

[https://www.hjnews.com/news/education/student-designed-electric-karts-to-race-in-tooele/article\\_518c3fe5-406d-5cdf-8e21-3deec38cd8bb.html](https://www.hjnews.com/news/education/student-designed-electric-karts-to-race-in-tooele/article_518c3fe5-406d-5cdf-8e21-3deec38cd8bb.html)

## Student-designed electric karts to race in Tooele

By Erick L Graham Wood staff writer Apr 24, 2019



Students with the Utah State team compete in a previous year's Utah Greenpower Electric Car Challenge. Submitted photo/USU

Schools from Cache Valley and all across Utah will come together for the 2019 Greenpower Electric Car Challenge on Thursday. The 24 teams attending the one-day event have spent months building single-seat electric cars to race at the Utah Motorsports Campus in Tooele County.

"Students have to be up at the track at 4:30 in the morning and have been working hard for this event," said the Utah State University team adviser, Taylor White.

White advises freshmen in the Gear Up program at USU, Bridgerland Applied Technical College, Weber and other northern colleges.



Six local teams will be competing from Edith Bowen Lab School, Mt. Logan Middle School, Logan High School and USU STARS. The USU team will be showing a car that can charge wirelessly from the roadway while in motion.

Students and mentors spent four hours a week preparing for the event.

The Greenpower Challenge provides students with an opportunity to use real-life engineering and design skills. The students test and evaluate refinements to the car that increase range on a single battery charge, then they use computer-aided design programs and data analytic techniques to produce optimal results.

"This is an annual event for the past five years that came about because we wanted to give the students a way to explore engineering and STEM related fields," said Jim Dorward, director of USU STARS Gear Up.

Dorward said that the focus of Gear Up is to help first-generation students get the resources needed to go to college.

"We help them with ACT scores, applying to college, understanding tuition and more," White said.

The USU STARS program is part of the school of teacher education and leadership in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services at USU. It is a federal grant-funded student program that partners with participating schools in central and northern Utah, and Nevada.

"The program is an all-inclusive experience from middle school to college," White said. "This challenge is one of our biggest events of the year and it attracts a lot of attention because it helps teach life lessons, engineering lessons that kids can take to college."

Dorward said that promoting STEM activities is important because it opens up a world of possibility for students who may not know what they want to do in college or may not believe they have what it takes to go into an engineering field.

Teams participating in Thursday's challenge will be scored on the number of continuous laps made and gain extra points for being the car to make the fastest lap.

---

Erick Wood

