



*Dedicated to a
greater understanding
of the science and
value of chemistry*

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You Be The
Chemist
CHALLENGE®

Instructional Guide

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

The *You Be The Chemist* Challenge® is an interactive question-and-answer competition designed to engage grade 5-8 students in exploring the science of chemistry.



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Educational • Competitive • Fun • Rewarding

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- A focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) education can lead to a better future for all!
 - According to the Nation's Report Card, only 30% of 8th graders scored at proficient or above in science.
 - Our highly technical and fast-paced world needs scientific innovation.
- The Challenge and CEF's other *You Be The Chemist*[®] (YBTC) programs promote STEM education through community collaboration!

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HOW DID IT START?


Who created the Challenge?

The Challenge was launched in 2004 by the Chemical Educational Foundation[®] (CEF), leading to the first National Challenge in 2005 involving 6 participants from 3 states. In 2011, there were 19 participants, one from each participating state. That number continues to grow with each year!



CEF is a nationally recognized non-profit organization located outside of Washington, DC. Learn more about CEF and the *You Be The Chemist* programs:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CEFYBTC?feature=mhum>



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WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Exposes students to the fascinating world of chemistry.



- Inspire future:
 - Chemists
 - Engineers
 - Doctors
 - Industry Leaders

- Community Connection



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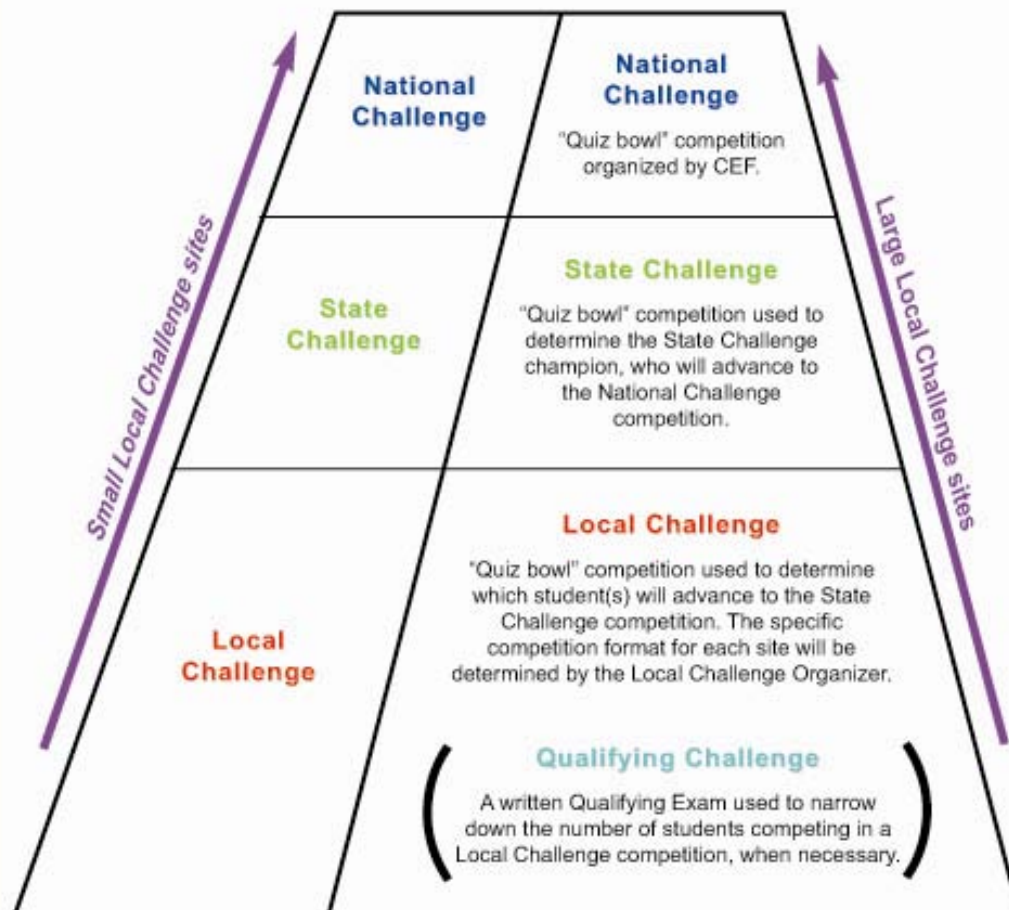
HOW IT WORKS



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Challenge Structure in States with Multiple Local Challenge Sites



THE BOTTOM LINE – IT BEGINS WITH YOU!

The Challenge progresses through 3 levels:

- **Local Challenges** take place in communities nationwide and are organized and sponsored by local schools, organizations, and companies.
- Local Challenge winners move on to participate in **State Challenges**.
- State Challenge winners compete against one another at the **National Challenge**, which is organized by CEF.

The Challenge begins at the local level through the collaborative efforts of community volunteers ...
It begins with YOU!

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GETTING STARTED: STEP 1

Identify a primary and secondary Local Challenge Organizer.

- The primary Local Challenge Organizer is responsible for all activities associated with the coordination of a Local Challenge site:
 - Serving as the site's main point of contact for all participating parties.
 - Encouraging and confirming student/school and industry participation.
 - Registering the Local Challenge site with CEF .
 - Disseminating the appropriate information to participating schools/students.
 - Establishing the competition format and rules.
- The secondary Local Challenge Organizer is the primary Organizer's "right hand" and will assist in coordinating the Local Challenge site.

**Organizers are the key to launching
the Challenge!**



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GETTING STARTED: STEP 2

Get local schools/homeschool associations involved.

- Contact local schools/homeschool associations to encourage them to participate.
- Confirm participation and gather the necessary information from participating schools/homeschool associations to register the Local Challenge site.



The Local Challenge Organizer should contact CEF for sample correspondence and presentations.



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GETTING STARTED: STEP 3

Seek sponsorships.

- Contact local companies and organizations to seek their support in sponsoring your Local Challenge.
 - Sponsorships are used to cover prizes, venue costs, and other event costs.
 - Sponsoring companies/organizations can also provide volunteers to assist with planning and “staffing” the event.
- Confirm sponsors and gather the necessary information to register the Local Challenge site.

The Local Challenge Organizer should contact CEF for sample correspondence and presentations.



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WHAT NEXT?

Once Steps 1-3 are complete and the Local Challenge site is registered, the CEF staff will be in touch with the Local Challenge Organizer to provide additional information and assistance.



The Wonders of Chemistry and
the Excitement of the Challenge Await!

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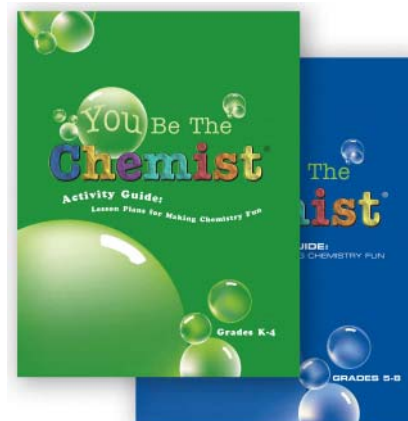
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OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



YBTC Activity Guides

- Hands-on science lessons
- Utilize common household materials
- Grades K-4 and 5-8



YBTC Essential Elements

- Professional development workshops
- Utilizes a 5E inquiry-based model
- Provides educators – our “essential elements” in education with a framework for using the YBTC programs in their classrooms



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Need help getting started? Contact us!

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