



CEF YOU BE THE SOLUTION CHALLENGE™ NATIONAL **STEM** COMPETITION

»»»» 2025-2026 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES »»»»



📺 JUNE 2, 2026 | COMPETITION 🏆 JUNE 3, 2026 | DINNER & AWARDS



Creating Exciting Futures in STEM

CEF is a national nonprofit with more than 35 years of impact, dedicated to Creating Exciting Futures in STEM. Through our flagship program, the **CEF You Be The Solution Challenge™**, we have inspired over half a million students and awarded more than a quarter million dollars in scholarships to date. Formerly known as the *You Be The Chemist Challenge®*, the program builds on a powerful legacy while equipping students to explore local sustainability challenges with curiosity and innovation.

The Challenge develops essential 21st century skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving, time management, communication, and collaboration — the very skills required for students to thrive in their academic careers and as they enter the workforce.



2025 Total Program Reach



“The Challenge helped me discover my place and career in STEM.”
- NATIONAL CHALLENGE FINALIST



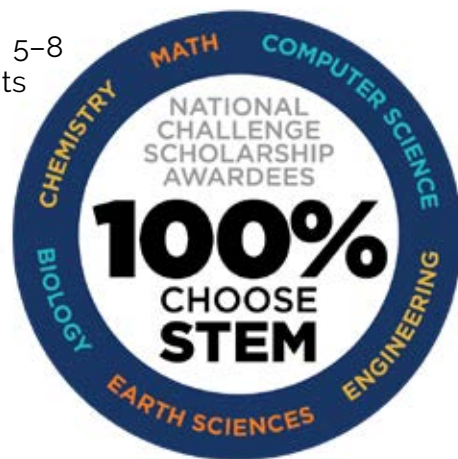
Be the **SPARK** That Ignites a Passion for STEM!

(Supporting Program Accessibility & Resources for K-8 Education)

CEF advances its mission by igniting a passion for science in young learners and preparing them for the opportunities of tomorrow. As STEM careers grow rapidly—half of which do not require a four-year degree—the need for early exposure to science and problem-solving has never been greater.

The Challenge is a team-based competition for students in grades 5–8 that connects classroom learning to real-world applications. Students explore pressing sustainability issues, strengthen their understanding of science, and build the creativity, collaboration, and communication skills needed to thrive in school and future careers.

As education standards and workforce needs evolve, so has the Challenge. Its impact is clear: 85% of participants report discovering new STEM career paths, 92% increase their interest in STEM, and **100% of Challenge winners pursue STEM after high school**. These results reflect more than numbers. They represent the spark of curiosity that fuels tomorrow's STEM innovators.



Showcase your company's positive community impact and investment in the future STEM workforce by sponsoring the Challenge today! Sponsors gain exposure throughout the United States and Canada during the entire Challenge cycle!



Employee Engagement Opportunities

Funding for the Challenge is critical to reach as many young students as possible. Along with funding, employees can engage with CEF through virtual opportunities and local community participation.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN HELP

↪ Be the Mentor! ↪

- ✓ Organize an in-person Regional Challenge event (approximately 3-6 hrs per month)*
- ✓ Provide a video or present your STEM journey to students either virtually or in-person
- ✓ Provide volunteers for day-of in-person Regional Challenge (approximately 3-6 hrs)*
- ✓ Evaluate innovative student video submissions (approximately 4 hrs)*
- ✓ Provide a video or present in person on industry innovation and positive community impact, highlighting a diverse workforce and careers
- ✓ Serve on the content development team to expand study materials and create Challenge questions

**These volunteer opportunities don't require a STEM background*



CEF provides volunteer opportunities that support science/STEM learning and enhance corporate social responsibility initiatives.

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2025-2026 CHALLENGE SPONSORSHIP TIERS & BENEFITS

Higher sponsorship tiers will also receive all benefits associated with any of the lower sponsorship tiers unless otherwise noted.

