

Sonoran Sky Elementary School
Principal's Challenge
2020 - 2021

Dear Sonoran Sky Families,

Are you ready to take the Challenge? *The Principal's Challenge* is an opportunity for students to participate in fun learning activities about topics that pique their individual interests. Students decide to participate simply for the challenge and the joy of learning. Summer is a perfect time to complete the Principal's Challenge. The Challenge is a great way to keep your mind moving and learning while you are away from school for the summer.

Here are the basic rules of the Principal's Challenge:

- 1) Chose a topic you want to learn more about.

- 2) Work to plan a number of individual activities based on the investigation of this topic. Information about each individual activity should be recorded on an activity log sheet (included in this packet). Make sure to choose a variety of fun activities, and make sure they relate to the topic.

- 3) When finished with the activities, complete the title page, which explains the project. Then assemble the title page, all the activity logs sheets, and any supporting materials into a 3 ring binder. Make sure to pay attention to neatness when preparing the final project.

- 4) Turn in the completed binder by Friday, January 15th, 2021.

- 5) Awards will be provided as follows:

10 - 24 activities	- Certificate / Lunch
25 or more	- Special "Principal's Challenge" Prize

I look forward to reviewing your projects and expect to learn much in the process.
Have a wonderful summer,

Robert Dawson
Principal

POSSIBLE TOPICS
(These are simply examples and you are by no means limited to the topics listed here.)

airplanes	alternative energy	animals
archaeology	architecture	Arizona
art	athletes	artists
baseball	basketball	birds
cactus	cameras	camping
candy	cards	careers
clothing	cities	circus
continents	countries	cowboys
dance	deserts	desserts
diseases	earth	earthquakes
electricity	explorers	FBI
Fire Department	flowers	food
government	hobbies	holidays
houses	human body	insects
inventions	law	machines
magnets	maps	medicine
military	mountains	motorcycles
music	musicians	mysteries
names	National Parks	Native Americans
oceans	paper making	photography
piano	Police Department	pollution
planets	plants	presidents
rocks and minerals	schools	scientists
space	sports	states
stamps	theatre	tornadoes
transportation	trees	volcanoes

Some activities to consider when investigating your topic:

- reading a book
- researching on the Internet (**This should include a student written summary of Internet research material, not simply printed material**)
- visiting a related place
- creating a project
- writing a report, song, or poem
- taking photographs
- teaching the information to someone else
- collecting information
- collecting related items
- playing/creating a game
- watching a movie, play, performance, or program
- conducting an interview
- volunteering in a related activity
- drawing pictures or making a model (take a picture for your binder)
- developing a collage
- writing a letter
- use your imagination - this is just a sample list!

If you are planning on visiting a place that pertains to your study, some examples of activities that you may want to complete are:

- Calling to arrange a tour
- Conducting an interview
- Taking the tour
- Reading an article about the place you are visiting
- Writing a 1 paragraph summary about your visit
- Sending a thank you note for the visit

Just the FAQ's!

The Principal's Challenge is a great building block in learning to organize and present the results of a student's hard work. Any topic, no matter what it might be, can be presented in an organized and interesting fashion. Included below are the requirements necessary to organize your project, along with several ideas on how to present your other activities.

What happens after I turn in my project?

A committee reviews each project to see that the requirements have been met. The Challenge may then be reviewed by your teachers to make sure your best effort has been given. Finally, the Principal reads through every Challenge and takes into account the requirements, the teacher notes, and then makes his own comments. Your project will be returned to you before the end of the year. Congratulations! You accepted a challenge and saw it all the way through!

What if I just came to Sonoran Sky in the 4th grade, can I still participate?

Yes! All students are encouraged to take part and accept the Challenge! If you are new to Sonoran Sky, we take that into account. If you participate your first year and each year thereafter through 6th grade, you are eligible for a special participation prize (minimum of 3 years).

What if I only started taking the Challenge in 2nd grade, but I was still here in Kindergarten and 1st Grade?

We waive Kindergarten although it is still highly encouraged. Even though you did not do one in 1st grade, you are still eligible to receive the yearly awards each year. The special participation prize given in 6th grade is for those who completed a Challenge each year they attended Sonoran Sky.

Can I do it on any subject, or must it be from the list included with the Challenge?

