



# CHALLENGER STEM



As a leader in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, Challenger Learning Center uses space-themed simulated learning environments to engage students in dynamic, hands-on opportunities. These experiences strengthen knowledge in STEM subjects and inspire students to pursue careers in these important fields.

The Challenger Learning Center in Woodstock is a member of a global network that reaches thousands of students and teachers each year. Founded in 1986, Challenger Center was created to honor the crew of the shuttle flight STS-51L. To learn more, visit [challenger.org](http://challenger.org).

Click [here](#) to view a sample of the Challenger Learning experience.

## STEM Options

This year, school groups may select one of the three exciting STEM opportunities:

### Option #1 - Life on Meteorites (grades 5-7)

Can your students work quickly under pressure to help NASA access vital information? Everyone on Earth is counting on them! Students will experience a timed, immersive learning game called Breakout EDU. Breakout EDU brings the challenges of an escape room to the classroom. Using critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills, teams work to solve a series of puzzles. Teams will use virtual reality, augmented reality and challenging clues to stop the invasion and save the planet!

### Option #2 - Designing Through Biomimicry (grades 4-8)

Did you ever wonder how velcro came about or how some early inventions were discovered by watching nature? Students discover how engineers use biomimicry to enhance their designs. They learn how becoming a nature detective, one who carefully observes nature, can lead to innovations and new products. Students will test their engineering and problem-solving skills while creating a prototype using cardboard, Makedo Kits, and tape.

### Option #3 - The International Space Station (grades 5-8)

The International Space Station is the biggest object ever flown in space; and though hard to believe, it travels at 17,500 mph! Join us as we explore inside the ISS using virtual reality, and examine the outside of the Station with augmented reality. Teams will work together to complete an engineering challenge they won't soon forget. Creative thinking, problem solving, and teamwork are required!

Click [here](#) to view the NGSS and CCSS alignment.