



3225 N. Washington St.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Firewheel STEM Institute, ASU, and Partners Expand Annual Toy Jeep Hack Event to Three States
Volunteers will adapt 16 ride-on toy cars for children with disabilities in Arizona, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

CHANDLER, Ariz. — October 3, 2026 — Firewheel STEM Institute, formerly the Si Se Puede Foundation STEM Center, will join Arizona State University and partners across the country for an expanded 5th annual Toy Jeep Hack event that will provide customized ride-on toy cars for children with physical disabilities.

This year's event will take place simultaneously in Chandler, Arizona; Gainesville, Florida; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Volunteers will adapt 16 toy cars in total: five in Arizona, five in Florida, and six in Pennsylvania. Each car will be modified to meet the mobility needs of an individual child, helping expand access to affordable, joyful, and developmentally important mobility.

Pediatric mobility devices can cost tens of thousands of dollars and may take years to receive. By adapting commercially available ride-on toy cars, volunteers can create low-cost mobility devices in a single day, giving children greater independence, confidence, and opportunities for play.

The Arizona event will be hosted at Firewheel STEM Institute in Chandler, with ASU providing funding support. Firewheel will provide local event space, tools, and support for the Arizona vehicle adaptations. Nonprofit Magical Motors will help guide the adaptive design process and support the selection and modification of vehicles for participating children.

The national expansion is made possible through collaboration with ASU, Magical Motors, The Boeing Company, the University of Florida, P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School, the University of Pennsylvania, The Ripple Co., and other community partners.

Nearly 100 volunteers will participate across the three sites, including students from high school robotics teams Degrees of Freedom and Roaring Riptide, the college robotics team Desert WAVE, students from Arizona State University, the University of Florida, Sante Fe College, and the University of Pennsylvania, as well as volunteers from industry. High school volunteers represent 12 different schools.

Arizona Event Schedule — October 3, 2026

8:30 a.m. — Welcome and check-in

9:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. Orientation for new volunteers

9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. — Volunteers work on vehicles

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. — Lunch for volunteers and families of car recipients

1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. — Vehicle modifications completed and children test drive their adapted vehicles

The Toy Jeep Hack event reflects a growing national effort to make mobility more accessible for children with disabilities while giving students hands-on STEM experience with real-world impact.



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About Firewheel STEM Institute

Firewheel STEM Institute, formerly the Si Se Puede Foundation STEM Center, provides students with hands-on STEM learning experiences that build technical skills, creativity, and community engagement. Learn more at <https://www.firewheel.org/>.

About Magical Motors

Magical Motors is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children with disabilities access customized ride-on vehicles that support mobility, independence, and play. Learn more at <https://magicalmotors.org/home>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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