

Youth Development Program: Challenger Learning Center

Challenger Center is an international, not-for-profit education organization that was founded by the families of the astronauts from Challenger Space Shuttle mission 51-L.

Through Challenger Center's programs and its international network of Challenger Learning Centers, the diversity, spirit, and commitment to education that exemplified the Challenger 51-L mission continues to make an impact on students, teachers, and families today.

These positive learning experiences raise students' expectations of success; foster a long-term interest in mathematics, science, and technology; and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields.

Our Mission

As new advances in science and technology occur at an ever more accelerated pace, the need for excellence in education has never been more essential. Perhaps that's one reason why so many communities throughout the world are actively engaged in developing a local Challenger Learning Center. Find out how our organization's solutions to encourage students to pursue further study in mathematics, science, and technology can make a difference in your hometown.

Challenger Learning Centers offer realistic mock-ups of Mission Control and an orbiting space station. Students join teams at computer consoles or onboard the orbiting space lab, rev up their imaginations, and work together toward the mission's goal, whether it is the launching of a probe or the interception of a comet.

It's clear that a visit to a Challenger Learning Center isn't just a field trip—it is a deeply grounded learning experience that engages students, transforming them into scientists, engineers, or researchers, and placing them in a simulated space mission where they solve real-life challenges. Rooted in national education standards in all of the communities we serve, Challenger Learning Centers reach approximately 400,000 students and upwards of 20,000 teachers per year through a broad array of mission-based activities.

