



# KIDS' SCIENCE CHALLENGE



A project of Jim Metzner Productions,  
producers of the award-winning  
radio series Pulse of the Planet

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KIDS' SCIENCE CHALLENGE LAUNCHES YEAR #3 OCTOBER 1, 2010

National Science and Engineering Competition  
for Third to Sixth Graders, funded by The National Science Foundation

(Kingston, NY, October 1, 2010) Created by Jim Metzner and funded by a four-year grant from The National Science Foundation, the Kids' Science Challenge will continue to offer elementary school age children the opportunity to practice real science and work directly with cutting-edge scientists and engineers. Students are asked to propose an original question, problem or experiment that relates to the group of scientists involved with the competition. Winning students in each category will then have the opportunity to meet and work with these scientists, in addition to winning great prizes. This is Metzner's fifth NSF grant.

Jim Metzner is the award-winning radio producer of Pulse of the Planet, which offers listeners sound portraits of Planet Earth, heard each weekday on 209 broadcast outlets. More than 425,000 daily listeners will be able to follow the progress and results of the Kids' Science Challenge on Pulse of the Planet's broadcasts. "Over 1600 kids entered last year's competition, which was more than double the entries from the previous year," stated Jim Metzner. "We hope that as awareness grows, in Year 3 we get even more entries. We are very excited about the fascinating assortment of scientists and fields of study this year."

### Participating scientists and challenges in Year 3 of the Kids' Science Challenge include:

**Magical Microbes** - These tiny creatures (bacteria, germs, viruses) help us in many ways—like making yogurt and cleaning up oil spills! The winner who thinks up a new use for microorganisms will work with scientists from the U Mass Amherst or NYU Polytechnic to think of a new way that microbes can help us.

**Super Stuff for Sports** – Can you come up with a new idea for a material that helps make your favorite sport safer or more fun? The winner in this category will work with materials scientists at the University of Southern Mississippi or at K2 Sports.

**Sensational Sounds** – Starting with the concept of making air vibrate to create a sound, the winner in this category will collaborate with Bart Hopkin, a Northern California-based composer, musical instrument builder and head of the company Experimental Musical Instruments, to build a new and unique musical instrument.

Third to sixth graders will be able to enter the competition from October 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011. Information and downloadable entry forms will be available at [www.kidsciencechallenge.com](http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com). Students and homeschoolers can enter as individuals or in collaborative teams. In addition, the website offers games, fun videos, information about the last two year's winners, ideas for great science fair projects, lesson plans and other resources for teachers. The first 1,000 entrants will receive free science activity kits. Winners' prizes will include visits to world-class science museums, aquariums, amusement parks, VIP tours at cool places as well as microscopes from Edmund Scientific and great science kits from Thames & Kosmos and Jakks Pacific.

With support from the American Honda Foundation the KSC, in cooperation with Woodcraft Rangers, continues to hold workshops for underserved kids in greater Los Angeles.