BENEFITS RECEIVED BY **ALL** SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Table of 10 guests at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Name and/or logo recognition in all high-traffic areas, National Challenge T-shirts, National Challenge event program, social media, and website (including the virtual Regional Challenge events if provided by February 20)

Inclusion in email announcements to more than 5,000 industry and community partners, regional organizers, team coordinators, and teachers

Opportunity to provide branded giveaways with your corporate logo (water bottles, promotional items, etc.) in the state winners' boxes and National Finalist welcome bags (must be approved by CEF)

**Corporate
"Sway"
Needed!**

These premier sponsorships distinguish your company in front of fellow industry leaders. High-profile recognition, exclusive student engagement, and event-wide visibility signal a commitment to STEM that elevates your positive community impact.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

\$75,000

Sponsor and present National Champion Scholarship check to winning student team at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Provide a judge for the National Challenge Competition

Exclusive facility visit for National Finalist teams

Speaking opportunity available at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Two Tables of TEN guests at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony (20 guests total)

***Only One Presenting Sponsor Available**

TRAILBLAZERS

\$50,000

Sponsor and present Second Place Scholarship check to student team at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony (Benefit for First Confirmed Trailblazer Sponsor)

Opportunity to provide a judge for the National Challenge Competition

Opportunity to provide organizational/marketing video of no more than 2 minutes for viewing during the National Challenge Competition and Dinner & Awards Ceremony

INNOVATORS

\$25,000

Sponsor and present Third Place Scholarship check to student team at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony (Benefit for First Confirmed Innovator Sponsor)

CLAIMED BY  LyondellBasell

Recognized onstage during the National Challenge Competition and Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Recognized as an official sponsor of the National Challenge in CEF press releases

OTHER SPONSORS INCLUDE:



AMBASSADORS

\$10,000

Sponsor and present medals to the National Challenge Finalists at Dinner & Awards Ceremony (Benefit for First Confirmed Ambassador Sponsor)

Recognized at the "Meet the Teams" Reception

Entertainment/Keynote Speaker Sponsor at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony*

***Two Available**

Live Stream Sponsor during the National Challenge Competition

***Only One Available**

Recognized as the official **Event App Sponsor** at the National Challenge*

***Only One Available**

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2025-2026 CHALLENGE ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Position your company as a visible leader in STEM by aligning with high-profile moments throughout the Challenge. These sponsorships put your brand at the center of the experience—seen, celebrated, and remembered by students, families, educators, and your fellow industry leaders.

ALLIES

\$5,000

BREAKFAST

Recognized as official breakfast sponsor at the National Challenge

**Three Available*

LUNCH

Recognized as official lunch sponsor at the National Challenge

**Two Available*

T-SHIRT

Recognized as official t-shirt sponsor at the National Challenge

**One Available*

MEET THE TEAMS RECEPTION

Recognized as official Meet the Teams Reception sponsor at the National Challenge

**Two Available*

HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Recognized as official Hall of Champions sponsor at the National Challenge

**Three Available*

INDUSTRY RECEPTION

Recognized as official Industry Reception sponsor at the invitation-only reception with teachers and CEF Board

**Two Available*

NATIONAL FINALIST TEAM TRAVEL

Recognized as official National Finalist Team Travel sponsor at the National Challenge

**Five Available*

Sign up starts after National Finalist Teams are determined by early May, 2026

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Recognized as official Community Champion Award sponsor during National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony

**One Available*

CORPORATE VIDEO

Recognized by providing marketing/organizational video of no more than 2 minutes for viewing during Competition and Dinner & Awards Ceremony

**Two Available*

STEM ACTIVITY KIT

Recognized for funding all materials to create kits of our top three hands-on STEM activities. These kits will be awarded to the state winners of the You Be The Solution Challenge™

**Two Available*



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2025-2026 CHALLENGE ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP TIERS

These sponsorships highlight your role as a valued supporter of the Challenge. Recognition in program materials, event spaces and social media acknowledges your contribution and helps advance CEF's mission of Creating Exciting Futures in STEM.

