

Power to Explore Challenge FAQs

<https://www.futureengineers.org/powertoexplore>

What is the Power to Explore Challenge?

- The Power to Explore Challenge invites K-12 students in the U.S. to research [Radioisotope Power Systems \(RPS\)](#), which is a type of nuclear battery, and write about one use of this special power system in space that inspires you. Refer to the BRAINSTORMING section below for examples, from providing power in dark places like a shadowed crater to powering spacecraft that go beyond our solar system. Then, describe what you think **your unique power** is and tell us how it will help you to achieve one long-term goal in your life. In total, your submission should be a maximum of 200 words.

Who can enter?

- Legal residents of the United States who are registered students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade attending a public, private, or home school in the United States (including U.S. Territories or Possessions and schools operated by the U.S. for the children of American personnel overseas) are eligible to enter (eligible “Participants”).

Can homeschool or after school program students participate?

- Yes. Any K-12 student in the U.S. can participate in this contest.

What’s the Timeline for the NASA RPS Power to Explore Challenge?

- Contest Launch: February 15, 2022
- Entries Due: April 13, 2022
- Winners Announced: May 24, 2022

Are entries divided into age groups?

- Yes. Entries will be separated into three categories grades — K-4, 5-8, and grades 9-12, — to be judged. Fifteen winners will be selected in each grade category.

What are the prizes?

- Fifteen winners from each grade category will receive a NASA RPS prize pack. All participants will be invited to a Power to Explore virtual event.

Can I send my entry via U.S. Mail?

- No. Only entries submitted online at www.futureengineers.org are accepted. No exceptions.

I’m a minor. Can I enter the contest on my own?

- Entrants in class must be linked to their teacher's account to enter— either by entering a teacher’s class code during registration or by your teacher registering for you. If you are not participating with a teacher and are a minor, you must get a parent's or legal guardian's permission to enter.

Can one entry be submitted by a team of students?

- No. This is an individual contest.

Can I submit more than one entry?

- No. You may only submit one entry for the Power to Explore Challenge; however, you are welcome to edit your entry until the contest deadline on April 13, 2022. Your last submitted entry is the one that will be considered the final entry.

How and when do I submit my entry?

- Please log into your Future Engineers account, go to your dashboard or to the Power to Explore page, and submit your entry on or before April 13, 2022. For more detailed instructions, refer to the [How to Submit](#) help article.

How are the entries judged?

- A panel of judges will review eligible entries based on the following criteria.
 - 25 points: clarity of description of an RPS use in space that inspires you
 - 25 points: creativity and quality of the written entry
 - 50 points: how well your unique power helps you achieve a goal(s)

Is this Contest open to International Participants?

- No. This contest is only open to students in the United States and its territories.

Do I need to get parent signatures for students to participate?

- Parent signatures are not required to enter the contest; however, the potential winners' parents or legal guardians will be notified via email, and they will be required to sign and return additional documents by a specified time, which may include Affidavit (or Declaration, as determined by Sponsor) of Eligibility, Liability and, where legal a Publicity Release.

One of my parents works for NASA. Am I eligible to participate?

- Yes, children of NASA employees are eligible to enter. However, they are not eligible to win an RPS Prize pack. Children of NASA contractors and grandchildren of NASA employees are eligible to enter and win the RPS prize pack.