



## You Be The Chemist: Challenge

**Celebrate and elevate the science of chemistry to inspire on-going study and careers**



### Research Shows:

- Q Early science exposure inspires students to further study and work in these fields
- Q Before high school, most U.S. students have not studied chemistry as its own subject, making it more difficult to prepare them for higher learning, training, and working in STEM fields

### The Challenge Provides:

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- Exposure to chemistry concepts in grades 5-8 – earlier than most U.S. students even begin studying chemistry
- Connections with industry professionals to see how chemistry offers needed and fulfilling careers
- Volunteer opportunities for science and chemistry professionals in their local communities, who play a critical role

“The Challenge has been eye opening for me as to just how important it is to reach out to younger students.”

### Program Specifics:

Students prepare and then compete individually for their Local Challenge, if available in their communities. Participants seek to advance to their State and then National Challenge. Only one student from each state and territory is represented at the National Challenge annually. Nominated educators join their state’s student at the National Challenge to further celebrate the science of chemistry. In 2019, the Challenge is in its 15th year.

Collaboration among science industries, educators, and community partners



Local, state, and national academic competitions



Flexible local programming so preparation can be part of the school-day or out-of-school time activities



Approximately 100 Challenge volunteers, in 42 states plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, receive technical assistance and training



College scholarships plus other prizes to National Challenge winners and participants



### Impact:

**86%**  
of students feel more confident in their **ability to understand** chemistry



**82%**  
of students are **more interested in STEM careers** after participating in the *You Be The Chemist* Challenge



**80%**  
of students report having an **increased awareness** of chemistry’s role in everyday life

