

990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-

0047 2024

Open to Public Inspection

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations) Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2024 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2024, and ending 12-31-2024

- B Check if applicable: Address change, Name change, Initial return, Final return/terminated, Amended return, Application pending

C Name of organization: Challenger Center for Space Science Education. Doing business as: Challenger Center. Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address): 750 First Street NE Ste 1050. Room/suite: . City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code: Washington, DC 200028161

D Employer identification number: 76-0192067. E Telephone number: (202) 827-1580. G Gross receipts \$ 6,582,332

F Name and address of principal officer: Michael Kincaid, 750 First Street NE Ste 1050, Washington, DC 200028161

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? No. H(b) Are all subordinates included? No. H(c) Group exemption number

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3)

J Website: www.challenger.org

K Form of organization: Corporation

L Year of formation: 1986. M State of legal domicile: TX

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance

Revenue

Expenses

Net Assets or Fund Balances

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include mission statement, membership counts, revenue (6,582,332), expenses (6,646,164), and net assets (466,119).

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Sign Here: Signature of officer Michael Kincaid, President & Executive Director. Date: 2025-08-13

Paid Preparer Use Only: Preparer's name Rogers & Company PLLC, address 8300 Boone Boulevard Suite 600, Vienna, VA 22182. Date: 2025-08-13. PTIN: P00639819.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See Instructions. Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

Engage students in dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities that strengthen knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), inspire them to pursue careers in these fields, and enable them to practice important skills.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

Yes No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

Yes No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ **5,857,688** including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ **3,351,057**)

Educational programming: Challenger Center offers interactive, hands-on, simulation-based experiences that allow students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students work in teams and practice critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they navigate through simulated STEM-themed missions. Aligned with national education standards and informed by real scientific data, our programs at Challenger Learning Centers and in classrooms excite, inspire, and prepare students to become lifelong STEM learners and pursue STEM careers.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.)
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses **5,857,688**

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, Yes, No. Rows include questions 1 through 21 regarding organizational requirements and reporting.

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

		Yes	No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	Yes	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a</i>		No
24b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
24c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
24d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		No
25b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		No
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons?		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see the Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
28a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, or substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		No
28b	A family member of any individual described in line 28a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		No
28c	A 35% controlled entity of one or more individuals and/or organizations described in line 28a or 28b? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		No
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions?		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3?		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1</i>		No
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?		No
35b	If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		No
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations on Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O.	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance
 Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable		
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included on line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable		
1c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

Table with 17 main rows and multiple sub-rows (a-e). Columns include question text, response boxes (e.g., 2a, 2b, 25), and Yes/No indicators. Questions cover topics like employee reporting, foreign accounts, prohibited transactions, and organizational activities.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure. For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI



Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 main columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members... 1b Enter the number of voting members... 2 Did any officer, director, trustee... 3 Did the organization delegate control... 4 Did the organization make any significant changes... 5 Did the organization become aware... 6 Did the organization have members... 7a Did the organization have members... 7b Are any governance decisions... 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document... 8a The governing body? 8b Each committee... 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee...

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 main columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters... 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies... 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy... 11b Describe on Schedule O the process... 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy... 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees... 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor... 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy... 14 Did the organization have a written document retention... 15 Did the process for determining compensation... 15a The organization's CEO... 15b Other officers or key employees... 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to... 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy...

Section C. Disclosure

Table with 2 main columns: Question, Answer. Row 17: List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed. Row 18: Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023... Row 19: Describe in Schedule O whether... Row 20: State the name, address, and telephone number...

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See the instructions for definition of "key employee."

- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (box 5 of Form W-2, box 6 of Form 1099-MISC, and/or box 1 of Form 1099-NEC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

See the instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee;	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) Dr Lance Bush President & CEO (through 5/17/24)	40.00	X		X			353,442	0	12,549	
(2) Mr Michael Kincaid President/Executive Director	40.00	X		X			21,458	0	0	
(3) Mr Joshua Izenberg Chair	2.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(4) Mr Warren M Boley Jr Immediate Past Chair	2.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(5) Dr Charles Resnik Vice Chair	2.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(6) Dr June Scobee Rodgers Founding Chair	2.00	X		X			0	0	0	
(7) Mr Darryl Britt Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(8) Mr Ron Bush Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(9) Mr Robert Curbeam Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(10) Ms Diane Flynn Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(11) Dr Leslee Gilbert Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(12) Ms Robyn Kravit Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(13) Ms Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(14) Mr Michael Reeser Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(15) Ms Michelynn Woodard Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(16) Dr Victoria Bastecki-Perez Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	
(17) Ms Kirsten Hibbard Director	2.00	X					0	0	0	

