

**2026 USEF - Special Awards**

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
Air and Waste Management Association - Great Basin Chapter Award	Adwita Mandiwal, Aashita Mandiwal	West High	Guanine Nitrogenous Base DNA Damage due to Oxidative Stress Induced by Metals Inhaled from Great Salt Lake Dust
Airavata Bioengineering Award - 1st Place	Ishanth Sooram	Hillcrest High	Signal Processing Optimization for Universal Bioamplifier Systems
Airavata Bioengineering Award - 2nd Place	Arin Soneji, Varun Agarwal	West High	An Adaptive Closed-Loop Vibrotactile Neuromodulation Device for Reducing Tremor-Related Propranolol Dosing Ramification
Airavata Bioengineering Award - 3rd Place	Aimee Solzbacher	Rowland Hall	Development and testing of a simulator for multiple types of blindness and an accompanying app to help spread awareness
American Psychological Association Award	Ivan Turan	West High	Public Health Intervention: A Novel Hybrid Framework for Early Suicide Risk Detection and Prevention Using Real Time Linguistic and Socioeconomic Indicators
Association for Women Geoscientists - Junior Division 1st Place	Zion Red Thunder	Entheos Academy	Rocks vs. The Elements of Weathering
Association for Women Geoscientists - Junior Division 2nd Place	Lily Sanders	Challenger	Grow Algae Grow ... Or Don't
Association for Women Geoscientists - Senior Division 1st Place	Sara Kaleem	Iqra Academy	Modeling PM2.5 Air Pollution During Temperature Inversions in the Salt Lake Valley Using Machine Learning
Association for Women Geoscientists - Senior Division 2nd Place	Betty Otterstrom-Young	Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)	Ameliorating the farming process with Mycorrhizae by improving plant growth and soil remediation
Broadcom Coding With Commitment Award	Samuel Pierce	Uintah Middle School	Protecting Native Fish from Invasive Species with Automated Sorting
Citadel Securities Innovation Prize	Vivian Le	Wasatch Jr. High	Solar Energy: Powering a Sustainable Future
Citadel Securities Innovation Prize	Ivan Turan	West High	Public Health Intervention: A Novel Hybrid Framework for Early Suicide Risk Detection and Prevention Using Real Time Linguistic and Socioeconomic Indicators
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Elementary Division 1st place	Harrison Ellinger	Challenger	Great Salt Lake Dust vs. Snowpack
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Elementary Division Honorable Mention	Leonel Antacle	William Penn Elementary	THE DARK SECRET: Why Does Dirty Snow Disappear First?
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Elementary Division Honorable Mention	Oscar Hui	Sunrise Elementary	Mirabilite Formation - Temperature & Humidity
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Senior Division	Adwita Mandiwal, Aashita Mandiwal	West High	Guanine Nitrogenous Base DNA Damage due to Oxidative Stress Induced by Metals Inhaled from Great Salt Lake Dust
Hogle Zoo Conservation Impact Award	Inayah Ahmed	Iqra Academy	The Future Wrap: Testing Smart Biodegradable Plastics for Sustainable Food Packaging
Hogle Zoo Conservation Impact Award	Samuel Pierce	Uintah Middle School	Protecting Native Fish from Invasive Species with Automated Sorting
Lemelson Early Inventor Prize	Sai Chandan	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 3	From Space Landers to Earthquake-Proof Bridges: Tensegrity as Nature's Shock Absorber
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 1st Place	Siddharth Sammeta	Wasatch Jr. High	Data Mining Our Diet: Using Mathematics to Decode What's in Our Food
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 2nd Place	Inayah Ahmed	Iqra Academy	The Future Wrap: Testing Smart Biodegradable Plastics for Sustainable Food Packaging
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 3rd Place	Maia Soukup	Cottonwood Elementary	Leaky Pipeline? Analyzing Female Participation in the University of Utah Science and Engineering Fair

