



PHOTO: ELIZABETH DANEKIND



THIS YEAR'S GEOCHALLENGE: TACKLING PLASTIC!

Students will investigate the urgent issue of plastic pollution in our waterways.

Afterschool can challenge youth to develop creative real-world solutions to pressing real-world problems.

The National Geographic GeoChallenge is an annual themed and project-based challenge that presents youth in grades 5-8 with a real-world issue facing our planet. Students engage in solving this global problem, just like National Geographic Explorers.

Along the way, students research, collaborate, and communicate, gaining skills that will help them succeed as global citizens. Teams with the best projects can advance to the regional and national levels.

YOUTH WILL...

TEAM UP >• IDENTIFY A PROBLEM >• DESIGN A SOLUTION >• MAKE AN IMPACT

LEARN MORE AT NATGEOED.ORG/GEOCHALLENGE

The Mott Foundation believes that afterschool programs are uniquely able to provide the time and tools young people need to explore the world and collaborate to improve our planet. A new national competition, supported by the statewide afterschool networks, will give local afterschool programs the opportunity to help kids unleash their creativity and devise solutions for some of the toughest challenges we face today.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GEOCHALLENGE

1 REGISTER TODAY. IT'S FREE.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/student-experiences/geochallenge>

2 DOWNLOAD THE PROGRAM GUIDE: TACKLING PLASTIC!

Team Guide is divided into four phases: **ENGAGE, THINK, ACT, and IMPACT**.

The helpful guide offers tips and suggestions for how your afterschool program can guide and encourage your team(s) in each phase of their project work.

3 GET HELP: AFTERSCHOOL WEBINARS WITH EXPERT COACHES

November 8 at 1:00-1:45 pm ET and December 5 at 1:00-1:45 pm ET

GeoChallenge staff and experienced coaches will help afterschool programs participate and prepare their submissions. Sessions are for afterschool educators (no students, please) and are conducted via Zoom. You must register for the GeoChallenge to get the unique code to participate in the webinar. Sessions will be recorded.

4 MAKE A PLAN

The GeoChallenge can take as much or as little time as your program can commit. A typical afterschool program might plan for 12-15 hours over 2-3 weeks.

At the Coach's website there are structured activities with estimated times for execution and many videos and tips to use in your program. For example: *The Tremendous Travels of Trash* is a 60-minute activity for ages 11-14 that explores: What pollutants and trash can the water that goes down a drain contain?

Afterschool programs serving kids of all ages are welcome to take the GeoChallenge, but to compete, teams of 4-6 students must be in grades 5-8 (ages 10+).

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 15, 2019.