

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 St. Louis, Missouri (April 11-14, 2019).

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 February 6, 2019) 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)