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Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 1st Place	Ayan Mishra	The Waterford School	Low-Cost Monitoring of Noxious Gases Near Landfills using AI: Health Implications for People Living and Working Nearby
Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 2nd Place	Sabrina Houdeshel, Maviny Houdeshel	Clayton Middle School	Projet Permafrost
Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 3rd Place	Chloe Park, Holland Smith	Wasatch Jr. High	Developing a Machine Learning Model to Predict Hidden Heart Failure From Public Health Datasets
NASA Earth System Science Award	Milo Patterson	Riverview Jr. High	Economically Scalable Advance Wild Fire Alert System
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	Foaming Out Forever Chemicals: Air-Water Partitioning of PFAS in Wastewater Treatment and Implications for Human Exposure
Natural History Museum of Utah Science Discovery Award	Mara Juryneec, Elliott Oderda	Churchill Jr. High	Brick by Brick: The Influence Of Substrate Composition On The Structural Integrity Of Mycelium Bricks
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	MATTHIUSS GARCIA	Esperanza Elementary	LASER SENSOR GLASSES
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Katherine Lanspa	J.E. Cosgriff Memorial	Do Reef-Safe Sunscreens Affect Coral Protecting Algae Less Than Chemical Sunscreens?
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	James Jones	Wasatch Jr. High	Lidar or Sonar: Which is the Better Sensor?
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Alonso Avila	Challenger	Go with the Flow!
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	Olivia Newton	Juan Diego Catholic High	Optimizing Microbial Culture Conditions to Enable a Large-Scale Production of Heparin Precursors
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	Justin Tao	West High	The Effect of Different Stiffness Matrices on Melanoma Cells
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	John Dzieciolowski	Juan Diego Catholic High	Investigating Structure-Activity Relationships of Synthetic Cone Snail Peptide Analogs for nAChR Inhibition
OrthIQ Medical Innovations Award	Siddharth Sarkar	Challenger	Rethinking Woundcare: Engineering an Oral Bandage
OrthIQ Medical Innovations Award	Arin Soneji, Varun Agarwal	West High	An Adaptive Closed-Loop Vibrotactile Neuromodulation Device for Reducing Tremor-Related Propranolol Dosing Ramification
Red Butte Garden & Arboretum Excellence in Plant Sciences 1st Place	Oakley Fisher, Savannah Gillis	Longview Elementary	Keep It Bloomin
Red Butte Garden & Arboretum Excellence in Plant Sciences 2nd Place	Emma Rose Hashimoto	Challenger	Resisting Microplastics
Red Butte Garden & Arboretum Excellence in Plant Sciences 3rd Place	Ava Cederholm	Oakwood Elementary	AI Tomato Dr
Regeneron Biomedical Science Award	Olivia Jiang	West High	Electrostatically Modified Collagen Hybridizing Peptides for Noninvasive Molecular Imaging and Tissue Targeting in Pulmonary Fibrosis
Ricoh Sustainable Development Award	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	Foaming Out Forever Chemicals: Air-Water Partitioning of PFAS in Wastewater Treatment and Implications for Human Exposure
SAB Award - Elementary Division 1st Place	Layla Saleh	Rowland Hall	A Motorized Inhaler Aid for Patients with Hand Disability
SAB Award - Elementary Division 2nd Place	Harish Selvakumar	Challenger	Speed Traps for CO2 - How Zeolite Type Affects Carbon Capture Rates
SAB Award - Elementary Division 3rd Place	Cameron Karnam	The Waterford School	Using Machine Learning to Detect Psychological Stress from Text
SAB Award - Junior Division 1st Place	Ayan Mishra	The Waterford School	Low-Cost Monitoring of Noxious Gases Near Landfills using AI: Health Implications for People Living and Working Nearby

