



NASA International Space Apps Challenge Encourages OKC Techies to Help Hack the Globe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5izcoEmAZjU>

Oklahoma City, Feb.27th, 2014 - NASA is working with multiple sites around the world on the International Space Apps Challenge as part of the United States' domestic commitments to the Open Government Partnership. This year the challenges will feature five topics: robotics, space technology, human spaceflight, Earth watch, and asteroids.

Preparations for this year's NASA International Space Apps Challenge are in full swing in Oklahoma City! The Oklahoma chapter of the event will be organized by the **Oklahoma STEM Foundation** and expects to have a sizable turnout. Metro area engineers, technologists, scientists, designers, artists, educators, students, and entrepreneurs will be helping other sites around the world tackle issues concerning the challenges of space exploration and social need. The event culminates in a 48 hour hackathon where teams compete to come up with the most viable solutions to the subject challenges. Participants will collaborate to build software, open hardware, data visualization, and citizen science platform solutions that contribute to solving global challenges focusing on the improvement of life on earth.

The 2014 Space Apps Challenge will be hosted at **ITT Technical Institute** in OKC on **April 12-13**. Use of the facility will include a "nap area" and snacks for participants. All ages are invited to enter, however any applicant under 13 years of age must have a parent or guardian sign up for them. Registration for this event can be accessed after March 5th through the Space Apps site at 2014.spaceappschallenge.org. This year the challenges will be posted on March 12th, and will feature five topics: robotics, space technology, human spaceflight, Earth watch, and asteroids. In addition, data and education challenges will cut across all five topics. Awards will be issued based on evaluation by a panel of judges consisting of representatives from NASA and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. Many more solutions will also be nominated for global recognition and possible implementation.

“The idea of a Challenge is so compelling because it acknowledges the fact that the world is facing serious challenges - and that we all have to work together to approach them. ...the main challenge we focus on is enabling 48 hours of highly engaged collaboration- and discovering what we can create when that happens.”

-NASA Open Innovation Project Manager

Some of last years challenges included: “Backyard Chicken Farmer”- creating a poultry management system for backyard farmers, “In The Sky With Diamonds”- to design a piece of jewelry or wearable art that celebrates 55 Cancri E (a carbon-rich exoplanet), “Lego Rovers”- a remotely operated system to control LEGO Robotics from a computer or smartphone, and “Deployable Greenhouse”- to plan a greenhouse that could be used on a mission to the Moon or Mars. The results of this global effort lead by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the 2013 International Space Apps Challenge were incredible. Over 9,000 hackers, designers, and students from 83 cities and all corners of the world made this the largest hackathon in history. An unbelievable 770 solutions were submitted, and created an immense amount of enthusiasm and productivity in exploration.

Participation in this years challenge is expected to exceed last year’s incredible results, with cities across 5 continents competing to solve Earth’s next big hurdles in robotics, space exploration and technology. For up to date information on this and other events sponsored by the Oklahoma STEM foundation, visit our facebook page at [facebook.com/OKSTEMFOUNDATION](https://www.facebook.com/OKSTEMFOUNDATION), or follow us on twitter [@okstemfoundn](https://twitter.com/okstemfoundn).