

Science Research Competitions

Updated and verified October 7, 2026 for the 2026–2027 school year

Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS)

Program Name: Regeneron Science Talent Search (run by Society for Science)
URL: <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/>
Location: Finals Week in Washington, DC
Dates: STS 2027 application opened June 1, 2026 and is due Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 8 p.m. ET. Top 300 Scholars announced January 7, 2027; Top 40 Finalists announced January 21, 2027; Finals Week March 11–17, 2027.

Eligibility

Students must be in their last year of secondary school in the US. Some US citizens attending school abroad are also eligible. Students must have completed a science research project independently; team projects are not eligible, and for 2027 a team project may not be “split” and entered as individual projects. Research must follow human and animal research rules. Students may not use generative AI to write application answers, draft the Research Report, or generate citations.

Prizes

Top 300 Scholars receive \$2,000 each, and their schools receive \$2,000 per Scholar. The Top 40 Finalists receive at least \$25,000 and a trip to Washington, DC. Total awards are \$3.1 million each year.

Place	Place	Place
1st – \$250,000	5th – \$90,000	9th – \$50,000
2nd – \$175,000	6th – \$80,000	10th – \$40,000
3rd – \$150,000	7th – \$70,000	Remaining 30 finalists – \$25,000 each
4th – \$100,000	8th – \$60,000	

Other Information

Applications are sent directly to Society for Science – there are no regional fairs or other competitions needed to qualify. There are no quotas by category or geographic region, and no cutoff for GPA or test scores. The application is entirely online: short-answer and essay responses are entered in the online system; the Research Report and any IRB / IACUC approvals are uploaded; and educator recommendations, project recommendations and the High School Report (with transcript) are requested through the online recommendation system. Regeneron’s sponsorship commitment runs through 2027.

New Mexico → Enter on the national site.

What changed

- Added the exact 2027 deadline (November 5, 2026, 8 p.m. ET) and the 2027 announcement and Finals Week dates.
- Added the 2027 rule that team projects cannot be split into individual entries, and the generative-AI restriction.
- Prize amounts confirmed unchanged. Fixed typo (“cutoff got GPA” → “cutoff for GPA”).
- Not re-verified: the entrant gift list (digital badges, t-shirts, stickers, Science News subscription). Removed from the main text; check the STS site if you want to mention it.

Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

Program Name: Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (run by Society for Science)
URL: <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>
Location: Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA (2027)
Dates: May 8–14, 2027

Eligibility

Students must be selected by a Society-affiliated science fair, be in grades 9–12 (or equivalent), and not have reached age 20 on or before May 1 preceding ISEF. Each student may enter only one project, covering no more than 12 months of continuous research. Team projects may have no more than three members, and all members must meet ISEF eligibility. Students may compete in only one ISEF-affiliated fair, except when advancing from an affiliated regional fair to an affiliated state/national fair. Check the current International Rules for the earliest allowed research start date for 2027.

Prizes

Finalists compete for more than \$7 million in awards, prizes and scholarships.

- **Grand Awards** – presented in each of the 22 ISEF categories: 1st \$6,000; 2nd \$2,400; 3rd \$1,200; 4th \$600 (team members split awards equally).
- **Top Awards** (selected from 1st Award winners):
 - George D. Yancopoulos Innovator Award – \$100,000
 - Regeneron Young Scientist Awards (2) – \$75,000 each
 - Gordon E. Moore Award for Positive Outcomes for Future Generations – \$50,000
 - F. Thomson Leighton and Bonnie Berger Family Prize for STEM Excellence – \$50,000
 - Craig R. Barrett Award for Innovation; H. Robert Horvitz Prize for Fundamental Research; Peggy Scripps Award for Science Communication; Mary Sue Coleman Award for Life Science Innovation & Impact – \$10,000 each
 - Dudley R. Herschbach SIYSS Award (3) and EU Contest for Young Scientists Award (2)
- **Special Awards** – organizations representing a wide variety of scientific disciplines provide awards, scholarships, internships and other prizes to hundreds of finalists.

New Mexico → Qualify through a regional fair and the 75th Annual NM State Science & Engineering Fair, April 9–10, 2027 at New Mexico Tech, Socorro (registration and fee deadline March 31, 2027): <https://sites.google.com/student.nmt.edu/nmsef/home>

What changed

- Dates and location updated from May 2024 to May 8–14, 2027 in Los Angeles. URL updated (old “intel-isef” address).
- Prizes rewritten: the top award is now the \$100,000 Yancopoulos Innovator Award; the Moore Award is \$50,000 (was listed as the \$75,000 top award); Young Scientist Awards are \$75,000 (was \$50,000).
- Grand Awards are now \$6,000 / \$2,400 / \$1,200 / \$600 across 22 categories (was \$3,000 / \$1,500 / \$1,000 / \$500 across 20).
- Removed the outdated research start date (“before January 2021”) and the Best of Category amounts, which no longer appear on the awards page.
- Removed the old Intel trips to China and India and the London Youth Science Forum award from the experiential awards; the current list is SIYSS and the EU Contest.
- New Mexico state fair link updated — the nmt.edu page now only says the site has moved.