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SAB Award - Junior Division 2nd Place	Marina Chen	Challenger	Look Away! Engineering Smart Glasses That Reduce Eye Strain
SAB Award - Junior Division 3rd Place	Mudit Thummalapalli	Wasatch Jr. High	Modeling Cancer Prevention: Can Antioxidants Protect Cells?
Salt Lake Public Utilities - 1st Place	Ananya Pallinti	West High	Development of Novel Water Treatment Technologies for Enhanced Removal of Nutrients and Trace Contaminants in Aquatic Systems and Formation of Freshwater and Fertilizer.
Salt Lake Public Utilities - 2nd Place	Kethan Reddy	Hillcrest High	AI-Based System for Detection, Classification, and Removal of Microplastics: A Novel Approach Using Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Magnetic Oil-Based Nanoparticles for the Detection, Identification, and Removal of Primary, Polyethylene, and Polypropylene Microplastics Aged with UV and Hydrogen Peroxide from Water
Society for In Vitro Biology Award	Christiana Cortes	Juan Diego Catholic High	Extracellular Vesicles from Activated T-Cells as a Novel Early Diagnostic Approach for Type-1 Diabetes
Stockholm Junior Water Prize Award	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	Foaming Out Forever Chemicals: Air-Water Partitioning of PFAS in Wastewater Treatment and Implications for Human Exposure
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 1st Place	Layla Saleh	Rowland Hall	A Motorized Inhaler Aid for Patients with Hand Disability
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 2nd Place	Sumedh Kangondhi	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 2	Shoreline Saviors
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 3rd Place	Linden Deletant	Uintah Middle School	The Power of Fire-Resistant Solutions
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 1st Place	Bulat Urmeyev	Challenger	Hot n' Cold Wire Makes Hall Voltage Higher
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 2nd Place	Mara Jury nec, Elliott Oderda	Churchill Jr. High	Brick by Brick: The Influence Of Substrate Composition On The Structural Integrity Of Mycelium Bricks
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 3rd Place	Eason Xing	Challenger	Bubbling with Energy
T.D. Williamson Energy & Environmental Science Award - Senior Division 1st Place	Aditi Rao	Skyline High	Investigating the Impact of Varied Biodegradable Treatments on Enhancing Hydration Retention and Ignition Resistance in California Wildland Biomass
T.D. Williamson Energy & Environmental Science Award - Senior Division 2nd Place	Adwita Mandiwal, Aashita Mandiwal	West High	Guanine Nitrogenous Base DNA Damage due to Oxidative Stress Induced by Metals Inhaled from Great Salt Lake Dust
T.D. Williamson Energy & Environmental Science Award - Senior Division 3rd Place	Ananya Pallinti	West High	Development of Novel Water Treatment Technologies for Enhanced Removal of Nutrients and Trace Contaminants in Aquatic Systems and Formation of Freshwater and Fertilizer.
United States Air Force Award - Elementary Division	Charlotte Guay	Sterling Elementary	Fly Paper Fly
United States Air Force Awards - Junior Division	Jarom Hall	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 3	Using Medieval Siege Weapons to Launch Rockets into Space
United States Air Force Awards - Junior Division	SMERA NAIR	St. John the Baptist Middle School	NATURE'S CHARGER: A wind powered device charger.

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United States Air Force Awards - Senior Division	Jaeden Pena	Juan Diego Catholic High	Securing the Edge - Securing Operational Technology networks in a adversarial cyber environment
US Metric Association Award	Ishant P Batra	Hillcrest High	An Early-Warning System for Quantum Algorithm Failure: Detecting and Classifying Decoherence in Grover Search Using Distribution-Based Metrics
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Elementary Division 1st Place	Keira Wilkinson	Challenger	Reducing Phosphate Pollution with Calcium-Modified Biochar
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Elementary Division 2nd Place	Jackson Swallow	Middle Canyon Elementary	Meltdown! What Makes Ice Melt the Fastest?
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Elementary Division 3rd Place	Sumedh Kangondhi	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 2	Shoreline Saviors
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Senior Division 1st Place	Betty Otterstrom-Young	Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)	Ameliorating the farming process with Mycorrhizae by improving plant growth and soil remediation
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Senior Division 2nd Place	Cecelia Hyman, Dylan Johnson De Lacy	Rowland Hall	Crop-Specific Microbial Biofertilizer for Indian Ricegrass: A Sustainable Strategy to Supplement Alfalfa Cultivation
Wilkes Center Climate Change Award - Senior Division 3rd Place	Asher Orenstein, Samantha Wright	Rowland Hall	Combining soybean-induced carbonate precipitation (SICP) and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) to prevent wind erosion
Yale Science and Engineering Association Award	Ian Jake Kim	West High	Liposomal Encapsulation to Reduce Propofol Adsorption in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Systems
USEF Director's Award - Elementary Division	Connor Kompass	Eastwood Elementary	All Terrain Hiking Backpack
USEF Director's Award - Elementary Division	Kinley Talbot	Longview Elementary	Ratio Reactions
USEF Director's Award - Junior Division	Nadia Wong	Uintah Middle School	From Bottle to Build
USEF Director's Award - Senior Division	Ethan Bo	Judge Memorial	Applying Principles of Electromagnetism and Resistive Heating to Develop a More Accessible Method of Metal Additive Manufacturing
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ria Jugade	Challenger	Curie-ously Permeable
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Harrison Ellinger	Challenger	Great Salt Lake Dust vs. Snowpack
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Anvay Patil	Challenger	Starch Wars: The Amylase Awakens
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Yogi McBride	McMillan Elementary	SUS SUSPECT?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Keira Wilkinson	Challenger	Reducing Phosphate Pollution with Calcium-Modified Biochar
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Damian Palfy	Granite Elementary	Rollback & Shoot
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Harish Selvakumar	Challenger	Speed Traps for CO2 - How Zeolite Type Affects Carbon Capture Rates
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ruby Rubow	Horizon Elementary	Do Brown Apples Taste Bad? (If so, can we slow the browning?)
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Siddharth Sammeta	Wasatch Jr. High	Data Mining Our Diet: Using Mathematics to Decode What's in Our Food
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Vidhan Kale	Challenger	Catalyst Clash: Nano vs. Macro in a Fenton Face-Off
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Timothy Powell	Ensign Elementary	Science in Sports: Prediction the Flight Path of a Baseball with Simulation
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Dylan Fu	Nibley Park Elementary	Discovering New Violin Harmonics
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Annette Newton	American Preparatory Academy APA West Valley 2	Plant Watering System
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Diarmuid Arndt	St. John the Baptist Middle School	Breaking Bridges
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ananya PATIL	Challenger	Peak Separation
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Cameron Karnam	The Waterford School	Using Machine Learning to Detect Psychological Stress from Text
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Hana Diglisic	Challenger	Probiotic Buddies