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)					(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee;	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee			
(18) Capt Wendy Lawrence Director	2.00	X					0	0	0
(19) Ms Shiron Gaines Secretary & EA to President	40.00			X			54,373	0	0
(20) Mr Steven Goldberg Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer	20.00			X			97,663	0	0
(21) Chelsea Rosasco EA to President & CEO	40.00			X			7,631	0	474
(22) Michael Cruz Sr Director Software & Product Dev.	40.00					X	124,765	0	8,710
(23) Valerie Anne Fitton-Kane VP Dev., Partnerships & Strategy	40.00					X	138,980	0	7,023
(24) Kevin Harrell VP Education	40.00					X	133,023	0	10,075
(25) William J Seilnacht Senior Director, Network Support	40.00					X	119,241	0	3,688
(26) Lisa C Vernal VP Communications & Center Relations	40.00					X	146,245	0	10,228
1b Sub-Total									
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A									
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)						1,196,821	0	52,747	

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization **7**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		No
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	Yes	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
Mark Leisher 618 Center Point Way 83222 Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Video Production	112,335

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization **1**

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

Table with 5 columns: (A) Total revenue, (B) Related or exempt function revenue, (C) Unrelated business revenue, (D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514. Rows include Contributions, Gifts, Grants, and Other Amt Similar Amounts, Federated campaigns, Membership dues, Fundraising events, Related organizations, Government grants, All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts, Noncash contributions, and Total.

Table for Program Service Revenue with columns for Business Code, (A) Total revenue, (B) Related or exempt function revenue, (C) Unrelated business revenue, and (D) Revenue excluded from tax. Rows include Learning Centers, Conference, and Total.

Table for Other Revenue with columns for (A) Total revenue, (B) Related or exempt function revenue, (C) Unrelated business revenue, and (D) Revenue excluded from tax. Rows include Investment income, Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds, Royalties, Gross rents (Real/Personal), Net rental income, Gross amount from sales of assets, Net gain or loss, Gross income from fundraising events, Net income from fundraising events, Gross income from gaming activities, Net income from gaming activities, Gross sales of inventory, Net income from sales of inventory, and All other revenue.

Table for Other Revenue Misc Amt with columns for (A) Total revenue, (B) Related or exempt function revenue, (C) Unrelated business revenue, and (D) Revenue excluded from tax. Rows include Business Code, All other revenue, and Total.

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	547,590	325,452	156,035	66,103
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	1,688,390	1,003,469	481,102	203,819
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	92,162	54,697	24,066	13,399
9 Other employee benefits	326,826	193,997	86,179	46,650
10 Payroll taxes	165,080	97,989	43,545	23,546
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal				
c Accounting	24,798		24,798	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	2,535,246	2,337,147	139,765	58,334
12 Advertising and promotion				
13 Office expenses	460,974	236,457	218,311	6,206
14 Information technology	106,686	67,860	25,035	13,791
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	346,149		346,149	
17 Travel	250,319	242,490	6,872	957
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	45,798	29,235	15,913	650
20 Interest	1,909		1,909	
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	36,659		36,659	
23 Insurance	17,578	1,224	16,354	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a OH/indirect allocation	0	1,267,671	-1,384,344	116,673
b				
c				
d				
e All other expenses				
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	6,646,164	5,857,688	238,348	550,128
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash-non-interest-bearing	471,771	1	1,239,763
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	108,211	2	239
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net	175,080	3	0
	4 Accounts receivable, net	92,301	4	102,636
	5 Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	77,063	9	43,213
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 183,299		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 58,044	161,914	10c 125,255
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities	605,974	11	779,111
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	2,991,094	15	2,692,306
16 Total assets: Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33)	4,683,408	16	4,982,523	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	468,548	17	622,774
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue	467,579	19	807,144
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties	74,754	24	0
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17 - 24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	3,235,821	25	3,086,486
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	4,246,702	26	4,516,404
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.			
	27 Net assets without donor restrictions	-188,185	27	-301,372
	28 Net assets with donor restrictions	624,891	28	767,491
	Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 29 through 33.			
	29 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		29	
	30 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund		30	
	31 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		31	
	32 Total net assets or fund balances	436,706	32	466,119
33 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	4,683,408	33	4,982,523	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	6,582,332
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	6,646,164
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-63,832
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	436,706
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	93,245
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	10	466,119