Supercomputing Challenge (New Mexico)

Program Name:	37th Annual Supercomputing Challenge (2026–2027)
URL:	https://supercomputingchallenge.org
Location:	Kickoff and Expo at New Mexico Tech, Socorro
Dates:	Expo April 23, 2027; Awards Ceremony April 24, 2027
Eligibility:	New Mexico students in grades 4–12 (public, private, homeschool); no prior programming experience required
Cost:	\$40 per student

2026–2027 Timeline

- Registration: August 1 – September 30, 2026 (best consideration through September 20)
- Proposal due: October 9, 2026 (250 words max)
- Kickoff training conference: October 10–11, 2026 at NM Tech, Socorro
- Interim report due: December 18, 2026
- Expo registration due: March 26, 2027
- Final report due: April 7, 2027 at noon
- Expo: April 23, 2027; Awards: April 24, 2027

Prizes

Seniors who have participated in the Challenge are eligible to apply for scholarships. Other awards (for teamwork, technical writing and more) vary year to year based on donations. The program reports more than \$1 million in scholarships awarded since 1990.

Other Information

Teams work all year on a computational project of their own choosing, with mentors from national labs, universities and industry. Teachers can find the invitation, flyer and proposal guide on the website.

New Mexico → <https://supercomputingchallenge.org>

What changed

- Updated from the 34th to the 37th annual Challenge, with all 2026–2027 dates.
- Eligibility updated to grades 4–12 and \$40/student fee added.
- Location changed from “TBD” to NM Tech, Socorro (Kickoff and Expo).
- Removed conflicting references to the 32nd Challenge, an “October 9th Kickoff,” December 1 proposals, February 1 interim reports and the “first 50 teams” welcome box.
- Note: 2026–2027 registration closed September 30; contact the Challenge about late entries.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (formerly Broadcom MASTERS)

Program Name: Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (middle school; run by Society for Science)
URL: <https://www.societyforscience.org/jic/>
Location: Finals Week in Washington, DC
Dates: Typical cycle (2026 shown): application February 1 – June 10; Top 300 announced early September; Top 30 Finalists mid-September; Finals Week late October. 2027 dates will be posted on the site.

Eligibility

Students in grades 6–8 who are nominated through a Society-affiliated science fair. Affiliated fairs may nominate their top 10% of 6th, 7th and 8th grade competitors. Nominees then complete an online application by the deadline to compete nationally.

Prizes

The Top 30 Finalists receive \$500 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC, and compete for additional STEM awards ranging from about \$1,500 up to a \$25,000 top award. See the JIC “Eligibility and Important Information” page for the current list of named awards.

Other Information

The JIC is the nation’s premier STEM research competition for middle school students. It succeeded Broadcom MASTERS (2010–2022) when Thermo Fisher Scientific became the title sponsor in 2023.

New Mexico → Compete at a Society-affiliated fair (find one at findafair.societyforscience.org) to earn a nomination, then apply on the national site.

What changed

- Program renamed: Broadcom MASTERS ended in 2022 and is now the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge. Old URL replaced.
- Prize list replaced: the Samueli, Marconi/Samueli, Lemelson, Robert Wood Johnson, Rising Star and STEM-category awards were Broadcom-era prizes. Current finalists receive \$500, a DC trip, and a chance at awards up to \$25,000.
- Top 30 finalists (was “finalists”); dates updated to the current cycle.
- Not re-verified: Top 300 gift items (backpack, journal, etc.) — removed.

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)

Program Name:	Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)
URL:	https://www.jshs.org/
Location:	Regional symposia, with a National Symposium in Chantilly, VA
Dates:	Regional dates vary (typically January–March 2027). 64th National JSHS: April 20–25, 2027.

Eligibility

Students in grades 9–12 enrolled in public, private or home schools within the area served by a JSHS regional symposium. Investigations reporting on experimental, field, observational or applied original research are eligible; review or library research alone is not. The national program serves the U.S., Puerto Rico and Department of War Dependents Schools in Europe and the Pacific. JSHS scholarships and cash awards are limited to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents.

