



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Souderton Charter School Collaborative**  
**Souderton, PA 18964**  
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### **Souderton Charter School Collaborative Students Win BIG At Junior Solar Sprint Competition**

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade from the Souderton Charter School Collaborative brought home 6 trophies and 14 medals from the Philadelphia Junior Solar Sprint Competition. On June 2, middle school students participated in the 24th running of the Philadelphia Junior Solar Sprint Competition held at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. More than 70 teams registered for the competition, resulting in participation from nearly 200 students. Teams competed for awards in the following categories: Speed, Creativity, Reusability, Innovation, Technical Merit, and Best Overall.

SCSC students brought home top honors in four different categories and two 3<sup>rd</sup> place honors:

- Best Overall and 2 more 1<sup>st</sup> place awards: Arnav Kaushik, and Aiden Brennan designed and built a car with a programmable solar tracker and 3D printed payload. Their car won Best Overall, 1st place for Innovation, and 1st place for Technical Merit.
- 1<sup>st</sup> place for Creativity: Awen Hofmann was awarded 1st place for Creativity. She carved a life-like turtle out of Styrofoam, which had a removable shell in order to store the payload.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Innovation: Rohan Mehta's car won 3rd place for Innovation. He 3D printed the payload carrier and used an old ping pong ball as a way to move the solar panel.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Creativity: Caleb Gilbert and Vincent Schifano won 3rd place for Creativity thanks to their long, sleek car design.

Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) is an educational program for 5th through 8th grade students with the goal of creating the fastest, most interesting, and best crafted solar-vehicle possible. Students have the opportunity to participate in JSS through local Technology Student Association (TSA) chapters, United States Army Education Outreach Programs (AEOP), or middle schools across the country.

The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association has been running the JSS in Philadelphia since 1994.

They rely completely on volunteers and currently depend heavily on Drexel students. They also rely on Penn State to help with the funding to pay for the street closure & use of the GridSTAR Center at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

During JSS students:

- designed, built and raced solar powered cars using hands-on engineering skills and principles of science and math,
- developed teamwork and problem solving abilities,
- investigated environmental issues,
- and gained hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills

JSS is designed to support the instruction of STEM exploring topics such as alternative fuels, engineering design, and aerodynamics.

### **About SCSC**

The Souderton Charter School Collaborative opened its doors in 2000 and services children in grades K-8. The school is the recipient of the prestigious 2013 Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence. The school was rated the #1 District in Pennsylvania by schooldigger.com based on their state test scores for the 2015-16 school year. It offers families in the area an alternative choice in public education. The educational environment provides hands on learning and opportunities for children and adults to positively impact their environment both at school and in the surrounding community.