You may do it on any topic you wish. Those listed are suggested topics only. Many are topics that you cover in school in specific grades, and are only suggestions. If you are taking a trip, or wanting to learn about something not on the list – do it! And have a great time doing it!

Do I have to do it all by myself, or can my family participate?

We want you to come up with a topic that you want to know more about. We also want you to have fun! And that means your parents, grandparents, friends, and others may participate as well. For example, maybe you visit a museum or something related when you visit your grandparents. Collect some information, take a picture with them, and write a report or story on what you did and what you learned. Maybe your parents spot a news article in the paper and save it for you. You can mount it, highlight it and summarize what the article says and how it helps you with your subject. This counts as 3 activities.

If we do something in school on my topic, can I include it in my Challenge?

You may include it for the sake of keeping interesting information about your subject, but we do not include it in the activity count or part of your project so there is no need to include it on your learning log.

Do I have to start at the beginning of the school year, or can I start anytime?

You may start at anytime. We give you this information before school is out so you can use the summer to do some really neat activities that you may not be able to do during the school year. But if you decide in the middle of the school year to participate, that's great too! In fact, if you decide to do it a month before it's due, you can do that as well. However, we do recommend that you treat this as an adventure and take the time to be creative and do many different activities to learn about your topic.

Do I have to hand write my project, or can my parents help me write it? Can I type it?

We encourage all students to complete your own work. However, for Kindergarten through 2nd grade, your parents may help you with the title page, activity logs and labeling. For grades 3-6, students must complete the project themselves, either by handwriting, typing or a combination of both. Remember: although you may have done family activities regarding your subject, it is your project. So you need to let us know what you did and what you learned.

Can I use the Internet?

Yes, we encourage the use of the Internet with parental supervision. There are many wonderful sites to help you learn about your topic. However, printing off the information is not the same as reading it, highlighting key points, summarizing, and writing in your own words what you liked about the site and how it helped you learn more about your topic. If you want to print off a page or so, that's fine, but it's not necessary to print off 20 pages and do nothing with it.

What if I find 20 news articles that I want to include? Is that 20 activities?

If they pertain to your topic and help you learn something, then include them. For each article to be included as a separate activity, you must complete one activity log per article. But remember, you must show that you have completed a variety of activities.

What if I still have questions?

You are encouraged to talk to classmates who have previously taken part in the Principal's Challenge. They have some exciting topics they have studied and you will find they are very enthusiastic to share their work with you.

Most of all..... Enjoy the process of learning!

Once more, for the record... a few important points

Specific Challenge Components:

1. **Title Page** – Make sure to complete fully.
2. **Activity Log Sheets** – Each activity must be recorded on ONE portion of the activity log sheet. You can fit 2 activities on one activity log sheet. Please do not cut apart the activity log sheets.

Example:

#4 Name: Doug Kenyon

Activity: Underwater Life

Date: July 27, 2019

What I did: I went snorkeling in the ocean and saw 5 different fish.

I learned: there are many kinds of life underwater.

3. **Supporting Materials** - Make sure to include supporting materials that help give more information about the activities you chose. Supporting materials may include:
 - Pictures
 - Drawings
 - Event programs
 - Maps
 - Pamphlets
 - Website Info
 - Tickets
 - Souvenirs
4. **Final Project** - All items must be in a bound notebook, preferably 3-ring binder. Please send pictures of large projects rather than sending in the project itself.

Use your imagination! What made your project interesting for you? Did you make it clear as to what you did and what you learned? Will the reader learn something from your hard work and organized presentation?

Your entries do not have to be long, but they should show some effort and include appropriate detail. You are simply asked to show that you have learned something and that you have enjoyed your learning.

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Title Page

(Include this page in the front of your Principal's Challenge binder)

Name _____

Homeroom Teacher _____ Grade Level _____

Title of your Principal's Challenge _____

Number of Activities you have completed _____

Have you completed a Learning Log for every activity? _____

Circle all of the years you have completed a Principal's Challenge.

K 1 2 3 4 5 6

Are you proud of your project? _____

What was your favorite activity? _____

Did your family learn too? _____

Do you feel you did your very best? _____

What would you like me to know about your project?

Activity Log Sheet

Activity # _____ Date _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):

Activity # _____ Date _____

For this activity I... (describe what you did):

What did you learn? (Be specific and provide details):

(You will need multiple copies of this form to document each activity)