building an informational app, including maps to benefit hikers on the state’s trails.

When finished, the mobile app called Hike-About will be a guide to trails, highlighting popular routes, hazards, vistas, flora and fauna, including warnings in areas inhabited by mountain lions, ticks, or poison oak.

“The Innovative App Challenge provided an amazing opportunity for our middle school students to go beyond the Technology Lab on campus and into the real world, imagining solutions to real problems in our community and then partnering with Verizon to bring the innovative idea to fruition,” said Open Window Head of School Jeff Stroebel.

For the 2014-2015 Innovative App Challenge, teams of five-to-seven students and a faculty advisor from any public, private or parochial middle school can enter until November 14.