



# Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge

**WE HAVE 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HELPING EDUCATORS MAKE STEM AUTHENTIC**

For 25 years we have trained and supported educators as they build the skills and confidence to guide students as they learn essential STEM concepts by investigating and improving their communities. We have worked with over 4,000 educators who have taught over 300,000 young people.

- 100%** of educators recommend our approach to colleagues
- 88%** of educators say they improved their teaching by being more aware of community resources
- 90%** of educators say student leadership, decision-making and problem-solving skills improved
- 72%** of educators say they become more confident in their ability to teach through authentic experiences



**STEM EDUCATION THAT IS LOCAL, DYNAMIC, AND CONNECTED TO STUDENTS' LIVES**



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## Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge

Supported by:



THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS CHALLENGE IS A PROJECT OF EARTH FORCE



## WHAT IS THE RMEHC?

RMEHC combines project-based learning, with the latest research in high quality STEM education, to engage students in action projects that improve their communities



## Support for Educators & Students

### Educator Professional Development

Leading a classroom of budding problem solvers is exciting and challenging. To help educators master this process we have devised a scaffolded approach to professional development that builds skills and knowledge over time.

**Project-Based Learning** - At the introductory level our professional development begins with a two- or three-day session focusing on our Community Action and Problem Solving Process, a framework for community-based PBL.

**Bringing Your Community into the Classroom** - For educators with a deeper background in project-based learning we offer PD geared towards helping educators tailor our tools for community engagement to their classroom needs.

**Youth-Led Learning** - As educators develop skills they will master student-led learning and project development.

### Professional Development Continues into the Classroom

We recognize that educators require more support than they can receive in a single training session. For that reason, all of our professional development programs include ongoing support for educators over the subsequent school year.

### Student Competition

At the completion of their project's students prepare a proposal for our year-end competition. Those proposals are reviewed by experts and the top 5 student projects have the chance to compete for funds to support their project!

- Finalists present projects at the spring RMEHC Summit
- Finalists win prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$200
- All students are eligible to receive additional project implementation funding

## WHY the RMEHC?



**Transforms Classrooms** by grounding learning in issues students care about to transform classrooms into vibrant learning communities.



**Deepens Learning** by asking students to leverage experience, harness internal and external resources, develop a plan, and implement that plan in their community.



**Builds Problem-Solving Skills** by giving students hands-on experience designing and implementing a project in their community.



**Develops Citizenship** by supporting students as they engage with community stakeholders to solve a local problem which develops the habits of good citizenship.



**Develops Skills** in creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication - the foundation for the 21st century learning - by asking students to work as a team that is engaging members of their local community.



If someone told me that my 6th graders would put together a civic action proposal to solve a community flooding issue back in August, I don't think I would have believed it to be possible. Your six-step method made it so easy and the kids really engaged and found it fun and meaningful!

TRICIA KEARNS, WEBBER MIDDLE SCHOOL



I've seen how this program inspires youth to address local issues once they've uncovered them firsthand. Real-world problem solving is a great way to pique their interest in math and science, and working side by side with people who've made a career out of these skills goes a long way.

DR. TERRY WILSON, WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY