

# CENTENNIAL CHALLENGES

The **Centennial Challenges** supports the NASA Strategic Plan goals 5 and 6.

*Enable program and institutional capabilities to conduct NASA's aeronautics and space activities.*

*Share NASA with the public, educators, and students to provide opportunities to participate in our Mission, foster innovation, and contribute to a strong national economy.*

This is done by educating, inspiring and motivating the public. Getting citizen inventors and students to compete in a challenge helps train our future workforce, increase awareness of science & engineering and provides a culture of inclusion not exclusion in the world of technology.

Technology expositions and student level challenge competitions are encouraged for each Centennial Challenge event Sample Return Robot being the latest on June 16, 2012.

# Outreach Partners



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
1865  
WPI

Sample Return Robot Challenge

[www.nasa.gov/robot](http://www.nasa.gov/robot)

The poster features a close-up of a robotic gripper on a lunar surface, with a rock being held. Logos for NASA and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) are visible.



[nightrover.org](http://nightrover.org)



Green Flight Challenge

2011

Sponsored by  
Google

CAFE  
FOUNDATION

[go.usa.gov/g4fv](http://go.usa.gov/g4fv)

The poster shows a green and white aircraft in flight and on the ground. It includes logos for the Green Flight Challenge, Google, and the CAFE Foundation.



[www.nasa.gov/challenges](http://www.nasa.gov/challenges)



[www.facebook.com/nasacc](http://www.facebook.com/nasacc)



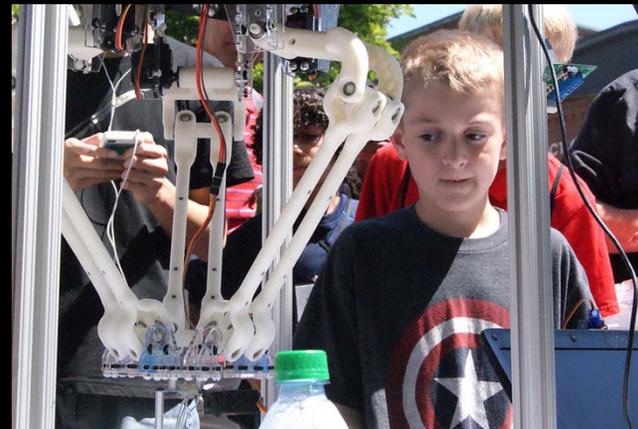
@NASAprize

# SAMPLE RETURN ROBOT

**In June 2012, teams competed for \$1.5 million at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.**

The challenge was to build an autonomous robot that could navigate a natural landscape and find, sort and collect samples within a set period of time.

The competition was paired with a technology festival that saw 7,000 attendees. Eleven teams registered for the competition and five participated at the event. There was not a cash prize winner this time, so the competition is scheduled to run again in June 2013.



# Team Bios

... and the Challenger is  
[go.usa.gov/g4A3](http://go.usa.gov/g4A3)

Sample Return Robot 2012 teams



University of Waterloo



Team SpacePRIDE



University of Pennsylvania



[www.nasa.gov/challenges](http://www.nasa.gov/challenges)



[www.facebook.com/nasacc](http://www.facebook.com/nasacc)



@NASAprize

# After the Challenge

... and THEN what happened  
[go.usa.gov/g4vT](http://go.usa.gov/g4vT)

**LaserMotive**



**Flagsuit LLC**



**Masten Space Systems**



**Final Frontier Design**

[www.nasa.gov/challenges](http://www.nasa.gov/challenges)



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