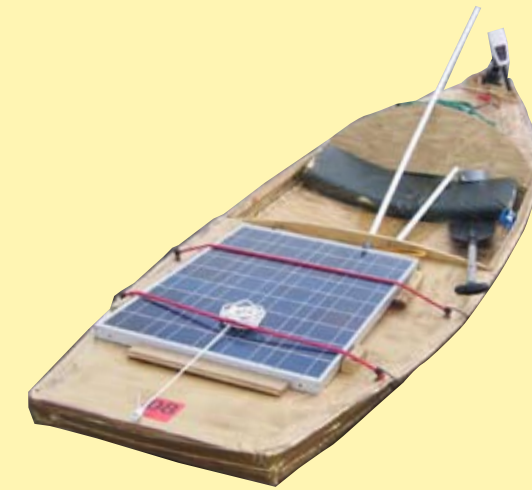


# ENGAGE youth in solar energy



## Teams cruise on sun power

Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) invites student-teacher teams, families and interested individuals to take part in the annual Solar Boat Regatta. Experience the thrill of competition and the pride that comes with inventing something useful, forward-thinking and fun. Learn more at [www.mnrenewables.com](http://www.mnrenewables.com).



## The ride is electric

Most boats in the regatta use a simple solar-electric system. Components include an 85-watt solar electric panel that transforms solar radiation into electrical energy, which charges a 12-volt battery that drives a 12-volt motor that turns the propeller. That's sailing on sun power!



*We put our boat in the water, turned on the motor and glided away running on sunlight.*

—Solar boat team member



## Design is minds-on

Designing a solar-powered boat requires teams to learn about energy-systems technology, hull design and materials science. The goal is to engineer a one-passenger solar-powered craft that is innovative, fast and agile.

Designers research hull forms.



Spectators cheer racers on to the finish.

## Racing is all hands and minds on deck

Teams compete in four events—Maneuverability, Speed, Endurance and Capacity to run on direct solar power without battery support. Crews must demonstrate their knowledge of seamanship and marine safety.



# SCREEN



## Building is hands-on

In building a solar-powered boat, teams learn how to use tools and materials with skill and imagination. Judges rate teams on their level of craftsmanship, creative painting and project documentation.

A special paint job adds the final touch.



A beaming crew member accepts a trophy for her team.

## Winners gain glory, skill and confidence

Trophies are awarded to the best boat and runner up in each class. The best in each class also receives a cash prize. Ask past solar-boat teams what they remember most, and they'll tell you about the thrill of the race, having fun with friends and creating a real solar-powered boat.

Photos loaned by MRES and Urban Boat Builders



## Learn more

To find out more about the Solar Boat Regatta—and other ways to explore the power of renewable energy—contact the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES).

[www.mnrenewables.com](http://www.mnrenewables.com)