

3M Young Scientist Challenge announces 2025 national finalists

ST. PAUL, Minn. and CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 25, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- [3M](#) (@3M) and [Discovery Education](#) (@DiscoveryEd) today announced the 2025 [3M Young Scientist Challenge](#) (#YoungScientist) top 10 finalists. As the nation's premier middle school science competition, the annual 3M Young Scientist Challenge invites students in grades 5-8 to compete for an exclusive mentorship with a 3M scientist, a \$25,000 grand prize, and the chance to earn the title of "America's Top Young Scientist."

The top 10 2025 3M Young Scientist Challenge finalists are as follows (in alphabetical order by last name):

Shrey Arora, Collierville, TN, West Collierville Middle School, Collierville Schools
Divyam Desai, Frisco, TX, Hunt Middle School, Frisco Independent School District (FISD)
Kiyara Gunawardena, Temecula, CA, Abby Reinke Elementary School, Temecula Valley Unified School District
Isha Marla, Portland, OR, Tumwater Middle School, Beaverton School District
Reanna Patel, Princeton, NJ, Princeton Day School, Private School
Sheyna Patel, Longwood, FL, Orlando Science Middle/High Charter, Orange County Public Schools
Anirudh Rao, Lone Tree, CO, STEM School Highlands Ranch, Douglas County School District
Aniket Sarkar, Sarasota, FL, Pine View School, Sarasota County Schools
Amaira Srivastava, Gilbert, AZ, Arizona College Prep Middle School, Chandler Unified School District
Kevin Tang, Hacienda Heights, CA, Cedarlane Academy, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District

"For 18 years, the 3M Young Scientist Challenge has empowered middle school students to bring science to life," said Torie Clarke, 3M's executive vice president and chief public affairs officer. "This year, the nation's brightest young minds have once again reimagined what's possible. Congratulations to each of the top 10 finalists! I can't wait to see how you make the world a better place."

To learn more about the 3M Young Scientist Challenge and meet the 2025 finalists, visit [YoungScientistLab.com](#).

Challenge details

This year's finalists – 10 students ranging in age from 11 to 14 – identified an everyday problem and submitted a one- to two-minute video on their proposed scientific solution. Their proposals fall under an expanded set of entry categories, including robotics, home improvement, automotive, safety, AR/VR, and climate technology.

An esteemed group of judges, including 3M scientists and leaders in education from across the country, evaluated entries based on creativity, scientific knowledge, and communication effectiveness.

Next steps

Each of the 10 finalists will participate in an exclusive summer mentorship program with a 3M scientist. These mentors will provide guidance and advice to help advance their finalist's solution. Then, from Oct. 13-14, each finalist will travel to the 3M Innovation Center in St. Paul, Minnesota, for the final interactive competition.

At 3M, each finalist will participate in a series of challenges, including a presentation of their completed innovation, and be scored independently by a panel of judges. The grand prize winner will be announced, and they will receive \$25,000, a unique destination trip, and the title of America's Top Young Scientist.

Previous winners

Previous challenge finalists and 3M scientists have collaborated to create solutions for a wide variety of real-world problems, including cybersecurity, coral reef health, water conservation, food waste, alternative energy sources, energy consumption, air pollution, and transportation efficiency.

The 2024 winner – 14-year-old Sirish Subash from Snellville, Georgia – created PestiSCAND, a handheld device designed to detect pesticide residues on produce using a non-destructive method. The innovation employs spectrophotometry, which involves measuring how light of various wavelengths is reflected off the surface of fruits and vegetables. A machine-learning model then analyzes this data to determine the presence of pesticides.

Now in its eighteenth year, the 3M Young Scientist Challenge continues to inspire and challenge middle school students to think creatively and apply the power of STEM to discover real-world solutions. Former America's Top Young Scientists have given TED Talks, filed patents, founded nonprofits, made the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, and exhibited at the White House Science Fair. These young innovators have also been named TIME Magazine's Kid of the Year; featured in The New York Times Magazine, Forbes, and Business Insider; and appeared on national television programs such as Good Morning America, The Kelly Clarkson Show, and more. In addition, a 3M Young Scientist Challenge Alumni Network was formed in fall 2022 and includes more than 100 former challenge winners, finalists, and mentors, who take part in networking opportunities and more.

"The 3M Young Scientist Challenge exemplifies the power of nurturing student curiosity by preparing students for the future, today. We are delighted to celebrate these young scientists for their commitment to innovation and creativity," said Amy Nakamoto, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Partnerships at Discovery Education.


The award-winning competition supplements the 3M and Discovery Education program [Young Scientist Lab](#), which provides no-cost dynamic digital resources for students, teachers, and families to explore, transform, and innovate the world around them. All the resources are also available on Discovery Education [Experience](#), the essential companion for engaged K-12 classrooms.

About 3M

3M (NYSE: MMM) believes science helps create a brighter world for everyone. By unlocking the power of people, ideas and science to reimagine what's possible, our global team uniquely addresses the opportunities and challenges of our customers, communities, and planet. Learn how we're working to improve lives and make what's next at [3M.com/news-center](https://www.3m.com/news-center).

About Discovery Education

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Additional assets available online:  [Photos \(1\)](#)

<https://stage.mediaroom.com/3m/2025-06-25-3M-Young-Scientist-Challenge-announces-2025-national-finalists>