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
c	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.	Yes	
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?	Yes	
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.	Yes	

Additional Data

Return to Form

Software ID:

Software Version:

Form 990, Special Condition Description:

Special Condition Description

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ **Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**

▶ **Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**

Name of the organization
Challenger Center for Space Science
Education

Employer identification number
76-0192067

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990).)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:

- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An agricultural research organization described in **170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land grant college of agriculture. See instructions. Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 12 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box on lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations _____
 - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
 (Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization failed to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grant.") . . .	2,922,444	3,539,807	1,878,531	2,576,844	3,224,171	14,141,797
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge..						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	2,922,444	3,539,807	1,878,531	2,576,844	3,224,171	14,141,797
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f) . . .						782,134
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						13,359,663

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4.	2,922,444	3,539,807	1,878,531	2,576,844	3,224,171	14,141,797
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	4,923	2,429	6,337	5,698	7,104	26,491
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on.						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						14,168,288
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	13,879,606

13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2024 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	94.290 %
15 Public support percentage for 2023 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	99.650 %

- 16a 33 1/3% support test—2024.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- b 33 1/3% support test—2023.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- 17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2024.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2023.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and **stop here.** Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization
- 18 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2020, (b) 2021, (c) 2022, (d) 2023, (e) 2024, (f) Total. Rows include: 1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received; 2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed; 3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business; 4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit; 5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit; 6 Total; 7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons; 7b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons; 8 Public support.

Section B. Total Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2020, (b) 2021, (c) 2022, (d) 2023, (e) 2024, (f) Total. Rows include: 9 Amounts from line 6; 10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources; 10b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975; 11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b; 12 Other income; 13 Total support; 14 First 5 years.

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

Table with 2 columns: Description, Percentage. Row 15: Public support percentage for 2024; Row 16: Public support percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 15.

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

Table with 2 columns: Description, Percentage. Row 17: Investment income percentage for 2024; Row 18: Investment income percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 17; Row 19a: 33 1/3% support tests-2024; Row 19b: 33 1/3% support tests-2023; Row 20: Private foundation.

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

		Yes	No
1	Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.		
2	Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).		
3a	Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.		
b	Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.		
c	Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.		
4a	Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes" and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.		
b	Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.		
c	Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.		
5a	Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI , including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).		
b	Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c	Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6	Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
7	Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).		
8	Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).		
9a	Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
b	Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
c	Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI .		
10a	Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer line 10b below.		
b	Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings).		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described on lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
11a		
b A family member of a person described on 11a above?		
11b		
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described on line 11a or 11b above? <i>If "Yes" to 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI</i>		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the officers, directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.</i>		
1		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.</i>		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).</i>		
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
1		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? <i>If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>		
2		
3 By reason of the relationship described in line 2 above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions):			
a <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a government entity (see instructions)			
2 Activities Test. Answer lines 2a and 2b below.			
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? <i>If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.</i>			
2a			
b Did the activities described on line 2a, above constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.</i>			
2b			
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer lines 3a and 3b below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? <i>If "Yes" or "No", provide details in Part VI.</i>			
3a			
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs and activities of each of its supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI. the role played by the organization in this regard.</i>			
3b			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1** Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (*explain in Part VI*). See instructions. All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income

(A) Prior Year

(B) Current Year
(optional)

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|--|
| 1 Net short-term capital gain | 1 | | |
| 2 Recoveries of prior-year distributions | 2 | | |
| 3 Other gross income (see instructions) | 3 | | |
| 4 Add lines 1 through 3 | 4 | | |
| 5 Depreciation and depletion | 5 | | |
| 6 Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions) | 6 | | |
| 7 Other expenses (see instructions) | 7 | | |
| 8 Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4) | 8 | | |

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount

(A) Prior Year

(B) Current Year
(optional)

- | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|--|
| 1 Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year): | 1 | | |
| a Average monthly value of securities | 1a | | |
| b Average monthly cash balances | 1b | | |
| c Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets | 1c | | |
| d Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c) | 1d | | |
| e Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (<i>explain in detail in Part VI</i>): | | | |
| 2 Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets | 2 | | |
| 3 Subtract line 2 from line 1d | 3 | | |
| 4 Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions). | 4 | | |
| 5 Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3) | 5 | | |
| 6 Multiply line 5 by 0.035 | 6 | | |
| 7 Recoveries of prior-year distributions | 7 | | |
| 8 Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6) | 8 | | |

Section C - Distributable Amount

Current Year

- | | | |
|--|----------|--|
| 1 Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A) | 1 | |
| 2 Enter 85% of line 1 | 2 | |
| 3 Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A) | 3 | |
| 4 Enter greater of line 2 or line 3 | 4 | |
| 5 Income tax imposed in prior year | 5 | |
| 6 Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions) | 6 | |

- 7** Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions)

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

(continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
1 Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1	
2 Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2	
3 Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3	
4 Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4	
5 Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - provide details in Part VI)	5	
6 Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions	6	
7 Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.	7	
8 Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions	8	
9 Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6	9	
10 Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	10	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2024	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2024
1 Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6			
2 Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2024 (reasonable cause required-- explain in Part VI). See instructions.			
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2024:			
a From 2019.			
b From 2020.			
c From 2021.			
d From 2022.			
e From 2023.			
f Total of lines 3a through e			
g Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
h Applied to 2024 distributable amount			
i Carryover from 2019 not applied (see instructions)			
j Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.			
4 Distributions for 2024 from Section D, line 7: \$			
a Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
b Applied to 2024 distributable amount			
c Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.			
5 Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2024, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. If the amount is greater than zero, explain in Part VI . See instructions.			
6 Remaining underdistributions for 2024. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. If the amount is greater than zero, explain in Part VI . See instructions.			
7 Excess distributions carryover to 2025. Add lines 3j and 4c.			
8 Breakdown of line 7:			
a Excess from 2020.			
b Excess from 2021.			
c Excess from 2022.			
d Excess from 2023.			
e Excess from 2024.			

Part VI Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Return Reference	Explanation

Additional Data

Return to Form

Software ID:

Software Version:

Schedule of Contributors

▶ Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.
 ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

Name of the organization Challenger Center for Space Science Education	Employer identification number 76-0192067
--	---

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

- Form 990 or 990-EZ
 - 501(c)() (enter number) organization
 - 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation
 - 527 political organization
- Form 990-PF
 - 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation
 - 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation
 - 501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.
Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

- For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or other property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

- For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33¹/₃% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000 or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.
- For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III.
- For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year ▶ \$ _____

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

Name of organization
 Challenger Center for Space Science
 Education

Employer identification number
 76-0192067

Part I

Contributors (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
RESTRICTED		\$ RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
-		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization
Challenger Center for Space Science
Education

Employer identification number

76-0192067

Part II Noncash Property (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____

Name of organization Challenger Center for Space Science Education	Employer identification number 76-0192067
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Part III Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c) (7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions of **\$1,000 or less** for the year. (Enter this information once. See instructions.) \$ _____
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee	
	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee	
	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee	
	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
	(e) Transfer of gift		
	Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee	
	_____	_____	
	_____	_____	

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SCHEDULE D
(Form 990)

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No. 1545-0047

(Rev. January 2025)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.**

▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Challenger Center for Space Science Education

Employer identification number

76-0192067

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? Yes No

6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? Yes No

Part II Conservation Easements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education) Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after July 25, 2006, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

b If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under FASB ASC 958 relating to these items:

a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____

b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a** Public exhibition
 - b** Scholarly research
 - c** Preservation for future generations
 - d** Loan or exchange programs
 - e** Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? . . . **Yes** **No**

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? **Yes** **No**
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? **Yes** **No**
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance	510,702	383,528	385,907	185,887	150,322
b Contributions	14,096	42,851	64,741	134,220	8,724
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses	117,035	84,323	-67,120	65,800	26,841
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance	641,833	510,702	383,528	385,907	185,887

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ 0 %
 - b** Permanent endowment ▶ 63.216 %
 - c** Term endowment ▶ 36.784 %
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

- (i)** Unrelated organizations
- (ii)** Related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		No
3a(ii)		No
3b		

- b** If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?
- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		183,299	58,044	125,255
e Other				

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).) . . . ▶ 125,255

Part VII Investments - Other Securities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other _____		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.)		

