

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Lina Germann, CEO
STEM Santa Fe
P.O. Box 33103
Santa Fe, NM 87594
505-570-5402
stemsantafe.org

STEM Santa Fe partners with Gonzales Community School PTA to lead Fall 2017 afterschool STEM club

STEM Santa Fe partnered with Gonzales Community School PTA to lead an afterschool STEM club beginning in fall 2017. The afterschool STEM club met for two hours weekly for six weeks. The focus was to prepare to enter the NM Electric Car Challenge held November 18, 2017 in Albuquerque. Two teams from Gonzales Community School participated, a team of three 6th grade students and a team of three 7th grade student team. The students designed and built the cars using recycled materials and following certain dimensions.

The teams competed in the *Car Design Challenge* based on innovation (system design), technology (power-train/chassis), craftsmanship and appearance (10-minute presentation). In addition, the teams competed in the *Car Race Challenge* based on maximum of five qualifying runs over a 10-meter course. Both teams successfully completed both challenges.

The students learned about teamwork, problem solving skills, and resilience. Two parents participated in the club on a regular basis as well as 100% of the parents drove to Albuquerque to witness their children perform at the competitions. More information about the NM Electric Car Challenge can be found at <http://www.nmelectriccarchallenge.org/main.asp>.

A special thank you to SFPS Deputy Superintendent Linda Sink for providing transportation to the Challenge in Albuquerque.

STEM Santa Fe advocates for, develops, and provides STEM programming, mentoring, and resources for all youth, especially under-represented groups in STEM, to realize their potential and expand their opportunities in a dynamic world. STEM Santa Fe spearheads programs dedicated to students in 5th-8th grade from Santa Fe and Northern NM. Our programs have impacted around 350 students during the 2017 school equivalent to about 2000 hours of STEM enrichment for students.

For more information, please visit their website: www.stemsantafe.org