

Youth Inspired Challenge FAQs - ASTC Members



What is the Youth Inspired Challenge?

The Association of Science-Technology Centers' Youth Inspired Challenge is a major initiative aimed at expanding the impact of science centers and museums in response to President Barack Obama's goal of strengthening the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) acumen of America's students.

What are the goals of the Youth Inspired Challenge?

In just two years, ASTC member institutions surpassed the original goal to engage youth in a total of 2 million hours of STEM-centered youth development programming in science centers and museums across the United States. By continuing to champion this effort, it is expected that the number of science centers and museums offering this type of programming will increase, providing opportunities for youth in every state – especially those from underrepresented groups. In addition, the Challenge will illustrate the important role that science centers and museums play in advancing the STEM potential of the nation's youth; it will document the academic, social, and civic impacts of STEM-centered youth development programs, resulting in greater investment and support for them.

Who is involved in the Youth Inspired Challenge?

Involvement in the challenge is open to all ASTC-member institutions offering STEM-centered youth development programs for youth ages 10-19. Programs with explicit strategies for engaging youth from underrepresented backgrounds (minorities, socio-economic status, gender, etc.) are especially encouraged to participate.

How will success in the Youth Inspired Challenge be measured?

All participating science centers and museums will be asked to collect specific data from their individual programs. ASTC will oversee, coordinate, and compile this data and will subsequently share both numbers and stories of success. Specific impacts to be measured include how programs affect participants' perception of themselves as science learners, impacts on overall academic success, and level of financial investment to support these programs.

What is the deadline to register a program for the Youth Inspired Challenge?

In order to encourage the highest possible level of involvement from the science centers and museums that ASTC represents – and to meet the needs of individual science centers and museums – a "rolling registration" with no set deadlines is in place.

How can I find out more about the Youth Inspired Challenge?

Please visit www.astc.org/youthinspired for details, or contact Laura Huerta Migus, ASTC's director of equity and diversity, at lhuertamigus@astc.org or (202) 783-7200, ext. 139