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ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Audrey Pearson	Whittier Elementary (SLC)	Spelling with Beethoven: Can Music Trigger Memory Retrieval?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Will Trapa, John Schulze	Indian Hills Elementary	Battery Luminosity and Efficiency Variability
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Layla Saleh	Rowland Hall	A Motorized Inhaler Aid for Patients with Hand Disability
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ayan Mishra	The Waterford School	Low-Cost Monitoring of Noxious Gases Near Landfills using AI: Health Implications for People Living and Working Nearby
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Sai Chandan	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 3	From Space Landers to Earthquake-Proof Bridges: Tensegrity as Nature's Shock Absorber
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Matthew Yenchek	Wasatch Jr. High	The Impact of Radiation on Seed Growth
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Marina Chen	Challenger	Look Away! Engineering Smart Glasses That Reduce Eye Strain
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Olivia Ding	West High	The Effect of Exercise on Memory and Reaction Time in Adolescents
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Samuel Pierce	Uintah Middle School	Protecting Native Fish from Invasive Species with Automated Sorting
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Cohen Hubrich, Osha Furness	Weilenmann School of Discovery	Ice Pack Water Bottle
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Winston Turpin	Challenger	Reactivation of Aluminas for the Removal of t-Butylcatechol from Isoprene
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Luca Negovan	Churchill Jr. High	Lego Ev3 Home Video Game Console
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ashley Taylor	St. Vincent de Paul School	Density Separation
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ellianna Gu	Wasatch Jr. High	Bot-tling Up Emotions: How AI Chatbots Interpret & Respond to Emotionally Challenging Scenarios
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Truman Barney	Wasatch Jr. High	Infection Detecting Sutures
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	C.J. George	Challenger	Wire Warp
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Abigail VanDongen	St. Olaf's School	Blood Stain Analysis: Is blood stain pattern and spatter analysis accurate in determining the speed a person used to leave a crime scene on foot?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Linnea Schmid	Wasatch Jr. High	Building a Smart Trash Sorter: Is AI the Solution to Pollution
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Akshat Venugopal	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 3	Smart Weather Station
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Mara Jury nec, Elliott Oderda	Churchill Jr. High	Brick by Brick: The Influence Of Substrate Composition On The Structural Integrity Of Mycelium Bricks
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Wahida Zeena , Asher Allen	Wasatch Jr. High	Recognizing Hand Gestures with MediaPipe
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Claire Pearson, Shruthy Arun, Emma Hinckley	Hillside Middle School	Catching More Z's: How do Different Pre Bedtime Routines Impact the Quality of Different Sleep Stages for Adults?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Chinmayi Kollegal	Challenger	Fabulous Flexible Films
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Akshath Srivathsan	Challenger	The kidney filtration - innovating kidney filtration
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Catherine Fuller	St. John the Baptist Middle School	Fluoride Armor: Protecting Calcium Compounds Against Acid Erosion
GENIUS Olympiad	Asher Orenstein, Samantha Wright	Rowland Hall	Combining soybean-induced carbonate precipitation (SICP) and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC) to prevent wind erosion
GENIUS Olympiad	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	Foaming Out Forever Chemicals: Air-Water Partitioning of PFAS in Wastewater Treatment and Implications for Human Exposure

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GENIUS Olympiad	Aneesh Rao	Skyline High	A Novel Biochar-Based Approach to Reduce Runoff Toxicity and Modulate Epigenetic Stress Memory in Crops
GENIUS Olympiad	Scott Vars	Skyline High	Seeing Drought Sooner: Comparing SIF and NDVI for Vegetation and Drought Monitoring in the Wasatch Front from 2013-2024