ADVOCATES

\$3,000

PROGRAM

Recognized as official Program sponsor at the National Challenge

**One Available*

HALL OF CAREERS

Recognized as official Hall of Careers sponsor at the National Challenge

**Two Available*

NATIONAL FINALIST WELCOME BAG

Recognized as the sponsor of the official Welcome Bag received by each National Finalist team upon arrival

**Two Available*

ONE CLAIMED BY



BUS SPONSOR

Recognized as official Bus sponsor that takes the National Finalist teams and Team Coordinators to and from the facility tour

**One Available*

PHOTO BOOTH

Recognized as official Photo Booth sponsor at the National Challenge

**Two Available*



New!

NATIONAL CHALLENGE STEM STANDOUT

\$1,500

Become a STEM Standout! This experience includes priority seating for four at the National Challenge Dinner & Awards Ceremony, in-room recognition during the evening, and post-event visibility on social media. It's the perfect entry point for companies looking to join the CEF community.

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2025-2026 CHALLENGE SPONSORSHIP REPLY FORM

■ **JUNE 2, 2026** | COMPETITION 2-5 PM CST (Free to Attend)

🍷 **JUNE 3, 2026** | DINNER & AWARDS 6-9 PM CST (Ticketed Event)

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

- ☐ **\$75,000** | Presenting Sponsor
- ☐ **\$50,000** | Trailblazers
- ☐ **\$25,000** | Innovators
- ☐ **\$10,000** | Ambassadors
- ☐ **\$5,000** | ☐ Entertainment/Keynote Speaker ☐ Live Stream ☐ Event App
- ☐ **\$3,000** | ☐ Meet the Teams Reception ☐ Breakfast ☐ Industry Reception ☐ Lunch ☐ National Finalist Team Travel ☐ TShirt ☐ Community Champion Award ☐ Hall of Champions ☐ Corporate Video ☐ STEM Activity Kits
- ☐ **\$1,500** | ☐ Program ☐ Bus ☐ Photo Booth ☐ Hall of Careers ☐ National Finalist Teams Welcome Bag
- ☐ **\$1,500** | STEM Standout
- ☐ I am unable to attend but would like to support the Challenge \$_____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr./Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____

_____ Title _____

_____ Company (as it should be recognized in event materials) _____

_____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Email _____

_____ Phone _____

AWARDS DINNER TICKETS

All sponsorship levels include reserved Awards Dinner seating, ranging from 4 to 20 guests. Extra tickets are available for purchase. Please indicate quantity on the line below:

☐ **\$250** Individual _____ ☐ **\$475** Couple _____

✓ **Mail or E-mail completed form to:**
CEF

Attn: Brandy Gates
4201 Wilson Blvd., Ste 515
Arlington, VA 22203

E-Mail: BGates@CEFinSTEM.org
(Subject Line: "Challenge Sponsorship")

📱 **Click Here or Scan QR Code!**



💰 **Response form must be received by Friday, May 8, 2025 for recognition in printed materials. Please provide a high-resolution company logo in vector eps/ai/pdf format and a version with a transparent background (png) by this deadline.** Email logos to Sondra Murphy at SMurphy@CEFinSTEM.org. **Sponsor Funds must be received by Friday, May 22, 2025 to receive full benefits at the National Challenge.**

➤ **Any questions** or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, contact Brandy Gates at 281-635-8247 or BGates@CEFinSTEM.org.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

- ☐ Wire Transfer: instructions available upon request
- ☐ Pay online: Visit www.CEFinSTEM.org and click the DONATE button in the upper-right corner
- ☐ Check # _____ (made payable to CEF and sent to address above)
- ☐ Credit Card: (circle one) Visa MasterCard Am Ex Discover
- Card Number _____ Expiration _____
- Name on Card _____ CVC _____ Zip Code _____
- Signature _____
- Email (required for credit card payment) _____
- ☐ In-Kind Contribution(s): Brandy will follow up on a description of all donated goods/services/equipment

www.CEFinSTEM.org