A signature program of The Tech, The Tech Challenge is an annual design challenge for teams of students in Grades 4-12. The program inspires students from all backgrounds to consider careers in STEM fields and creates the next generation of innovators!

The Tech Challenge Virtual Showcase — April 2021

Students will show their designs to judges (virtually) and are judged on their team interview, device performance and their engineering journal. Volunteers are needed!

Won’t you please join us to support developing the next generation of problem-solvers?

For more information:

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About the program
The Tech Challenge program is an engineering design challenge for students in Grades 4–12. Each year a new challenge is presented and participants spend months collaborating to design and build a device to solve a real-world problem. Challenges are designed to appeal to, and be accessible by students typically underrepresented in STEM.

The Tech Challenge is ...

... focused on STEM. This project-based learning program aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards supporting science, technology, engineering and math.

... inclusive and inspiring. It encourages girls and boys from all backgrounds to learn about science and engineering.

... builds 21st century skills. Students practice critical thinking, problem-solving and teamwork.

... affordable. Registration is just $50 per team (fee waived for underserved schools and after-school programs) and solutions can be created with common, low-cost materials.

Program activities
In addition to the months-long challenge, there are program activities offered throughout the year, including:

• Virtual Summer Community Workshops: Virtual workshops in partnership with the San Jose, Santa Clara County and San Mateo County public libraries
• Tech Challenge Themed Virtual Science Lab
• Info Clinics
• Team Workshops
• Test Trials
• Adviser Trainings
• Tech Challenge multi-session lessons
• Educator resources: design challenge facilitation methods videos, PDF guides, and “Tech Tips” facilitation guides
• The Tech at Home lessons and activities
• “How to” videos

How you can help inspire the next generation
Program funding. The Tech depends on corporate, foundation and individual funding to make this one-of-a-kind educational STEM program possible. Please consider supporting as part of your corporate social responsibility program. There are many levels of support with associated benefits and recognition. For more information, contact Linda Antonopoulos at lanton@thetech.org or 1-408-795-6155.

Volunteer at the showcase. Corporate employees and individuals are invited to volunteer. No experience necessary. Volunteer registration will open in February 2021. Visit thetech.org/thetechchallenge/volunteer for information.

What people are saying about The Tech Challenge

Educators

[The Tech Challenge is] something that the Boys & Girls Clubs can’t do on their own, so partnering with The Tech to provide these kids an experience like this is priceless.”
— Romina Roman, past Unit Director, Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley

“My children are [becoming] risk-takers and the leaders of the community at school ... teaching the children to persevere was one of the most important lessons learned.”
— Richard Algea, teacher, Lairon College Prep Academy

Participants: What do they learn?

“How to take ideas from paper to reality, how to document ideas, how to work with setbacks such as Covid, and how to work and get along with friends”

“I learned how to persevere through difficult times and adapt to different situations. I also learned better problem-solving and communication skills. But the biggest thing I discovered was my interest in engineering.”

“I learned how to communicate my ideas, express my thoughts and get past difficult obstacles.”

“I learned how to work better with other people and learned how the devices we make can change our lives.”

“What I learned in The Tech Challenge was that you can do whatever you imagine and help the world.”

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Supporters

“We support The Tech Challenge because we’re a company of problem-solvers. We’re always looking for individuals and teams who can think of things differently.”
— Rita Holiday, Intel, Global Public Affairs Community Engagement Manager

“Failure is a gift. The hardest times in your life are what really makes you stronger, so embrace those.”
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“If everything works perfectly the first time, then you never learn anything; you never push the boundaries of what it is you’re trying to do.”
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