

2012 Awards

A signature program of The Tech Museum, The Tech Challenge celebrates its 25th year and has proven to be a landmark occasion: A record number 1,433 participants (1,175 last year); a record 48 percent of which are girls (45 percent last year), and the highest involvement of Title I schools of any science and technology competition in the region at 37 percent.

For this year's challenge, top awards for "Best Overall Solution" went to three teams each in the high school, middle school and elementary school divisions. The Grand Prize in this category went to all-girl teams in 5-6 grade categories and high school. Best Overall Solution encompasses device performance, engineering and design, style and presentation and the scientific process. Below is the complete list of 2012 winners.

Grades 5-6

Style and Presentation:

Best Costume: Earth Quake Ninjas, Team # 289, Canyon Middle School

Best Team Spirit: Team Epicness, Team # 191, Saint Andrew's Episcopal School

Best Verbal Presentation: The Ground Shakers, Team # 623, Castilleja School

Inspirational:

Most Perseverance: MESA World Savers, Team # 476, Painter School / MESA Program

Greatest Risk Takers: The Purple Monkeys, Team # 639, Miller Middle School

Judges' Special Awards:

Special Award 1: Ski-On Neon, Team # 373, International School of Monterey

Special Award 2: Technically Challenged, Team # 124, St. Martin of Tours

Special Award 3: Santa Cruz Techies, Team # 234

Most Innovative Survivor Design: The Rescue G.E.E.K.S, Team # 66, L.P. Collins, West Valley and Lincoln Elementary

Engineering Process and Design:

Most Resourceful Use of Materials: The A-Girls, Team # 610, Rogers Elementary

Most Innovative and Creative Design: The Army of Two, Team # 225, Oak Avenue Elementary School

Best Teamwork: SOS (Saving Our Survivors), Team # 342, Harker / Menlo

Best Engineering Design Journal:

3rd Place: GPS (Getting People Safe), Team # 332

2nd Place: The Sneetches, Team # 379, Castilleja School

1st Place: AKA Rescue Force 3, Team # 380, Hillview Middle School

Device Performance:

Most Reliable: The Mystical Hydras, Team # 203

Most Efficient: Rescue Rabbits, Team # 488, Crocker Middle School

Most Spectacular Failure: 6 Inch Subs, Team # 292

Best Overall Solution:

3rd Place: The Fiery Phoenixes, Team # 187, Discovery Charter School

2nd Place: Rescue Recruits, Team # 198

Grand Prize: Rock N' Roll Rumlbers, Team # 159, Saint John Vianney Catholic School

Grades 7-8

Style and Presentation:

Best Costume: Wild n' Wreckless, Team # 185, Discovery Charter School

Best Team Spirit: Occupy First Place, Team # 154, Lawson Middle School

Best Verbal Presentation: Seismic Wave Busters, Team # 270, Hopkins Junior High

Inspirational:

Most Perseverance: The 1%, Team # 322, Hillbrook School

Greatest Risk Takers: The REJeCtz, Team # 320, Hillbrook School

Judges' Special Awards:

Special Award 1: RMS (Rocking Magnanimous Survivors), Team # 97, Bullis Charter School

Special Award 2: RoboSapiens, Team # 293, Kennedy Middle School

Special Award 3: Paradox, Team # 114, Lawson Middle School

Most Innovative Survivor Design: The Suspenders, Team # 98, Bullis Charter School

Engineering Process and Design:

Most Resourceful Use of Materials: Magnitude 4.0, Team # 221, Jordan Middle School

Most Innovative and Creative Design: Academy 1, Team # 40, Academy of Alameda

Best Teamwork: TerraScouts, Team # 77

Best Engineering Design Journal:

3rd Place: RMS (Rocking Magnanimous Savivors, Team # 97, Bullis Charter School

2nd Place: SAFE (Security Administration For Earthquakes), Team # 56, Miller Middle School and Kennedy Middle School

1st Place: Rytherian, Team # 414, Hyde Middle School

Device Performance:

Most Reliable: Kennedy Quakers, Team # 272, Kennedy Middle School

Most Efficient: The Medics, Team # 323, Hillbrook School

Most Spectacular Failure: Unicorn Warriors, Team # 487, Campbell Middle School – Citizen Schools

Best Overall Solution:

3rd Place: 1-800-SAVE-US-NOW, Team # 151, Lawson Middle School

2nd Place: The Cheese Bubs, Team # 147, Hillview Middle School

Grand Prize: M&M BUGs, Team # 53, Berkeley Oakland Homeschoolers

Grades 9-12

Style and Presentation:

Best Costume: oiram repus, Team #566, Cupertino High School

Best Team Spirit: Bridge to Coppertino, Team # 389, Cupertino High School

Best Verbal Presentation: Revenge of the Narwhals, Team # 240, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Inspirational:

Most Perseverance: Team R2-D2, Team # 618, York School

Greatest Risk Takers: Solution Seekers, Team # 215, Castilleja School and Menlo School

Judges' Special Awards:

Special Award 1: DaWildCats, Team # 583, Cupertino High School

Special Award 2: The Disaster Janitors, Team # 478, Cupertino High School

Special Award 3: The Talons, Team # 442, Harker

Special Award 4: Team Seismic Shockwave, Team # 26, Cupertino High School

Most Innovative Survivor Design: Four Guys, One Ball, Team # 237, Cupertino High School

Engineering Process and Design:

Most Resourceful Use of Materials: Possumus Aedificare, Team # 213, Cupertino High School

Most Innovative and Creative Design: QUAKER Oatz, Team # 640, Cupertino High School

Best Teamwork: The Life Guards, Team # 565, Cupertino High School

Best Engineering Design Journal:

2nd Place: Team Faultinators, Team # 333, MESA Club

1st Place: Solution Seekers, Team # 215, Castilleja School and Menlo School

Device Performance:

Most Reliable: Close-Enough, Team # 331, Monta Vista High School

Most Efficient: Team #1, Team # 171, Cupertino High School

Most Spectacular Failure: Sky High, Incorporated, Team # 297, Mission San Jose High

Best Overall Solution:

3rd Place: EVAC, Team # 801, Fremont Home School

2nd Place: The Copper Sulfate Mollusks, Team # 223, Cupertino High School

Grand Prize: FBI – Federal Bridge Investigators, Team # 420, Cupertino High School