

Challenge Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



YSI has received a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$125,000 from anonymous donors. This Challenge Grant will match individuals' donations dollar for dollar through the summer of 2010. Below are some frequently asked questions to further explain the terms of the Challenge Grant.

1) What is a challenge grant?

A challenge grant is a donation that will be released to the recipient agency when the agency has raised an equal amount of funds from donors, typically within a specified period of time.

YSI received a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$125,000 to be used during the Major Gifts Campaign. The grant is designed to match, dollar for dollar, any gift made to YSI to a maximum of \$125,000. *The deadline has been extended through the summer of 2010.*

2) How can I contribute?

Donations may be made online at www.youthscience.org. Cash or checks, made payable to YSI, may be sent to YSI at 296 Garden Hill Drive, Los Gatos CA 95032.

3) Who donated the funds?

Two couples, who wish to remain anonymous, donated the Challenge Grant funds.

4) What does the Challenge mean for my gift? I can only give \$500.

Your gift of \$500 will be match, dollar for dollar, allowing YSI to deliver \$1,000 worth of science programming to Silicon Valley students!

5) What is the time frame in which I must donate for my funds to be matched by the challenge grant?

The original deadline was May 31, 2010, however, we have the opportunity to accept and match gifts received through the summer of 2010.

6) Is a gift to YSI a sound investment? I thought you were having financial problems.

YSI is a 57-year old organization that has delivered hands-on science programming to more than 1.5 million children since its inception. It runs according to a sound long-term financial plan.

In 2008, YSI was hit hard by the economic downturn and asked the community for help. In 12 weeks, more than 1,000 donors gave more than \$300,000 to help us regain our financial footing. YSI closed its fiscal year on 9/30/09 on budget and in the black.

We are back on track with our long-term financial goals and well positioned for long-term sustainability. Revenues from community donations are part of that long term financial plan.

7) Do you have other donations?

Yes, YSI has obtained financial support from a number of organizations. Those who have most recently demonstrated their faith in the strength and value of YSI by donating major gifts include the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Myra Reinhard Family Foundation, SanDisk, Xilinx, IBM, National Semiconductor, the City of San Jose and others.

8) Is my donation tax-deductable?

YSI is an independent not-for-profit agency. YSI's nonprofit Tax ID (EIN) is 94-1265213. Your donation to YSI may be tax-deductable as indicated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check with your personal tax consultant for specific advice.

9) What happens to my donation if you don't reach your \$125,000 goal?

It is our intention to leverage this generous donation for maximum benefit to the organization, and we believe that our supporters and potential donors will be excited about

this opportunity to have their gifts matched! We therefore fully expect to reach or exceed our campaign goal.

In any event, our anonymous donors have agreed to match all funds raised for this campaign, up to a total maximum of \$125,000. If you make a donation within the allocated time period (e.g. by May 31) then it will be matched on a 1:1 basis, regardless of the total funds raised, up to \$125,000.

10) What happens to the challenge grant if you don't meet your \$125,000 goal?

We believe that our supporters will be excited with this opportunity to leverage their gifts and double the impact. In any event, however, our donor has agreed to match all funds raised through this campaign, up to a total maximum of \$125,000.

We cannot speculate as to the donor's potential action beyond what has been specified in the current agreement.

11) How does YSI pay for its programs?

YSI financial model assumes 50% fee-based income obtained mainly through summer camps, field trips, in-school and after-school science programming, and proceeds from its Thrift and Gift store.

Community donations remain critical to our ability to deliver programs, making up 50% of our revenues, and enabling us to keep our programs affordable for schools.

12) I've heard that schools don't have any money to spend. Why does YSI charge for its programs?

YSI must charge for its programs to enable us to maintain our ability to serve, but we work hard to keep our fees manageable for clients. That's why donations are critical to our ability to serve. We continually work with teachers and schools to keep our programs financially accessible.

13) Does YSI provide services to Title One schools? Are they charged the same fees as other schools?

YSI offers tiered program fees based on the number of programs booked, and discounts for early registration. And yes, Title One schools receive an additional tiered discount.

Nearly half of the students we reach through our science programming are identified as disadvantaged, either economically or academically.

14) Do you provide scholarships for children who can't otherwise afford to attend your camps and afterschool programs?

Yes, through the generosity of our donors, we are able to provide scholarships to those in need.

15) How many kids does YSI serve?

YSI serves 30,000 children every year with science programs delivered at four natural park sites in the valley: Alum Rock in East San Jose, Sanborn in Saratoga, Vasona in Los Gatos, and Redwood Grove in Los Altos. Almost half of the students YSI serves are academically or economically at-risk.

During the school year, YSI instructors also bring programming directly into classrooms throughout the county. Additionally, YSI offers family Science Safaris and community events throughout the year.

16) How are YSI programs delivered?

YSI delivers school and community programs, family events, summer science camps, and after-school programs at its Science and Nature Centers at Alum Rock Park in East San Jose, Sanborn Park in Saratoga, and Vasona Park in Los Gatos, at Redwood Grove in Los Altos, and in schools throughout Silicon Valley and the Peninsula.