



SOLAR OVENS

With the Louisiana Office of Energy



The Louisiana Energy Office will provide all materials needed to construct solar ovens at no cost! We are prohibited from purchasing food items, so please ensure you have all ingredients needed for the s'mores or nachos. If you have chosen the virtual option, we will ship the kits to you prior to your visit. Please see below for a list of supplies needed.

To Build:	A marker or pen, scissors, ruler, lots of tape! You may want to have a box cutter on hand to help the students cut the boxes. If your visit is in-person, we will bring these supplies for you to use.
For S'mores:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graham crackers (one big rectangle per person)• Chocolate (a mini Hershey bar or 2-3 squares on a big bar)• Marshmallows• Please be sure to separate the items into individual bags before your visit, this will help cut down on time needed to hand out.
For Nachos:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tortilla chips (any brand is just fine, though you may want to consider buying individual bags to cut down on time)• Finely shredded cheese (1/2 cup-1 cup per person)• Optional:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Chili◦ Jalapenos◦ Salsa
Space:	We will need an indoor area with tables big enough to spread out a bit to put the ovens together. An outdoor area with little to no traffic with plenty of sunshine.
Time Needed:	It will take at least 30-45 minutes to build, depending on the age of the students and how much help they will require. The s'mores will "cook" in 5-10 minutes and the nachos will need about 10-15 minutes to melt the cheese. Cloudy and colder days may require a little more time outside.



What to Expect

Building

We'll guide students step by step through the construction of their solar ovens, using examples along the way to make sure everyone understands the process. To keep things running smoothly, we recommend separating the s'mores and nacho ingredients ahead of time. Building the ovens can sometimes take longer than expected, so having an extra set of hands is always helpful if you think your students may need more time.

Cooking

We'll need a sunny space with plenty of room to spread out. For safety, please choose a low-traffic or no-traffic area. Since the ovens will need time to cook, it's a great idea to have outdoor activities—like footballs, frisbees, or bubbles—on hand to keep students engaged while they wait.

Cooking times vary: the chocolate on s'mores usually melts in about 5–10 minutes, while nacho cheese takes closer to 15–20 minutes. Once everything is ready, be sure to give students time to enjoy the treats they created—after all, tasting their success is the best part! It's also the perfect moment for photos.



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