



NEWS RELEASE:

Solar Cars to travel 1975 Miles across the Midwest in the American Solar Challenge, a 2016 National Park Service Centennial Event

Gering, NE – On Thursday-Saturday, August 4-6, solar cars competing in the American Solar Challenge 2016 will be coming to Scotts Bluff National Monument! Depending on traffic, weather, and energy management decisions made by each of the teams, the fastest solar cars could arrive as early as 4:00pm on August 4 with most teams expected to arrive on August 5 between 9:00am-6:00pm. The solar cars will be on display at the stage stop until evening charging concludes at 8:00pm. The following morning, August 6, the teams will have morning charging time from 7:00-9:00am before starting the final one-day stage to the finish at Wind Cave National Park. The first team will start at 9:00am with additional teams starting in 1-minute intervals thereafter. The event is free and open to the public.

From July 30 – August 6, 2016, the American Solar Challenge will feature collegiate solar car teams in a rally style event traveling 1975 miles through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial, the solar cars will make stops at 9 national park locations where visitors will have the unique opportunity to see the solar cars, meet the teams, and participate in local activities.

Every two years, the Innovators Educational Foundation organizes the American Solar Challenge, a collegiate student design competition to design, build, and drive solar-powered vehicles in a cross-country time/distance event. Prior to the solar cars going on the road, teams must pass a series of inspections, known as scrutineering, and qualify during a 3-day track event, the Formula Sun Grand Prix, to be held at Pittsburgh International Race Complex July 26-28, 2016.

Innovators Educational Foundation would like to thank all of the 2016 sponsors, with special recognition to the National Park Service (Event Partner) and Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (Gold-Level Sponsor). Their support and contributions help make this multi-disciplined, experiential learning event possible.

“We’re looking forward to the American Solar Challenge 2016 providing a new, challenging route for the solar car teams. We invite visitors to join us in celebrating these students’ engineering creativity and see their solar-powered vehicles in person while visiting the national parks along this summer’s route,” says Gail Lueck, Event Coordinator.

Please visit www.americansolarchallenge.org/the-competition/ascfsgp-2016/ for a more detailed schedule, specific locations that will be visited along the route, and a list of registered teams.

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About Innovators Educational Foundation. Innovators Educational Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit that organizes solar car events in the United States, including the American Solar Challenge (road event) and the Formula Sun Grand Prix (track event), to provide hands-on, multi-disciplined learning opportunities for college students. Visit us at www.americansolarchallenge.org, on Facebook www.facebook.com/AmericanSolarChallenge, and on Twitter www.twitter.com/ASC_SolarRacing.

For more information, please contact: Gail Lueck, Event Coordinator at ascinfo@americansolarchallenge.org

