citizen.ai

AI PIONEERS 2026

Zero to AI Builder

Make Something That Matters.

12 WEEKS

PROGRAM

Starts April 20, 2026 | After-School Program for High School Students

Welcome to the program

Suvidha International Foundation (https://suvidhainternational.org/)

United States Initiatives

- Offers educational programs in speech & debate, robotics, AI, coding, and summer enrichment to build strong academic and technical skills.
- Engages youth in community service activities such as tutoring, park clean-ups, clothing drives, and local event support.
- Develops leadership, teamwork, and civic responsibility while recognizing student contributions through volunteer awards.

India Initiatives

- Provides scholarships ($500–$2,000) to 100+ underprivileged students, especially girls, pursuing higher education and professional degrees.
- Supports schools with supplies, sports equipment, and specialized academic training, along with career guidance and mentorship.
- Promotes community empowerment through vocational training, women's self-employment, environmental initiatives, and essential aid programs.

Welcome!

In 12 weeks you will build a real AI app — starting from zero.

BUILD

Write real Python code.
Talk to AI vibe coding tools.
Ship a working web app.

UNDERSTAND

Learn how AI works.
Spot what it's good at — and where it breaks.
Prompt like a pro.

MATTER

Your final project helps real people in Rancho Cordova or SMUD customers.

No experience needed. No weird math. Just curiosity + showing up.

By Week 4 you'll be calling Claude from code. By Week 8, your app is live on the web. By Week 12, you demo it.

The 12-Week Journey

PHASE 1

Weeks 1–4

Learn the Basics

- What AI is & how it works
- Python from scratch
- Prompts that actually work
- Your first API call

PHASE 2

Weeks 5–8

Build & Go Deeper

- Build a web app with Vibe coding
- Work with real data
- Add smart features
- Deploy it to the internet

PHASE 3

Weeks 9–12

Ship Your Project

- Team up (2–3 students)
- Build for SMUD or the City
- Test, polish, rehearse
- Demo Day!

~3 hours a week • ~36 total hours • 8 weeks of class + 4 weeks to build your app

Your Weekly Rhythm

3 sessions available each week — attend 2 in-person; online session is your safety net.

SESSION A

New Concept

In-person • 90 min

Meet the idea of the week — demos, discussion, and a guided activity together.

SESSION B

Hands-On Lab

In-person • 90 min

Lab time. You write code with instructor support and pair up with classmates.

SESSION C

Online Backup

Online • 90 min

Missed a session? Need extra help? Drop in online for make-up and tutoring.

Total time per week: 3 hours | Total program: ~36 hours

PHASE 1

Foundations

Weeks 1–4

Get the basics locked in. By the end of this phase, you can write Python AND call the Claude API.

WEEK 1

What Is AI?

Set up accounts, explore Vibe coding tools meet the AI world.

WEEK 2

First Steps in Python

Google Colab, variables, loops, functions — no install needed.

WEEK 3

How AI Really Works

Tokens, training, and prompt engineering in plain English.

WEEK 4

Talking to AI with Code

Your first Vibe coding API call. Real code, real responses.

PHASE 2

Build & Go Deeper

Weeks 5–8

Turn what you know into a real web app. By the end, your chatbot is live on the internet.

WEEK 5

Build a Real App

Build a working chatbot interface.

WEEK 6

Working With Data

Pandas, CSVs, and giving your AI real knowledge (RAG basics).

WEEK 7

Making Apps Smarter

Add memory, translation, or a knowledge base to your app.

WEEK 8

Deploy & Plan

Push to GitHub, deploy on Cloud, pick your final project.

PHASE 3

Final Project

Weeks 9–12

Team up in 2-3 groups. Pick a civic app. Build, test, polish, demo. Your work could actually help real residents.

WEEK 9

Foundation Sprint

Build the core of your app. One working feature by week's end.

WEEK 10

Feature Sprint

Add remaining features + knowledge base. Peer demo & feedback.

WEEK 11

Polish & Test

User testing, responsible-AI check, rehearse your demo.

WEEK 12

DEMO DAY

Live demo + Q&A. Judges from City, and SMUD. Awards!

Your Final Project — Pick an Idea That Matters

In Week 8 your team picks ONE civic app to build for real people in Rancho Cordova or SMUD customers.

OPTION A

SMUD Energy Helper

"Why is my bill high? What rebates can I get?" — a Claude-powered chatbot that answers SMUD questions.

OPTION B

City Services Guide

"How do I get a permit? When is trash pickup?" — a friendly guide to City of Rancho Cordova services.

OPTION C

Youth Resource Finder

"What's available for teens?" — after-school programs, jobs, mental health support, events.

OPTION D

Financial Literacy

“Not sure where your money is going each month?” — track expenses, build a budget, and direct your savings and investments toward the right financial goals.

Your Toolbox — All Free

Everything you need is free or provided. You just bring a laptop and curiosity.

Vibe coding tools (e.g. Claude)
by Anthropic

Your AI co-pilot.
Explore, prompt, build.

Python
the language

The language AI
runs on. You'll learn it
from zero.

Google Colab
run code online

Write and run Python
in your browser.
No install needed.

Streamlit
build web apps

Turn Python into a
web app in minutes.
No HTML/CSS.

GitHub
share your code

Where your code
lives. Share and deploy
from here.

Streamlit Cloud
go live

Deploy your app to
the internet — free,
public URL.

DEMO DAY — WEEK 12

The day your app meets the real world.

THE FORMAT

- 3-minute live demo of your app
- 2-minute Q&A from the judges
- Judges from citizen.ai, City of Rancho Cordova, and SMUD
- Parents, classmates, and staff in the audience

THE AWARDS

- Most Useful to the Community
- Most Technically Impressive
- Best User Experience
- Most Creative Approach
- Certificate of completion — everyone

Your app. Your team. A real audience. Bring it.

How to Succeed Here

01

Show Up

Every session builds on the last. Attend 2 sessions a week — use the online one as backup.

02

Ask Questions

There are no dumb questions — only the ones you didn't ask. Your classmates are wondering too.

03

Break Things

You learn more from errors than from code that works. Break it, debug it, understand it.

04

Use Claude

Claude is your tutor, debugger, and brainstorm partner. Ask it to explain any code you don't understand.

05

Help Each Other

Pair up. Swap screens. Debug together. The class gets smarter faster when you teach each other.

06

Build Responsibly

AI can be biased, wrong, or harmful. Every app you build, ask: who could this hurt?