



## What Will You Do to Save the Planet? Take the #NatGeoChallenge!

Did you know that 500 million plastic straws are used every day? That eight million tons of plastic flow into the ocean every year? We need creative and actionable ideas from young people to literally save the planet. Afterschool programs are invited to take on the 2018-19 GeoChallenge-Tackling Plastic! Teams of students (grades 5-8) will investigate the urgent issue of plastic pollution in our waterways. If your team is ready, you can submit your solutions by January 15th to join the national competition and win cash prizes. The GeoChallenge is **free to register** and download all of the activities you will need to help your kids engage, think, act, and impact! Students will gain skills in research and storytelling, collaboration, videography, innovative design, and mapmaking. Empower your kids to change the world!



- **Register to Participate** - This is free and gives you access to the helpful Coaches Guide and Resources Portal
- **Watch the Video for Afterschool Programs** - Learn more about how to participate in the GeoChallenge
- **Register for Upcoming Webinar, 12/5 at 1pm EST**, to discuss questions on doing the GeoChallenge and preparing a submission

## Spotlight on 2018 STEM Grantee: Future for KIDS

With support from a 2018 AzCASE STEM Grant, Future for KIDS is offering eight sessions of their Discover Your Future program at seven locations during the 2018/2019 school year. Discover Your Future meets weekly throughout the school year and engages elementary and middle school students in small group discussions with trained, caring mentors. The focus is on mentor-led

personal development/ethics programming, hands-on STEAM activities, and physical fitness, with the goal of building resilience and a greater capacity for academic success. Mentors guide the students through a STEAM project each week with the goal to increase their interest in STEAM subjects, as well as their self-confidence in their academic abilities. In addition to the 45 minutes spent on STEAM activities at each session, they also have a fitness component using the STEM Sports curriculum, which combines STEM disciplines with a variety of sports providing students with hands-on engagement in which they collaborate to problem solve while learning the science behind sports. We're proud to support this high-quality STEM program!

[Check out all of the 2018 STEM Grantees](#)



## Education Innovation and Research Grant Provides Opportunities for Student Apprenticeships

Repost from [Afterschool Snack](#)

Eighteen new grantees were recently awarded Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grants from the Department of Education. Developed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), EIR grants, which are inspired by the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3), are designed to support innovative solutions to persistent educational challenges and support the growth of high-quality and successful programming. During the past two fiscal years funding for the EIR grants has increased from \$95 million in FY 2017 to more than \$115 million in FY 2018. Along with additional funding, a Presidential Memo signed in September 2017 required the Secretary of Education to reallocate at least \$200 million in existing funding to computer science and STEM education. This recent round of EIR awards now includes 10 projects that place an emphasis on STEM education. Among this year's new grantees, ExpandedED Schools, a New York City nonprofit, was awarded \$3.7 million dollars over the course of five years to implement an exciting new STEM apprenticeship program.



[Read more and learn about the 2019 grant opportunity](#)

Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence

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