

POWER TO EXPLORE STUDENT CHALLENGE

Contact for Questions or Inquiries: support@futureengineers.org

Challenge Overview

If you are a K-12 student in the United States, your challenge is to research [Radioisotope Power Systems \(RPS\)](#), a type of nuclear “battery” used in space exploration, and dream up a new RPS-powered space mission to a destination with limited or obstructed access to light. Write about where your RPS-powered mission would go, the mission goal(s), the advantages of using RPS, and a unique power you have to help achieve mission success. In total, your submission is limited to 250 words. You must include a title of up to 75 characters which will not be included in the word limit.

Entries will be judged in three grade-level categories: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Every student who submits an entry will receive a digital certificate and an invitation to a virtual event with NASA experts, where students will learn about what powers the NASA workforce to dream big and explore. Fifteen national semifinalists in each grade category (45 winners total) will receive a NASA RPS Prize pack, three national finalists in each grade category will (9 finalists total) will receive a virtual session with a NASA RPS expert, and one grand prize winner from each grade category (3 total) will receive a trip for two to NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

CHALLENGE WEBSITE: <https://rps.nasa.gov/STEM/power-to-explore>

CHALLENGE LAUNCH VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXLGteW4Wks>

KEY DATES

- Challenge Launch: November 08, 2023
- Entries Close: January 26, 2024, 11:59 p.m. ET / 8:59 p.m. PT
- Virtual Event & Semifinalists Announced (All Participants): March 15, 2024
- Finalists Announced: April 8, 2024
- Winners Announced: April 17, 2024

WHO CAN ENTER: The contest is open to K-12 students who attend schools in US states/territories and schools operated by the US for American personnel overseas.

WHO CAN VOLUNTEER TO JUDGE: US residents (18+) who would like to volunteer approximately 3 hours of their time to review submissions can register to judge [HERE](#)

POWER TO EXPLORE GRAPHICS/SOCIAL IMAGES <https://futureengineers.box.com/s/dvq5yk444h2sme37k7jo15r5wbpac34g>

DIGITAL FLYER: <https://futureengineers.box.com/s/a9zv00yp2qhggy3g1egsl6jgvnhvrkhp>

NASA PRESS RELEASE: <https://rps.nasa.gov/news/98/nasa-seeking-k-12th-graders-to-dream-up-rps-powered-space-missions/>

CHALLENGE FAQ: <https://festorage.blob.core.windows.net/powertoexplore2024/files/powertoexplore2024-DesignGuidelines.pdf>

NASA SOCIAL HANDLES: @NASA, @NASASTEM

FUTURE ENGINEERS SOCIAL HANDLES: Twitter: @K12FutureE, FB: @K12futureengineers, Insta: @futureengineers

SAMPLE SOCIAL POSTS

Attention K-12 Teachers! The Power to Explore Student Challenge is open for entries! @NASA wants to hear from students about their space exploration dreams. How? By learning about RPS nuclear “batteries” and writing about (250 words max) how they’d design a new RPS-powered mission to a destination with limited light. For details: <https://rps.nasa.gov/STEM/power-to-explore>

👉 The Power to Explore Student Challenge is open for entries!

K-12 students:

📖 learn about nuclear “batteries” that power @NASA space exploration

📖 dream up a space mission to a place with limited light

Enter here: <https://rps.nasa.gov/STEM/power-to-explore>

Calling all K-12 student space and science enthusiasts! @NASA wants to hear where and how you’d explore space with the Power to Explore Student Challenge. First, learn how Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) have enabled spacecraft to explore the farthest reaches of our solar system, then share (250-word limit) how you’d design an RPS-powered space mission to fulfill your space exploration dreams! Enter here

<https://rps.nasa.gov/STEM/power-to-explore>