Prizes

Regional finalists

- \$4,500 in undergraduate tuition scholarships per region: 1st \$2,000; 2nd \$1,500; 3rd \$1,000.
- The top five finalists from each region receive an expense-paid trip to the National JSHS. 1st and 2nd place present in the oral competition; 3rd–5th place present in the poster competition.

National finalists

- \$192,000 in undergraduate tuition scholarships to the top three oral presenters in each of eight subject categories: 1st \$12,000; 2nd \$8,000; 3rd \$4,000.
- Poster competition cash awards in each of the eight categories: 1st \$550; 2nd \$450; 3rd \$350.
- Teacher Awards: 10 teachers nationally are honored each year with a \$1,000 cash prize.

Other Information

JSHS is sponsored by the Department of War (Army, Navy and Air Force) and administered by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA). Students should contact their regional director for guidelines and be prepared to:

- Submit a written report (abstract and/or paper) of original research for review by a regional panel of judges;
- Submit a “Statement on Outside Assistance” and show that proper procedures were followed for research involving vertebrate animals or human subjects;
- Deliver a concise oral presentation and complete registration materials; and
- Comply with regional and national rules for written reports and oral presentations.

New Mexico → Southwest Region JSHS, hosted by the UNM STEM-H Center (serves New Mexico, southwest Texas and southern Colorado). Find the current regional contact at [jshs.org/students/find-your-region](https://www.jshs.org/students/find-your-region).

What changed

- Added the 2027 National Symposium dates and location (April 20–25, 2027, Chantilly, VA). The most recent national event before this was the 63rd, held in April 2025.
- Corrected eligibility: “U.S., Canada and Germany” was wrong for JSHS (that wording belongs to BioGENEius). Added the citizen/LPR requirement for scholarships.
- Poster awards are now \$550 / \$450 / \$350 (was a single \$350 award). Eight subject categories specified.
- Teacher award corrected: 10 teachers nationally receive \$1,000 each (was \$500 to one teacher at each of 48 regionals).
- Sponsor wording updated: the program now credits the Department of War and NSTA.
- Not re-verified: the old link stemed.unm.edu/JSHS — use the JSHS “Find Your Region” page instead.

BioGENEius Challenge

Program Name:	BioGENEius Challenge (Biotechnology Institute)
URL:	https://biotechinstitute.org/biogeneius/
Location:	State partner competitions or the virtual At-Large Challenge; finals at the BioFuture Conference
Dates:	Varies by state partner. The 2026 At-Large deadline was reported as mid-May; check the site for 2027.

Eligibility

High school students (grades 9–12) in the United States or Canada. Projects must have a biotechnology application and report new, original research. Students enter through a state partner competition, or through the virtual At-Large Challenge if their state has no partner. Projects are submitted as a PDF poster with applicant, parent/guardian and mentor authorization forms.

Prizes

Finalists advance to the national BioGENEius Challenge at the BioFuture Conference, where they present to judges from industry and academia and compete for cash awards.

Other Information

Students compete in one of three tracks: the Global Healthcare Challenge (medical biotechnology), the Global Sustainability Challenge (agricultural biotechnology), or the Global Environment Challenge (industrial/environmental biotechnology).

New Mexico → Check the BioGENEius site to see whether New Mexico currently has a state partner; if not, enter the At-Large Challenge.

What changed

- Old URL (biotechinstitute.org/go.cfm?...) is no longer valid; replaced.
- Eligibility now United States and Canada only (Germany removed).
- Finals are now held at the BioFuture Conference (previously the BIO International Convention in June). The At-Large Challenge is virtual.
- Not re-verified: the list of local regions, whether New Mexico is still a state partner, and the New Mexico contact email (michael@maasbiolab.com) — please confirm before sharing.

National FFA Agriscience Fair

Program Name:	National FFA Agriscience Fair
URL:	https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriscience-fair/
Location:	State fairs, then national finals at the National FFA Convention & Expo
Dates:	State dates vary. National qualifiers must be declared by the state FFA association by June 1 and certified by the chapter advisor, with application and report submitted by July 10.

Eligibility

FFA members in grades 7–12 who conduct a scientific research project related to agriculture, food and natural resources and present findings to judges with a display and a report.

Prizes

National finalists and winners are recognized on stage at the National FFA Convention & Expo. Cash awards depend on available sponsor funds.

Other Information

Students compete in one of six pathways (categories): Animal Systems; Environmental Services/Natural Resource Systems; Food Products and Processing Systems; Plant Systems; Power, Structural and Technical Systems; and Social Science.

