

SHELL SCIENCE LAB CHALLENGE

A PROGRAM OF NSTA

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 Shell Science Lab Challenge will showcase the work of teachers, representing their schools, who submit innovative, replicable strategies to deliver quality lab experiences with limited equipment/resources, and award teachers/schools with additional tools, resources, and rich professional development opportunities needed to support high-quality science teaching and strengthen their existing capabilities.

AWARD

- ★ One Grand Prize Winning School will receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$20,000.
- ★ 4 National Finalist schools will each receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$8,500.
- ★ 18 district winner schools will each receive a lab makeover support package valued at \$3,000.
- ★ Prizes include Shell cash grants, NSTA memberships, NSTA Learning Center subscriptions, support to attend NSTA Conferences on Science Education, and donated science lab equipment.
- ★ The Grand Prize Winner and 4 National Finalists will be honored at the Teacher Awards Gala at NSTA's National Conference on Science Education in Chicago, Illinois (April 8-11, 2021).

ELIGIBILITY

- ★ Applicants may be individual teachers or teams of teachers of science in grades 6-12, in the United States and Canada, representing their schools.
- ★ A teacher is limited to one application per year (whether submitting as an individual or team applicant).
- ★ A school may submit an unlimited number of applications.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Shell Science Lab Challenge Judging Panel will review applications (due February 4, 2019) and select up to 54 district finalists (3 in each of 18 NSTA Districts). District finalists will be asked to provide additional responses, including a 3-5 minute video (due January 22, 2021) that displays the school's current science laboratory facilities and provides further explanation of how winning equipment/resources would make a difference in the applicant's science teaching and in the learning experience for students. The Judging Panel will review the district finalist submissions and select 18 district winners. The Shell Science Lab Challenge National Judging Panel subcommittee will select a Grand Prize Winner and four National Finalists from the pool of district winners.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Demonstrate:

- ★ innovative science inquiry in the classroom with limited laboratory equipment, materials, and resources
- ★ impact and engagement with students
- ★ need for support
- ★ use of state and/or national standards
- ★ use of safety practices (<http://www.nsta.org/about/positions/liability.aspx>)

AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ★ A narrative describing the applicant's science laboratory instructional practices and innovative use of limited laboratory equipment and resources (**see Requirements for Narrative**)
- ★ A letter of support signed and on school letterhead from the 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 (up to 2 pages)
- ★ Resume or vita—with overview of teaching experience, education, community involvement, and previous awards/recognition; if submitting as a team, include resume or vita for each member of applicant team (1 page maximum; 2700 characters including spaces)

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REQUIREMENTS FOR NARRATIVE

A narrative describing applicant's science laboratory instructional practices and innovative use of limited laboratory equipment and resources must include:

Science Instructional Strategies (one paragraph, 1000 character count including spaces)

Explain:

- ★ your science teaching philosophy
- ★ strategies currently utilizing to teach science

Current and Desired Lab Resources (1 page maximum; 2700 characters including spaces)

Explain:

- ★ your current lab facilities, equipment, and/or resources
- ★ why laboratory upgrade support is needed
- ★ how a lab upgrade would impact your teaching, and your students' content knowledge.

Laboratory Activity (1 page maximum; 2700 characters including spaces)

Describe:

- ★ an innovative, replicable lab activity that you have implemented using limited school lab resources with assessments
 - ★ purpose and outcome with materials needed
 - ★ use of state and/or national standards
 - ★ list of safety issues and how you address them. (www.nsta.org/about/positions/safety.aspx)

CHECKLIST

Occasionally, we receive entries that are incomplete or in which the applicant did not follow the specified guidelines. Entries that do not follow the stated rules for submission are disqualified, regardless of the merit or innovation of the entry. Make sure you and a colleague review the checklist below before sending in your application so you can ensure that your efforts will not be disqualified. Ensure that your application communicates the information you intend. Don't forget to check for correct spelling. The narrative must be typed and double spaced, on standard 8-1/2" x 11" white paper, with 1" margins and a standard 12-point size. All documents must conform to the specified page limits. If you have questions regarding your application, please e-mail shellsciencelab@nsta.org.

Complete the list, sign it, and attach it to your application. Each entry includes:

- ☐ vita or resume for each applicant (1–2 pages);
- ☐ one (1) letter of support signed by the principal on school letterhead (1–2 pages);
- ☐ a narrative, double-spaced, 12-point size and one-inch margins.

Each application must be based on a unique program and process. Submission of the same idea and materials to different NSTA programs will result in the disqualification of all applications.

If you are selected as a Shell Science Lab Challenge winner, NSTA must request and receive your school's EIN to issue a 1099 form. Your application will not be returned and becomes the property of NSTA. If you have received an award for this project from another provider, you must notify NSTA.

If your application is selected as a winner, NSTA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional materials and on the NSTA website. By submitting materials that contain images of students and other individuals, you assume complete responsibility for obtaining appropriate release consent forms and permission to transfer these materials to NSTA.