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Student solar competition launched to spark career interest in clean energy

Students in grades K-12 throughout Long Island and NYC will be participating in a solar competition in hopes of winning scholarships, internship opportunities, and field trips.

QUEENS, N.Y. – March 22, 2018 – The Alley Pond Environmental Center and SunPower by EmPower Solar, a leading New York-based solar energy company, have opened registration for a student competition. The competition challenges students to use STEM and creative components to analyze the effect of our energy systems on wildlife and the environment. Winning teams will receive field trips, internship opportunities, and scholarships.

The competition aims to encourage the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and teamwork through a community focused project, similar to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon. Students can visit empower-solar.com/student-solar-competition to sign up their team of 2-4 students before the deadline of May 15, 2018. Projects are due before the end of the school year.

The Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) currently serves as a science education hub for students of all ages. The center’s academic programs range from nature walks, interaction with live animals, environmental systems, cooking classes, and fitness exercises. APEC hosts students ranging from kindergarten to college level, and in 2017 saw 59,918 children and 21,565 adults throughout their programs.

“The Alley Pond Environmental Center is honored to play a role in SunPower by EmPower’s Solar Competition for students,” says Irene Scheid, Executive Director of APEC. “It is a perfect fit with our mission of educating and advocating for sustainable environmental practices.”

This is the fifth student competition from EmPower Solar, a company that formed after their founders participated in the Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon. In the past, students from winning teams have traveled to California, France, and Washington D.C. to see the Solar Decathlon in progress.

“In years past, this competition has served as a catalyst in the lives of the participants, which sparks a lifelong appreciation and involvement in clean energy,” says David G. Schieren, CEO

of EmPower. “It’s necessary for our future to inspire young men and women to advance these efforts towards a greener future and to think critically about creating clean energy systems.”

Schieren will be honored at the annual APEC Green Gala, on April 19th, 2018. This recognition signifies substantial contribution towards environmental causes and initiatives. Schieren has been working towards furthering renewables in New York since 2003, and his company installed over 1,800 systems across Long Island and New York City since its inception.

SunPower by EmPower Solar

SunPower by EmPower delivers superior solar and battery technology, maximum savings and exceptional customer service.

Since 2003, SunPower by EmPower Solar has been the preferred solar provider of over 1,800 New Yorkers earning an industry-leading customer satisfaction rating. In 2016, EmPower was chosen as a SunPower Master Dealer of New York. In joining forces with SunPower Corporation, one of the world’s most innovative and sustainable energy companies, EmPower leverages 30 years of industry experience and record-setting technology.