



IDEAS Challenge

Calling all Middle and High School students!

The [Cambridge Science Festival](#) is a multifaceted, multicultural celebration each Spring, making science accessible, interactive and fun, while highlighting the impact of science, technology, engineering, and math in all our lives.

Join the celebration! The Festival challenges you to come up with a Big *IDEA* that uses science, technology, engineering or math to solve a problem in your community. Form a team, identify the problem, ask questions, do research, develop a solution, and receive feedback from experts in the field. Your solution can be a prototype, paper, or project.

What's your Big *IDEA* for...

Health & Medicine
Education
Energy
Environment
Water
Entrepreneurship

Agriculture
Mobile Devices & Communication
Housing
Transportation
Emergency & Disaster Relief
Suggest your own category ...

The *IDEAS* Challenge

Form a team and solve a problem in your community using science, technology, engineering or math!

Teams should be 3-5 students, with one faculty/parent advisor from your school, club or program. You will be expected to keep an online account of your project (i.e. blog or wiki).

- Register your *IDEAS* Challenge team: December 9, 2011
- *IDEAS* Challenge Proposal due: January 20, 2012
- *IDEAS* Challenge Project deadline: March 30, 2012
- *IDEAS* Celebration: April 29, 2012

Timeline Details

November-December:

Register to be an IDEAS team (Registration must be submitted by **December 9**).

Choose an area of interest or curiosity and develop a team of students. Recruit a faculty advisor. Registered teams will be assigned a point of contact with the Festival (with biweekly check-ins from assigned Cambridge Science Festival Teen Interns).

January 20: **Proposal/Mentor Request DUE**

Tell us what you know, the scope of available solutions already out there, and a detailed proposal for your solution. Is it a technology, a gathering of people, a device, a community service project, an app, a system, protocol, etc. Identity the mentor you need: what area(s) of expertise. Your team will be assigned an *IDEAS* Challenge mentor no later than February 1st.

January – February: **Design Process**

Design, test, redesign with guidance from mentor, advisers, and research.

February 17: **Progress Report DUE**

What have you done, tried, succeeded, failed?

February 23: **Attend MIT IDEAS Global Challenge Generator Dinner**

Meet past MIT IDEAS Global Challenge winners, and hear about their ideas and subsequent work. Get inspired!

March 30: **Prototype or Deliverable DUE**

Build and test prototype or write deliverables paper and submit completed project by March 30. Wait - you aren't done yet! Now create a presentation so you can share your Big *IDEA* and solution at the *IDEAS* Celebration during the Cambridge Science Festival.

April 29: **Present and Celebrate!**

Share your Big *IDEA* and solution at the *IDEAS* Celebration with peers, mentors, and invited guests as part of the Cambridge Science Festival.