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Dell-Winston School 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 14th Dell-Winston School Solar Car Challenge is a four day closed-track 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, 19 teams filed an *Intent-to-Race* at the Texas Motor Speedway from Monday, July 13-17, 2009. Facing temperatures that rise to 114 degrees in the bowl of the speedway, teams from New York to Oregon, Florida to California will test their endurance while coping with incredible obstacles.

Scrutineering day is Monday, July 13th. The 2009 race begins at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, July 14th and will continue until 5:00 PM on Friday, July 17th.

Race Objective

Teams experience the fun of the Dell-Winston School 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 Dell-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 track. All aspects of the Challenge Rules are closely monitored. A wireless Dell computer network helps race officials closely monitor the individual cars.

Winston School Solar Education Program

The Dell-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 43 on-going high school solar car projects in the United States.

Home Towns for teams in the 2008 Dell-Winston School Solar Car Race

Argyle, Texas
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Bend, Oregon
Choctaw, Mississippi
Coppell, Texas
Dallas, Texas
Houston, Mississippi
Mineral County, Nevada
Newburgh, New York
New Britain, Connecticut
Newton County, Mississippi
Ocean Springs, Mississippi
Plantation, Florida
Ridgeway, Colorado
Round Rock, Texas

Teams-in-Training:
San Antonio, Texas
Trenton, New Jersey
Alexandria, Virginia

For more information, please visit:
http://www.winstonsolar.org/challenge/media.shtml