

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Colorado Science & Engineering Fair

Elemer Bernath Technical Writing Award

Clara Miller 8th grade
 certificate, \$25
 Sanford Jr/Sr High School Blanca
Coop to Crop: How Chicken's Affect the Soil

Kenley Mitchell 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Small Plastics, Big Problems!

Anirudh Rao 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 STEM School Highlands Ranch
Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water

Ralph Desch Technical Writing Award

Ella Wilson & Hailey Znmenacek 12th grade
 certificate, \$25
 Steamboat Springs High School Steamboat Springs
Heat-sensitive Protist Presence in the Microbiome of Pocillopora damicornis Correlated with Thermal Stress Response of Coral

Natalie Muro 12th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Palmer High School Colorado Springs
A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems

Julia Gao 11th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Fairview High School Boulder
Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction

Senior Division Student Choice Award

Hung Le 11th grade
 Drew McArtor 11th grade
 Simon Helin 12th grade
 certificate, \$100, momentum
 Fossil Ridge High School Fort Collins
AI Surgical Robot

Junior Division Student Choice Award

Ashlyn Kozura 8th grade
 certificate, \$100, momentum
 Summit Middle Charter School Boulder
Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You

Poster Art Contest

Samantha Simmons 9th grade
 certificate, \$100, use of artwork for next year's publications & t-shirt design
 West Grand High School Kremmling

Pioneer of Science

Dian Fossey Animal Sciences Award

Hannah Deering 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Yuma Middle School Yuma
Year Two: The Effect of Leg Length on Canine Speed Across Multiple Breeds

Leon Festinger Behavioral & Social Sciences Award

Ava McFarland 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Challenge School Aurora
AI's Effect on a Person's Originality

Mary Ainsworth Behavioral & Social Sciences Award

Nadiya Abarca-Reynoso 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Skinner Middle School Denver
How Does Time Affect Witness Reliability After an Incident Has Occurred?

Elizabeth Helen Blackburn Biomedical & Health Sciences Award

Lucy Boehm 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Eagleview Middle School Colorado Springs
How Does Food Affect Blood Sugar: With and Without a Working Pancreas

John Goodenough Chemistry Award

Adalyn Pettinger 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Vilas School Vilas
How Much Activated Charcoal is Needed to Purify Water?

Wangari Muta Maathai Earth & Environmental Sciences Award

Jett Smith 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Centauri Middle School La Jara
Damming Evidence

Burt Ratan Energy Award

Nela Kereshi 7th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Ridgway Secondary School Ridgway
The Effects of Water Temperature on Phytoplankton Population

Steven Chu Engineering Award

Ciyana Stum 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Plainview School Sheridan Lake
Paper vs. Beans

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

George Tchobanoglous Environmental Engineering Award

Hagen Short 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Dove Creek Middle School Dove Creek
Rural De-Icer

Geoffrey Hinton Mathematics & Computer Sciences Award

Sovereign Sybrant 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Wray Middle School Wray
SmashDude Fitness

James Patrick Allison Micro & Molecular Biology Award

Clayton Lee 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Wiggins Middle School Wiggins
The Microscopic Menace

Isaac Newton Physics & Astronomy Award

Alexander Snow 8th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Compass Community Collaborative School Fort Collins
The Effect of Surface Dimples on Aerodynamics

Luther Burbank Plant Sciences Award

Paxton McClellan 6th grade
 \$50, certificate
 Liberty School Joes
Nailed It: Exploring the Wives' Tail that Nails in the Soil Improve the Garden

Military

Office of Naval Research *Naval Science Award*

Talon Hodgson 7th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Nature's Filters

James Muro 6th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 North Middle School Colorado Springs
A Redesigned Shade Structure for NFL Sidelines to Enhance Performance

Sydney Montague 6th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 Centauri Middle School La Jara
Medicine War

Ashlyn Kozura 8th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 Summit Middle Charter School Boulder
Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You

Helen Wan 11th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 Pine Creek High School Colorado Springs
Medicine Dissolution in a Ground-Based Acoustically Levitated Environment

Danica Christensen 10th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, ONR medallion, \$75 gift card
 Fairview High School Boulder
Fractal Form and Function in the Brain: The Interdimensional Physics Underlying Cognition and Consciousness

US Air Force Research Laboratory

US Air Force Certificate of Achievement Award

Yoona Oh & Neva Comstock 12th grade
 certificate, sling bag, dog tag USB flash memory drive, power bank charger, car/wall charger
 Monarch High School Louisville
How Will Various Space Activities Influence Debris Congestion and the Kessler Syndrome?

