July 31, 2026**.
  - Provide a valid phone number at registration and respond with your acceptance **within 48 hours of notification** of an award if you have been declared a winner.
  - Agree to receive the award via **Direct Deposit**. (In the event you do not have a depository account, we can facilitate your opening one with Summit Credit Union at any time throughout the competition.)
  - Agree to supply a photo and be available for a recorded interview at Capstone or another time to be made public as CLIMB deems appropriate.
  - Complete a W9 tax form if your monetary award exceeds \$600.
- To be declared a **Team winner**, Teams MUST
  - Have at least 50% of team members complete the curriculum.
  - Have at least 50% of team members complete one trade.
  - Agree to supply a photo and be available for a recorded interview at Capstone or another time to be made public as CLIMB deems appropriate.

\*Failure to complete any part of the requirements will disqualify you and the organizing committee shall go in descending order to award winners. **PLEASE NOTE:** Winners will be certified by an internal **audit** to ensure rules compliance, so leaders shown on the SME Platform rankings page may not necessarily be the competition winner.

There will be other ways to win prizes throughout the competition and at Capstone, so stay engaged and active. We are primarily looking at engagement with the platform, attendance and participation in Speaker Series sessions, and overall Program engagement.

**\*Current Employees, Consultants, and Interns of CLIMB USA are not eligible to win placement prizes, but may participate in the SME.**