

Invitation Letter

DUAL-USE

DESIGN CHALLENGE

Dear Students, Teachers, Advisors, Club Leaders, Administrators, Parents, and Guardians,

As days grow shorter and the harvest season winds down, it's the perfect moment to look ahead, imagine new possibilities, and tackle real-world challenges. This **hands-on design challenge** invites students to explore the intersection of **agriculture, solar energy**, and their **communities**.

The Solar Farm Summit and the InSPIRE project are excited to relaunch the **Dual-Use Design Challenge**, a unique opportunity for students to tackle real-world agricultural and energy challenges through creativity, problem-solving, and STEM-based design. This design challenge invites students from **K-12 and post-secondary education** to explore how **solar energy and farming can coexist**, developing innovative solutions that support **both** agricultural **and** energy production.

This student design challenge is open to all types of students—whether in classrooms, STEM clubs, FFA chapters, homeschool programs, or independent projects. With grade-specific categories and tailored guidance, students of all ages can participate at a level that fits their abilities as an individual or on a team.

We invite you to **share this opportunity** with your students and encourage them to take part. **A timeline, detailed guidelines, submission requirements, and resources are available at—**
<https://solarfarmsummit.com/student-design-challenge>

About the Solar Farm Summit

The **Solar Farm Summit** is America's agrivoltaics conference and farming + solar exhibition, bringing together experts, farmers, researchers, and innovators to explore the future of agriculture and energy. Finalists in the **Student Design Challenge** may have the opportunity to showcase their projects at the 2026 Solar Farming Student Fair Showcase, receiving recognition from industry leaders who are shaping the bright future of solar-integrated farming at the industry's most collaborative and constructive event.

Thank you for empowering students to turn their curiosity, knowledge, and creativity to build a more abundant future for farms and communities. We look forward to seeing their innovative ideas come to life through this exciting challenge and opportunity!

With appreciation for all you do,

Katie Meyer

Education Director | Conference Producer
Solar Farm Summit

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Students will:

- ☀ Apply engineering and design thinking to **real-world challenges**
- ☀ Develop solutions that support **farm viability and energy needs**
- ☀ Learn how **solar energy and agriculture can work together**
- ☀ Gain **hands-on experience** with farming, science, technology, and critical thinking
- ☀ Have the chance to **present their designs at the 2026 Student Showcase** and earn **prizes and national recognition** (in person and/or digitally)

Competing entries due April 30, 2026



Website



Resources



Form