NSTA WEB SEMINARS

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Shell Science Lab Challenge
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Shell Science Lab Challenge

A Program of NSTA
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Shell Science Lab Challenge Summary

• Shell and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) have partnered to recognize outstanding middle and high school programs for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources.

• The Challenge will:
  – showcase the work of teachers who submit innovative, replicable strategies using limited equipment/resources;
  – award teachers/schools with additional tools, resources, and rich professional development opportunities needed to support high-quality science teaching to strengthen their existing capabilities; and
  – provide viable strategies that will be published in an online NSTA repository of science lab activities that can be delivered utilizing limited resources.
The Award

18 Winners Selected
***One in each of 18 NSTA Districts/Regions***

18 Regional Winners Advance for National Consideration
- 13 regional winner schools not advancing as a national finalist will each receive a total prize package valued at $3,000

- 4 National Finalist schools will each receive a total prize package valued at $8,500

- 1 Grand Prize Winning school will receive a total prize package valued at $20,000
The Award
(Continued)

Regional Winner prize package (13) valued at $3,000 includes:
  • $1,000 Shell cash grant for the school,
  • $1,000 in donated lab equipment, and
  • $1,000 in NSTA prizes.

National Finalist prize package (4) valued at $8,500 includes:
  • $3,000 Shell cash, grant for the school,
  • $3,000 in donated lab equipment,
  • $1,000 in NSTA prizes, and
  • $1,500 in a sponsored trip to the NSTA National Conference on Science Education for one teacher.
The Award
(Continued)

Grand Prize Winning school prize package (1) valued at $20,000 includes:

- $8,000 Shell cash grant for the school,
- $8,000 in donated lab equipment,
- $1,000 in NSTA prizes, and
- $3,000 in sponsored trips to the NSTA National Conference on Science Education for two teachers.
The National Finalists and Grand Prize Winner will be honored at the NSTA Teacher Awards Gala at NSTA’s National Conference on Science Education in Indianapolis in March 2012. (Expense-paid trip for winning teachers.)
Eligibility

- Teachers of science in grades 6-12, in the 50 United States, the U.S. jurisdictions, and Canada.
- 6th grade teachers in an elementary setting ARE eligible.
- The jurisdictions include Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; Department of Defense Schools; and the U.S. territories as a group (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
- Teachers may submit an entry as an individual applicant or as a team.
- A school may submit an unlimited number of applications.
- A teacher is limited to one application per year (whether submitting as an individual or team applicant).
Criteria For Judging

• Demonstrated science inquiry innovation in the middle or high school classroom, with limited equipment and materials
• Demonstrated impact and engagement with students and the school community
• Support of middle and high school education science standards
• Use of safety practices
• Demonstrated need for support to improve science laboratory experiences
Selection Procedure

• The Shell Science Lab Challenge Judging Panel will review applications after the October 21st due date.
• The Judging Panel will select 54 regional finalists (including three regional finalists in each of the 18 regions that mirror the NSTA Districts).
• After initial Oct. 21 deadline, the 54 regional finalists will be asked to provide additional responses including a short video (3 to 5 minutes) that displays the school’s current science laboratory facilities. (Due Jan. 10.)
• The regional finalists will provide further explanation of how winning equipment/resources would make a difference in the applicant’s science teaching and learning experience for students.

• The Judging Panel will select 18 regional winners.

• The Grand Prize Winner and four National Finalists will be selected from the pool of regional winners.
Let’s pause for questions from the audience
Poll Question

What type of school do you teach in?
A. Suburban School
B. Urban school
C. Rural school
D. Other
Submission Requirements

1. Completed and signed application

2. A narrative describing the applicant’s science laboratory practices and innovative use of limited laboratory equipment and resources (see separate Requirements for Narrative)

3. A letter of support/validation from principal or other education supervisor who can describe the merit of the applicant’s work, and validate, attest to, or support statements made in the application narrative. (1-2 pages)

4. Resume or vita with overview of teaching experience, education, community involvement, and previous awards/recognition. (1-2 pages each; submit vita for each member of applicant team)
Narrative Question One
- Pedagogy -

In one double-spaced page:

• State your philosophy of science teaching.
• State the strategies you use to teach science.
• State how you work toward student understanding and application of science concepts utilizing limited lab resources.
In one double-spaced page:

• Describe your school’s current laboratory facilities and what types of equipment and/or resources are in the facilities.

