



The Kids' Science Challenge (KSC), is the premiere science competition for students in grades 3-6. And it's absolutely free to participate. The KSC engages kids to think creativity, make connections and innovate on our current assumptions of how things work, with the help of a suite of fun games, videos and standards-aligned activities. The winners in each of three topics work directly with scientists and engineers to test their ideas. By participating in the competition, engaging in KSC activities and following the experiences of the winners, all students learn more about the process of innovation and about how those curious "what if" questions are the foundation of scientific thinking.

The Kids' Science Challenge is as easy as:

- 1 Research three exciting science topics
- 2 Brainstorm ideas
- 3 Submit ideas and experiments for scientists and engineers to solve. If your idea is chosen, you get to visit and collaborate with the scientists to see the idea come alive.

Find out how your kids can participate at kidsciencechallenge.com

Kids' Science Challenge funding partners:



Made possible by the National Science Foundation

JIM METZNER PRODUCTIONS

Creators of the KSC and the award-winning Pulse of the Planet radio series

Special thanks to our content partners:



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G M C R



New York Hall of Science



NASA's Food Systems Laboratory at Johnson Space Center

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Enter the competition at kidsciencechallenge.com

KIDS' SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Where kids discover that...



SCIENCE IS COOL!

Zero Waste



Animal Smarts



Meals on Mars



Photo: NASA

Science Topic Descriptors

ZERO WASTE

The Challenge: Can you invent a package that never ends up in a landfill?

The Earth is filled with garbage and a lot of it comes from packaging. It's possible to package our food, toys and other stuff without hurting the environment. To do that, packages need to be sustainable, or friendly to the environment. Sustainable packaging does not harm our world or use up the limited resources we have on Earth, such as clean water, air and underground oil. Zero Waste is about using the right materials to make the package, and then reusing or recycling the package once it's done its job. Learn how sustainable packaging can help save the Earth from drowning in its own garbage.

ANIMAL SMARTS

The Challenge: Can you design a toy, game or experiment that enhances the life of a pet or zoo animal and demonstrates its particular intelligence?

Dogs who know over a thousand words, dolphins who can work together to plan new tricks, parrots who can think like a six-year-old child – humans are not the only intelligent animals. Animals show their smarts in many ways. They communicate, play, plan and problem-solve. Some can even recognize themselves in a mirror. Find out how much animals know and how you might help to keep their minds and bodies busy.

MEALS ON MARS

The Challenge: Can you come up with a new way to preserve, cook, deliver or sustainably produce food in flight or on Mars?

Eating food is a lot more fun when it floats off your plate! If you think it was hard getting used to the food at sleep-away camp, imagine what the food is like when you're on the way to Mars. To prepare for space travel, food scientists must think about how to prepare and preserve food, how astronauts will eat in zero gravity, and how they'll dispose of food and human waste. Once they're on Mars, they'll need to know how to grow or produce their own food there. Learn more delicious facts about space food. You'll find out that it's out of this world.

A free nationwide competition for 3rd through 6th graders
Go to: kidsciencechallenge.com to enter

Our Teams of Scientists and Engineers



ZERO WASTE

Green Mountain Coffee
Megann Head
Paul Comey

Design and Source
Laura Tufariello
Sustainable Packaging Coalition
Minal Mistry



ANIMAL SMARTS

Oregon Zoo
David Shepherdson
Nichole Nicassio-Hiskey
Amy Hash
Canine Cognition Center
Duke University
Brian Hare



MEALS ON MARS

NASA's Food Systems Lab
Vickie L. Kloeris
Michele H. Perchonok
University of Houston
Conrad N. Hilton College
Jay Neal

Trips and Prizes — It all depends on your entry!

There will be a grand-prize winner chosen in each of our three topics. These winners are given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to work with world class scientists and engineers to see their KSC entry become a reality. Winners and Finalists receive some of the cool prizes shown below.

The first 1000 entries will receive free Activity Kits. Build a bird feeder and make a boat from rock paper!

Fun science kits, tools and toys



TEACHERS!

You can win a fabulous prize from Naturallyards!

Visit the KSC website Teachers & Parents page for details.