Andrew Liu 11th grade
 certificate, sling bag, dog tag USB flash memory drive, power bank charger, car/wall charger
 Fairview High School Boulder
Resilience at the Edge of Space: Imputing Ionosphere-Thermosphere Weather for the Geospace Dynamics Constellation Mission

Vaughn Bankston 10th grade
 certificate, sling bag, dog tag USB flash memory drive, power bank charger, car/wall charger
 Mancos High School Mancos
MQ-13 Condor: Year 2

Julia Gao 11th grade
 certificate, sling bag, dog tag USB flash memory drive, power bank charger, car/wall charger
 Fairview High School Boulder
Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction

Anirudh Rao 8th grade
 certificate, sling bag, dog tag USB flash memory drive, power bank charger, car/wall charger
 STEM School Highlands Ranch
Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Organizational

Air & Waste Management Association, Rocky Mountain States Section *Air & Waste Management Award*

Jayla Kravig 8th grade
certificate, \$100
Karval Schools Karval
Testing BioPlastics

Kenley Mitchell 8th grade
certificate, \$200
Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Small Plastics, Big Problems!

Om Vegesna 11th grade
certificate, \$100
Fairview High School Boulder
New Materials for the Green Synthesis of Energy Intermediates from Waste via Selective Hydrogenation and In-Silico Screening

Ayush Vispute 11th grade
certificate, \$200
Rampart High School Colorado Springs
Complete in Csilico Discovery and Validation of New High Performing Carbon Capturing Organisms

American Association of University Women *AAUW CO Award for Women in STEM*

Sydney Montague 6th grade
certificate, \$250
Centauri Middle School La Jara
Medicine War

Edna Abel & Genesis Archila-Ochoa 11th grade
certificate, \$250
Green Valley Ranch High School Denver
Neighborhood Food Quality Disparities Revealed Through DNA Degradation Analysis

American Industrial Hygiene Association, Rocky Mountain Section *Excellence in Protection of Occupational Health and Safety*

Joanna Raguraman 8th grade
certificate, \$150
Discovery Canyon Middle School Colorado Springs
Xenobiotic Nero-catastasis: Evidence for Biochemical Interference in the Cognitive Retention of Dugesia tigrina

Tyler Goodnow 12th grade
certificate, \$150
Nederland Middle/High School Nederland
Using an AI Model to Interpret Nerve Signals to Move a Robotic Hand

American Statistical Association, Colorado/Wyoming Chapter *David Young Memorial Award*

Anna Antohe 8th grade
certificate, \$200, student membership in the American Statistical Association, acknowledgement at chapter spring meeting and on chapter website
Challenge School Aurora
Do Popular Health Assumptions Survive Real Data? Testing Sleep, Activity, and Heart Rate Relationships with Fitbit Wearables

Julia Gao 11th grade
certificate, \$200, student membership in the American Statistical Association, acknowledgement at chapter spring meeting and on chapter website
Fairview High School Boulder
Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction

American Vacuum Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter *Excellence in Physical Sciences & Engineering Award*

Benjamin Knight 8th grade
certificate, \$100, \$100 award to adult sponsor
Corwin International Magnet Pueblo
School
How Many Blades? Evaluating Performance of Different Rotor Configurations

Adalyn Pettinger 6th grade
certificate, \$200, \$200 award to adult sponsor
Vilas School Vilas
How Much Activated Charcoal is Needed to Purify Water?