• Explain why laboratory upgrade support is needed.

• Compare how your teaching methods (manner) would be different with a lab upgrade than with the current lab facilities.

• Explain how the lab upgrade would impact the students’ content knowledge.
Narrative Question Three
- Replicable Strategies -

In one double-spaced page:

• Describe an innovative, replicable lab activity that you have implemented using limited school lab resources.
• Explain how the activity relates to State and/or National Science Education Standards.
• State how you address safety requirements with this lab activity.
Let’s pause for questions from the audience
Format Requirements

Format Requirements for Narrative:
• 12 point size in standard font
• double spaced
• labels on each section
• all pages numbered

Format for other Correspondence
• vita and letter of recommendation may be single spaced
What Judges Look For

• Pay attention to the page limits, spacing, and type format.
• Do not submit any extra materials with the application.
• Be sure you answer all that is requested in the narrative section.
What Judges Look For

• The science strategies used with limited lab resources are described.

• Students’ understanding of science concepts is presented.

• The need for support for a lab upgrade and how the newly acquired resources would enhance students’ science knowledge is explained.
What Judges Look For

Ensure Inclusion of the following:

• Description of the lab activity that is innovative, grade appropriate, and can be replicated in other science labs.
• Stated National/State standards.
• Stated safety requirements.
• How the program impacts students and school community.
• The use of science inquiry in the classroom.
What Judges Look For

• The principal has read and signed the application.
• The principal’s letter attests to what is written in the application, validates need, and supports the application with additional statements.
• The principal describes the merit of the applicant’s work in the letter of support.
Award Checklist

• Complete and sign the application form and have it signed by your principal.
• Include all items in the **Narrative Requirements**.
• Include Vita or resume for each applicant (2 pages maximum).
• Include letter of support/validation (2 pages maximum).
• Adhere to all format requirements.
• Have a colleague review the checklist and application.
• Check for correct spelling.
• Check for all format and content requirements
• Submit all material in electronic submissions as one PDF file.

Note: Electronic entries are preferred; however, mailed hard copies and Fax copies received by the deadline will also be accepted.
Submitting the Application

• Application must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time, October 21, 2011
• Submit your application and supporting materials to Shell Science Lab Challenge/NSTA at one of the following:
  – (Electronic) shellsciencelab@nsta.org
  – (Fax) 703.243.7177
  – (Mail)
    NSTA/Shell Science Lab Challenge
    National Science Teachers Association
    1840 Wilson Boulevard
    Arlington, VA 22201

Upon receipt, applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late applications will not be accepted.
Poll Question

What type of lab resources do you have now?
A. No lab resources
B. Some lab resources but they are dated
C. Well equipped lab
D. Other
Questions Can Be Submitted

- You can send questions after the webinar to shellsciencelab@nsta.org

- Visit the website at http://shellsciencelab.nsta.org
Thank you Shell for sponsoring tonight's Web Seminar and for partnering with NSTA to recognize outstanding middle and high school programs for exemplary approaches to lab instruction utilizing limited lab resources.
Welcome to Your Professional Development

The Learning Center is NSTA's e-professional development (PD) portal to help you address your classroom needs and busy schedule. You can gain access to more than 5,400 different resources, of which over 1,600 are free. A suite of practical tools such as My Library, My Transcript, and My PD Plan and Portfolio help you organize and document your PD growth. Create your free account and watch the overview.

Explore Learning Opportunities

- By Subject
  - Earth & Space Science
  - Life Science
  - Physical Science

- By Grade Level
  - Elementary
  - Middle School
  - High School
  - College

- By State Standards
  - Select your state to begin:
    - Choose a state

Do-It-Yourself Learning

Learn at your own pace online with these 1-2 or 6-10 hour interactive activities.

Live Online Seminars & Classes

Learn online from certified instructors with your colleagues. 1-2 hour seminars, week and month long courses are available. Earn state.

 NSTA Featured Resources

 NSTA SciPacks

You Deserve the Credit!

Most Popular Resources

2. Plate Tectonics: Layered Earth
3. Universe: The Sun as a Star

http://learningcenter.nsta.org
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