Part VIII Investments - Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 13.)		

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1) Right-of-use assets - operating leases	2,662,324
(2) Security deposit	29,982
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 15.)	2,692,306

Part X Other Liabilities.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
Lease liabilities - operating leases	3,086,486
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 25.)	3,086,486

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	6,698,427
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	93,245	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	22,850	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	116,095
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	6,582,332
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	6,582,332

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	6,669,014
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	22,850	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	22,850
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	6,646,164
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	6,646,164

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
Part V, Line 4:	Challenger Center's endowment funds include the Challenger Center Legacy Fund and the Sir Arthur C. Clarke Award for Innovation in Education Fund. The Challenger Center Legacy Fund was established in 2019 and earnings on this fund will be used to further the development and delivery of education programs. The Sir Arthur C. Clarke Award for Innovation in Education Fund was established in 2018 and earnings on this fund will be used to fund Sir Arthur C. Clarke Award for Innovation in Education.
Part X, Line 2:	Management has evaluated the Challenger Center's tax positions, and concluded that the Challenger Center's financial statements do not include any uncertain tax positions.

Additional Data

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Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
 ▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.**
 ▶ **Attach to Form 990.**
 ▶ **Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Challenger Center for Space Science
Education

Employer identification number
76-0192067

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

- 1a** Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.
- First-class or charter travel
 - Travel for companions
 - Tax idemnification and gross-up payments
 - Discretionary spending account
 - Housing allowance or residence for personal use
 - Payments for business use of personal residence
 - Health or social club dues or initiation fees
 - Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)

b If any of the boxes on Line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on Line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

- Compensation committee
- Independent compensation consultant
- Form 990 of other organizations
- Written employment contract
- Compensation survey or study
- Approval by the board or compensation committee

4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?

b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?

c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?

If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.

5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

a The organization?

b Any related organization?

If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

a The organization?

b Any related organization?

If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.

8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.

9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

	Yes	No
1b		
2		
4a	Yes	
4b		No
4c		No
5a		No
5b		No
6a		No
6b		No
7		No
8		No
9		

Part III Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
Part I, Line 4a	Dr. Lance Bush, President & CEO through 5/17/24, received twelve severance payments of \$14,312.75 totaling \$171,753 in calendar year 2024.
Form 990, Schedule J, Part II	Challenger Center for Space Science Education has a professional employer organization (PEO) arrangement with Insperity. All compensation and benefits are administered through the PEO.

Additional Data

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SCHEDULE O**(Form 990)**(Rev. January 2025)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ****Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.****Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.****Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**Open to Public
Inspection**Name of the organization
Challenger Center for Space Science
Education**Employer identification number**

76-0192067

Return Reference	Explanation
Part V, Lines 2a & b, Part VII, Part IX Compensation & Benefits Reporting:	Challenger Center for Space Science Education has a professional employer organization (PEO) arrangement with Insperty.
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 11b	The draft 990 is provided to all board members prior to filing the return.
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 12c	Each director signs a Conflict of Interest form annually. The Conflict of Interest forms are reviewed by the Board Chair and President. Any disclosed or discovered conflict is discussed among Board members while the interested person is absent. If necessary, the interested person may be asked to resign from board service.
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 15a	Compensation of the President and other key employees is set by the Board of Directors, who use comparability data from similar organizations.
Form 990, Part VI, Section C, line 19	The governing documents, policies, and financial statements are available upon request. The Annual Report and Public Disclosure Copy of the Form 990 are posted to the organization's website.
Form 990, Part IX, line 11g	Installations: Program service expenses 1,859,465. Management and general expenses 0. Fundraising expenses 0. Total expenses 1,859,465. Contractors, consultants and other professional fees: Program service expenses 477,682. Management and general expenses 139,765. Fundraising expenses 58,334. Total expenses 675,781.
Form 990, Part XII, Line 2c:	Challenger Center's Audit Finance Committee is responsible for oversight of the audit, including selection of the independent accountant. The process is consistent with previous years.

Additional Data

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