

Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge

A Program of NSTA



Challenge Summary

Shell USA, Inc. and the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) have partnered to recognize outstanding elementary, middle, and high school programs for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources, showcasing the work of teachers, representing their schools, submitting innovative strategies with limited equipment/resources. This program will 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 elementary school from each asset will receive lab makeover supplies/equipment and professional development with combined total prize package valued up to \$15,000*

★ One middle school* and high school from each asset will receive a lab makeover supplies/equipment and professional development with combined total prize package* valued up to \$20,000.

★ Each total prize package includes Flinn Scientific lab supplies/equipment (\$7,500 for elementary; \$10,000 for middle/high schools), \$6,000 NSTA Shell Educators Cohort professional development, NSTA membership, the sponsored summer conference registration, and \$1,200 the sponsored summer conference travel funds **

★ A grand prize school will be selected for each grade band, the winning school's principal and teacher will receive an additional prize package to attend NSTA's national conference on science education. The Grand Prize Winners and their principals will be honored at the Shell Reception at NSTA's National Conference Science Education, during the second year.

*Each firsttime elementary and middle school regional winner is required to order a Smithsonian kit as part of their prize support package. **Travel funds are to be used for transportation, lodging, meals, etc. for the scheduled NSTA conference. Professional development includes access to the Smithsonian Institution, Flinn Scientific, and the NSTA content experts.

Eligibility

★ Applicants will be individual teachers of science in grades k-12, representing their schools in the following targeted areas near Shell assets:

- Carson, CA (LAUSDs in Carson, Mormon Island, Van Nuys, Colton, Long Beach)
- Port Allen, LA (West Baton Rouge Parish, Iberville Parish, Point Coupee Parish)
- Geismar, LA (Ascension Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, St. James Parish)
- Norco, LA (St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish)
- New Orleans, LA (Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Terrebonne Parish, LaFourche Parish, St. Tammany Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Plaquemines Parish)
- Monaca, PA (Cen. Valley, Aliquippa, W.Beaver, Beaver, Rochester, N. Brighton, Riverside, Beaver Falls, Blackhawk)
- Deer Park, TX (Deer Park ISD, Pasadena ISD, LaPorte ISD)
- Houston, TX (Region 4 Education Service Center)

★ Each teacher is limited to one application per year; schools may submit an unlimited number of science teachers' applications.

Key

SD = school district ISD = independent school district USD = unified school district

Upon receipt, all submissions become the property of NSTA. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. Completed applications must be received by May 1, 2026. Applications may only be submitted via the online submission form found at <https://www.nsta.org/shell>. Questions? Please feel free to e-mail auputon@nsta.org.

Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Checklist

Occasionally we receive entries that are incomplete or in which the applicant did not follow the specified guidelines. 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. If you have questions regarding your application, please e-mail auputon@nsta.org

In your on-line application complete the list below.

- ☐ Curriculum vitae;
- ☐ One letter of support;
- ☐ Respond to each narrative prompt which include:
 - your science teaching philosophy (one paragraph)
 - science instructional strategies
 - describe current and desired lab resources (2700 characters including spaces)
 - describe current lab facilities, equipment, resources, and why upgrade is needed
 - describe a current laboratory activity using limited resources, with an assessment (2700 characters including spaces)
 - list any standards used
 - list any safety challenges and how you resolved them (www.nsta.org/about/positions/safety.aspx)

Please be advised that you may apply for more than one competition and/or award; however, you are eligible to win only one NSTA award per year. You may win both the competition and an NSTA award in the same year. Each application must be based on a unique program and process. Submission of the same idea and materials to different NSTA award programs will result in the disqualification of all applications. If your idea or project has received an NSTA award in the past, that idea or project is not eligible to receive an additional award.

If you are selected to receive an award, NSTA must request and receive your social security number to provide your expense funds. If your program is currently grant funded, confirm that you, as an individual, are eligible to receive a cash award. 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 to receive an award, 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.