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2011 Solar Car Challenge

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

The 16th Solar Car Challenge is a four day closed track race that provides high school students from across the country a hands-on experience in designing, engineering, building, and racing their own roadworthy solar cars.

This nationally-recognized program aims to motivate students and expand their skills in sciences and engineering. The program also teaches students the importance of developing alternative sources of energy, and focuses our attention on environmental responsibility.

Each year, the Solar Car Challenge rotates between races at the Texas Motor Speedway and cross-country events. This year, 29 teams have filed an "Intent-to-Race;" 20 teams are expected to "qualify" to participate at the Texas Motor Speedway from Monday, July 18th through Thursday, July 21st. Facing temperatures that rise to 114 degrees, teams from New York City to Oregon, Florida to California will test their endurance while coping with incredible obstacles.

The 2011 race begins at 2:00 PM on Monday, July 18th and will continue until 5:00 PM each day of the four day event. Teams are available to meet the press any morning from 6:30 AM throughout the day.

Goal of the Solar Car Challenge

The Solar Car Challenge is designed to help motivate students in science, engineering, technology, and alternative energy. The Solar Car Challenge Education Program teaches high school students how to design, engineer, build, and safely race a roadworthy solar car.

Race Objective

Teams experience the fun of the Solar Car Challenge at the world famous Texas Motor Speedway. Car breakdowns, weather, and team experience limit the number of laps a team can drive each day. The team driving the most laps accumulated over the four days of racing will be declared the winner.

Solar Car Categories

The purpose of the 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 that their solar car complies with all the rules during a qualifying process known as "Scrutineering." 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 track. All aspects of the Solar Car Challenge Rules are closely monitored. A wireless computer network helps race officials closely monitor the individual cars.

The Solar Car Challenge Education Program

The Solar Car Challenge is the product of the Solar Education Program. The Solar Car Challenge Foundation provides an international high school solar education program. Workshops, curriculum materials, DVD's, and on site visits have introduced this challenge to more than 1100 schools in 20 countries. The Solar Car Challenge Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization.

Home Towns for teams taking part in the 2011 Solar Car Challenge:

Alexandria, Virginia	Mendota, Minnesota	Round Rock, Texas
Argyle, Texas	Mercedes, Texas	San Antonio, Texas:
Baton Rouge, Louisiana	Miami, Florida	Trophy Club, Texas
Bend, Oregon	Murietta Valley, California	Tappan Zee, New York
Choctaw, Mississippi	New York City, New York	Tupelo, Mississippi
Coppell, Texas	New Britain, Connecticut	Walnut, California
Dallas, Texas	Newton County Mississippi	
Devon, Pennsylvania	Plantation Florida	
Gilmer, Texas	Puerto Rico	
Houston, Mississippi	Ridgeway, Colorado	

For more information, please visit Team Profiles at:

<http://www.winstonsolar.org/challenge/teams2011.shtml>