

2005 National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge



What precipitate forms when limewater is exposed to air? This question didn't stump eighth grader Maggie of Verona, IL. With her correct answer of calcium carbonate, she became CEF's first ever National *You Be The Chemist* Challenge (YBTCC) champion!

On June 3, Maggie and five other excited contestants gathered at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) in Philadelphia, PA, geared up for a challenge! The other contestants were Kyle, an 8th grader from Morris, IL; Tracy, an 8th grader from Elk Grove Village, IL; Cody, a 6th grader from Houston, TX; Kelsie, a 6th grader from Cypress, TX; and James, an 8th grader from Webster, KY. These six students, who each won local-level Challenges to qualify for the national event, had spent the previous month vigorously preparing to be quizzed on important chemistry concepts, discoveries, and safety tips.

The audience, which consisted of more than thirty family members and industry representatives, were on the edge of their seats as the impressive group of six battled their way through 234 questions before a winner was declared. Maggie and first runner-up Kyle both received an educational savings bond from CEF. All of the participants received a CHEMC100 chemistry set, a gift certificate to the Discovery Channel Store, a trophy, and a YBTCC lab coat and t-shirt!



The historical charm of downtown Philadelphia was the back drop for the two-day event that celebrated the importance of chemistry. In addition to the academics of the competition, students, parents, and local level Challenge organizers were also able to participate in different chemistry related events around the city. They were led on a tour of the historical artifacts housed at CHF and were able to spend an afternoon exploring the wonders of science on display at the Franklin Institute.

The success of the first year has sparked strong interest for the 2005-2006 competition, and all of the localities that participated in our first year of competition intend to participate again, involving more schools and companies in their respective areas! The Challenge has the potential to grow in leaps and bounds in the coming years and we'd love to include your community! Don't be left out of the excitement of a Challenge! For more information on how easy it is to sponsor a Local Challenge in your area, please contact the CEF staff at 703/527-6223.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to the great success of the first ever *You Be The Chemist* Challenge competition!

For more information or to share your thoughts about the National YBTC Challenge, contact us at:

The Chemical Educational Foundation
1555 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 703/527-6223