Changes for the 2027 contest:

- The six individual/team divisions are replaced by three grade levels: grades 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12.
- Individuals and teams of 1–3 students compete together; national award areas drop from 36 to 18.
- Up to 6 national finalists are named in each grade level/pathway.
- Multi-year projects should use the Research SAE Award application instead; extension projects are judged only on the last 12 months.

New Mexico → Enter through your school's FFA chapter and the New Mexico FFA state Agriscience Fair.

What changed

- Added the 2027 restructuring (grade levels, teams of 1–3, 18 award areas, up to 6 finalists per area). The “top 12” finalist number is outdated.
- Removed the old Box.com link; resources are linked from the main FFA page.
- Not re-verified: gold/silver/bronze ratings and pins — check the current handbook.

eCYBERMISSION

Program Name: eCYBERMISSION (Army STEM; administered by NSTA)
URL: <https://www.ecybermission.com/>
Location: Online, with a National Judging & Educational Event
Cost: Free

2026–2027 Timeline

- Registration opened August 12, 2026
- Student, team and Team Advisor registration closes February 24, 2027
- Mission Folder submission deadline: March 3, 2027
- Virtual judging: March 10–24, 2027; Regional judging: April 19–23, 2027
- State winners, regional finalists and national finalists announced: April 30, 2027
- National Judging & Educational Event: late June 2027 (date TBD)

Eligibility

Students in grades 6–9 work in teams of 2–4, led by an adult Team Advisor (a teacher, coach, counselor, youth-organization leader, or qualified parent). Teams must be complete and registered by the close of registration. A Team Advisor may register more than one team. Check the official rules for citizenship and school-type requirements.

Awards

Top teams in each grade receive U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds at the state, regional and national levels; regional first-place teams travel to the national event. See the official Prizes page ([ecybermission.com/Prizes](https://www.ecybermission.com/Prizes)) for current amounts.

Other Information

Teams pick a community problem and choose one of two paths: Scientific Inquiry (investigating a problem) or Engineering Design (solving a problem). All submissions receive written feedback. Mini-Grants are available to Team Advisors (2026–27 applications close November 11, 2026).

New Mexico → Enter through the main site.

What changed

- All dates updated to the 2026–2027 cycle; registration now closes in late February (was “December”), and the national event is late June.
- Team size is now 2–4 students (was 3 or 4).
- The seven “Mission Challenges” list is outdated; teams now choose a Scientific Inquiry or Engineering Design path.
- Sponsor rebranded from AEOP to Army STEM.
- Not re-verified: savings bond amounts. A third-party listing reports \$10,000 per student for national winners (the old sheet said \$5,000) — confirm on the Prizes page before quoting amounts.

National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF)

Program Name: AISES National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF)
URL: aises.org/national-advancing-indigenous-science-and-engineering-fair-naisef
Location: In-person and virtual (2026: Oklahoma State Fair Park, Oklahoma City)
Dates: 2026 fair was April 10–11 (virtual fair April 3). 2027 dates not yet posted; the fair is typically in early April.

Eligibility

- Indigenous students (American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous peoples) in grades 5–12 who have not reached age 20 on or before May 1
- Junior Division: grades 5–8; Senior Division: grades 9–12
- Individual projects or teams of up to three students
- Research covering a maximum, continuous 12-month period
- Each individual or team needs one adult sponsor (parent, teacher or mentor)
- AISES membership is free for students and schools

Awards

Cash prizes in both divisions in science and engineering categories, plus specialty awards (such as the Native Heritage Award). Two Senior Division grand prize winners (one in science, one in engineering) receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Regeneron ISEF. The top 10% of Junior Division students are nominated for the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

Other Information

NAISEF is a Society for Science–affiliated fair. All participants follow ISEF International Rules & Guidelines and submit ISEF forms; registration is through STEM Wizard and is complete when all forms are uploaded.

New Mexico → Register through the AISES NAISEF page. Note: students cannot enter the same project in both NAISEF and a regional ISEF-affiliated fair.

What changed

- Name updated to “National Advancing Indigenous Science & Engineering Fair”; AISES is now the Advancing Indigenous Science and Engineering Society. Old “naivsef” URL replaced.
- Two Senior Division grand prize winners go to ISEF (was “the Grand Award winner”). Added JIC nomination for the Junior Division.
- Removed “MUST be AISES members” — the page now presents free membership; check the current policies document if membership is required.
- Not re-verified: 2027 registration window (previously November–February).

