

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Challenger[®]
**LEARNING
CENTER**
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



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The 2024-2025 school year was Challenger Learning Center of Colorado’s most successful year in our 23 year history, running a total of 831 student programs, and engaging over 33,000 students.

The mission of the Challenger Learning Center is to engage as many students as possible in dynamic, hands-on programs that provide the opportunity to apply and practice essential life skills and inspire students to pursue STEM subjects and careers. Thanks to the continued support of our donors, tens of thousands of students across the Front Range had access to these programs this year.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Program	Simulator Missions	Onsite Explorer Labs	e-Missions and Digital Programs	Offsite Planetarium Days	In-school Engineering Programs	Total
Program Numbers	251	269	161	59	91	831
Student Numbers	6,800	7,300	4,400	13,300	1,600	33,400

In addition to the above school program numbers, Challenger ran the following programs in 2025:

- **Engineering Pathfinders Summer Camps:** 20, week-long summer camps, engaging a total of 319 students
- **Harrison Elevate Summer Program:** Four, full days of Engineering and Aerospace Programs, engaging just over 100 students each day
- **Second Saturday Science Public Events:** Nine monthly events, engaging over 1,000 local families
- **Teacher STEM Bootcamp:** Three-day teacher professional development event, engaging 50 teachers and giving away \$15,000 in Bambu 3D Printers and other STEM resources for school classrooms

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025

Mountain Ridge Middle School Partnership: For the spring semester of 2025, Mountain Ridge Middle School (Academy School District 20) contracted our Center to provide instruction for 8th grade students in a diverse selection of engineering disciplines. Challenger educators developed a course called *Creative Tech*, and spent 91 school days working with Mountain Ridge students.

Students learned that engineering is a process and failure is learning by attempting to overcome a variety of engineering challenges. The course focused on project management (scrum development), electrical engineering, 3D design using CAD software, software coding (both C++ and C languages), structural design, 3D printing, and fabrication.

New and Improved Digital Discoveries Programs for Grades K-2: To enhance our digital program offerings, this year our staff re-wrote our three Digital Discoveries to be literacy-based, in addition to meeting grade level science standards.

Kindergarten: Home Sweet Home

Grade 1: The Stars Are Always There

Grade 2: This Rock of Ours

The development of these Digital Discoveries completes our menu of digital program offerings for grades K-10.

Engineering Pathfinders: Thanks to the overwhelming success of 2024's *Engineering Pathfinders*, our four-week summer camp experience introducing students to a variety of engineering platforms, including 3D modeling and design, electrical engineering, fabrication, and coding, all culminating in a week-long innovation project, we offered our follow up *Pathfinders "Academy,"* in June of 2025. These camps gave students an even more in-depth look into engineering disciplines, project management, and more advanced projects.

High School Internships: This year saw the continuation of our high school internship program, with students expanding their learning as they work on several projects at our Center, including the development of two new software programs for our middle school and high school e-Missions as well as designing and fabricating new robotic arms for our simulator missions.

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