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Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge

Everyone knows that college kids can build solar cars . . . but did you know that high school student can too! High school kids from across the country are racing this summer at the Texas Motor Speedway.

The 15th Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge is an eight day cross-country event that provides high school students a hands-on project-based learning experience building and racing their own roadworthy solar cars.

Recognized by *Technology & Learning* as one of the top ten education programs in the country, the Solar Challenge's goal is to motivate students in science, engineering, and technology. The program teaches the importance of developing alternative sources of energy, and helps focus community attention on our environmental responsibility.

This year, 22 teams filed an *Intent-to-Race* from Dallas to Boulder on July 18th through July 25th. They will face scorching temperatures, uncertain road conditions, and the unexpected “breakdown” as they travel the 900-miles race route. Teams from New York to Oregon, Florida to California will test their endurance while coping with incredible obstacles.

Scrutineering day is Saturday, July 17th. The 2010 race begins at 9:00 AM on Sunday, July 18th at the world famous Texas Motor Speedway.

Race Objective

Teams experience the fun of traveling cross-country from Dallas, Texas to Boulder, Colorado. Teams accruing the most miles over the eight days of the race will be declared the winner. Car breakdowns, road conditions, weather, and team experience all limit the number of miles a team can drive each day.

Solar Car Categories

The purpose of the Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge is to provide a level playing-field for high school solar car teams. Newer teams generally enter the *Classic Division* which requires participants to use less expensive conventional motors, lead acid batteries, and less efficient solar cells. Older teams enter the *Open Division* based on their use of more expensive technology. The new *Advanced Division* allows teams to use university body molds and more exotic batteries.

Admission into the Race

Teams seeking admission to the event must register their vehicle and demonstrate during Scrutineering that their solar car complies with all the rules. In cross-country races, teams are licensed in Texas as *experimental vehicles*, and carry liability insurance.

Safety & Supervision

Each car must have a roll cage, “crush zones,” safety harness, horn, communications, turn signals, and a fire extinguisher. Chase vehicles and trailers are available for support in the event of a breakdown on the road. All aspects of the Challenge Rules are closely monitored. A wireless computer network helps race officials closely monitor the individual cars.

Winston School Solar Education Program

The Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge is the product of the Winston Solar Education Program. The Winston Solar Science Academy provides an international education program designed to teach high school students how to build roadworthy solar cars. Workshops, DVD's, curriculum materials, and on site visits have introduced this challenge to more than 1400 schools in 20 countries. There are 53 on-going high school solar car projects in the United States. The Solar Challenge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

Home Towns for teams in the 2010 Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Race

Round Rock, Texas	Mercedes, Texas	St. Johns, Arizona
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	New Paltz, New York	Walnut, California
New Britain, Connecticut	Mendota Heights, Minnesota	Bend, Oregon
Choctaw, Mississippi	Newton County, Mississippi	Plantation, Florida
Coppell, Texas	Murrieta Valley, California	Ridgeway, Colorado
Dallas, Texas	Houston, Mississippi	

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.winstonsolar.org/challenge/media.shtml>