New Mexico Junior Academy of Science (NMJAS)

Program Name:	New Mexico Junior Academy of Science Research Paper Competition
URL:	https://www.nmas.org/nmjas/
Location:	In person at regional science fairs and the NM State Science & Engineering Fair
Dates:	Registration deadlines are generally in February or March. Regional competitions are held with regional fairs; the state competition is held with the NM State Science & Engineering Fair (April 9–10, 2027).
Cost:	\$15 entry fee (covers regional and state)

Program Description

NMJAS promotes student research, participation in science fairs, and an annual written and oral technical paper competition. It is affiliated with the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS). The paper competition helps young scientists learn a crucial part of scientific work: communicating their results in writing and orally. It is open to all New Mexico students in grades 6–12 (public, private and home school), with junior and senior divisions and six regions. Students do not have to enter a science fair, but they must report on original work.

Prizes

Cash prizes for top projects in both divisions at the regional and state levels. Regional first- and second-place winners advance to the state competition. State winners may publish in the New Mexico Journal of Science and qualify to attend the national AJAS meeting.

What changed

- Old URL ([nmas.org/junior-academy-of-science.html](https://www.nmas.org/junior-academy-of-science.html)) returns “page not found”; replaced.
- Added grades 6–12, six regions, \$15 entry fee, AJAS and Journal of Science opportunities, and the link to the state fair.
- Not re-verified: specific prize amounts (\$150/\$100 regional; \$250/\$150/\$100 state) — they are not posted on the current site. Contact nmjas@nmas.org to confirm.

New Mexico Governor's STEM Challenge

Program Name: New Mexico Governor's STEM Challenge (2027)
URL: <https://newmexicostem.org/>
Location: Showcase at St. John's College, Santa Fe
Dates: Showcase Day: February 6, 2027 (8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
Final deadline for team registration is October 9, 2026.

2027 Challenge Question

As digital infrastructure and influence continue to grow, how can we use STEM innovation, along with local, traditional, and cultural knowledge, to conserve, protect, manage, and/or expand New Mexico's limited water and other natural resources while supporting communities, agriculture, and technology?

Key Dates

- October 9, 2026 – Final deadline for team registration
- October 12, 2026 – Orientation for new teams (virtual)
- Industry-led virtual mentorship sessions: October 29, November 17, December 2, 2026 and January 19, 2027
- January 15, 2027 – Team proposal packets due
- February 5, 2027 – Required mixer for industry partners and teams
- February 6, 2027 – Showcase Day

Program Description

A statewide competition for New Mexico high school students in which teams design STEM-based solutions to a real-world challenge facing the state and present them to industry partners. Teacher sponsors are supported by the NM Public Education Department with stipends and paired with mentors. Since 2025 the Challenge has been overseen by the NM STEM Innovation Network in partnership with the LANL Foundation.

Awards

Winning teams receive monetary prizes and connect with potential employers. In 2026, awards were given in categories such as STEM Excellence, Research & Design, Community Impact, and Innovation & Creativity.

What changed

- Updated from the 2023 question and January 20, 2024 showcase at UNM to the 2027 question and February 6, 2027 showcase in Santa Fe.
- Registration deadline changed to October 9, 2026 (was an October 27 RSVP). Removed the conflicting "Virtual Statewide Showcase on December 3rd."
- Organizer updated: NM STEM Innovation Network with the LANL Foundation (was listed as Workforce Solutions, PED and NMSU).
- Not re-verified for 2027: team size (max 10 students and 2 teacher mentors) and the \$5,000 (\$500/student) award amount.

Sources checked (October 2026)

- Regeneron STS (Society for Science): <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/>
- Regeneron STS awards: <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/sts-awards/>
- Regeneron ISEF awards: <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/awards/>
- Regeneron ISEF 2027 judging (dates/location): <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/grand-award>
- NM State Science & Engineering Fair: <https://sites.google.com/student.nmt.edu/nmsef/home>
- Supercomputing Challenge: <https://supercomputingchallenge.org>
- Thermo Fisher Scientific JIC: <https://www.societyforscience.org/jic/>
- JSHS National Symposium: <https://www.jshs.org/national-symposium/>
- JSHS Awards: <https://www.jshs.org/students/awards/>
- eCYBERMISSION: <https://www.ecybermission.com/>
- eCYBERMISSION 2026–27 timeline: <https://usaeop.com/program/ecybermission/>
- FFA Agriscience Fair: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriscience-fair/>
- FFA 2027 Agriscience Fair handbook changes: <https://2027staging.ffa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/19/2027-Agriscience-Fair-Handbook-Change-Summary-1.pdf>
- AISES NAISEF: <https://aises.org/national-advancing-indigenous-science-and-engineering-fair-naisef/>
- NM Junior Academy of Science: <https://www.nmas.org/nmjas/>
- NMJAS student overview: <https://www.nmas.org/nmjas/nmjas-students/>
- NM Governor’s STEM Challenge: <https://newmexicostem.org/>