Caroline Prieto & Layna Snyder 10th grade
certificate, \$100, \$100 award to adult sponsor
Brush High School Brush
Increasing Microplastic Removal Efficiency with Ferrofluids

Abdullahi Adan 12th grade
Kamal Khalif 11th grade
Ebenezer Yimam 11th grade
certificate, \$200, \$200 award to adult sponsor
Lotus School For Excellence Aurora
ZnO Nanoparticles for Simultaneous UV Disinfection + Filtration

Broadcom Foundation *Coding with Commitment Award*

John Dicker 8th grade
certificate, Raspberry Pi Pico, a breadboard, related accessories, and a \$250 online certificate for use at PiShop
Monte Vista Middle School Monte Vista
Reducing Human Pesticide Exposure Through Technology

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

CO₂/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Foundation

CO₂ & Greenhouse Gas Reduction Award

Kendyl Osborn 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 La Junta Jr/Sr High School La Junta
Bumble Bees Please

Maggie Anderson 12th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Yuma High School Yuma
Expected Progeny Difference: Analysis of Maternal Trait Accuracy and Associated Calf Growth

Natalia Woolcock 11th grade
 certificate, \$100
 The Academy of Charter Schools Westminster
Carbon Conscious: Measuring How Health and Carbon Footprint Data Labels Influence Real Consumer Behavior

Mikaela Ludden 8th grade
 Charlotte Hoffman 7th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Challenge School Aurora
The Effects of Climate Change on African Whites' Tree Frogs

Hollis Young 6th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sacred Heart of Jesus School Boulder
Which Sunscreens Work the Best

Collin Richardson 9th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Wiggins High School Wiggins
The Power of Hydrogen

Humza Memon 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Crescent View Academy Aurora
Effect of Osmotic Stress on the Microbial Activity: Modeling Biogas Inhibition through Idli Batter Fermentation

Christiana Adakai Smith 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Pueblo School of Arts and Sciences Pueblo
Turning Milk into Plastic

Sophia Zhang 12th grade
 Carolyn Long 9th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Fairview High School Boulder
Water-Soluble Eutectogel Adhesives for Sustainable Packaging

Kinzi Dawson 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Liberty School Joes
Ocean Acidification on Clam Shells and Crustacean Exoskeletons

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and soil structure

Nela Kereshi 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Ridgway Secondary School Ridgway
The Effects of Water Temperature on Phytoplankton Population

Ayush Vispute 11th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Rampart High School Colorado Springs
Complete in Csilico Discovery and Validation of New High Performing Carbon Capturing Organisms

Zakria Munasar 12th grade
 Nathaniem Tadesse 9th grade
 Ryan Okolie 12th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Lotus School For Excellence Aurora
Air Quality in Colorado

Nimisha Upadhyay & Azaria Saiz 8th grade
 Azaria Saiz 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Challenge School Aurora
Power From Footsteps: How Piezoelectric Tiles Generate Electricity

Anirudh Rao 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 STEM School Highlands Ranch
Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water

Joseph White 10th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Limon Schools Limon
Biomass to Biogas

Shreyas Gadepalli 10th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles: Enhancing Platinum Nanoparticle Stability in PEM Fuel Cells

Shaurya Sisodia 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Liberty Middle School Aurora
The Effects of Soil Liquefaction on The Structural Stability of Buildings

Payal Gopinath & Evan Gapinath 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Nevin Platt Middle School Boulder
An Objective Measurement of Physical Properties and Environmental Impact of Climbing Chalk

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Hayden Drullinger
certificate, \$100
Liberty School
No Flow, No Grow

12th grade
Joes

Clay Grossman
certificate, \$50
Summit Middle Charter School
Trust the Trees: How Mangroves Impact Coastal Flooding

8th grade
Boulder

Joel Wilson
certificate, \$100
Home School
Hydrogen . . . A Green Gas of the Future?

8th grade
Colorado Springs

Natalie Muro
certificate, \$100
Palmer High School
A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems

12th grade
Colorado Springs

Andrew Liu
certificate, \$100
Fairview High School
Resilience at the Edge of Space: Imputing Ionosphere-Thermosphere Weather for the Geospace Dynamics Constellation Mission

11th grade
Boulder

Marat Gilfanov
Takahiro Stewart
certificate, \$100
Southern Hills Middle School
The Solution to Pollution

8th grade
8th grade
Boulder

Ella Wilson & Hailey Znamenacek
certificate, \$50
Steamboat Springs High School
Heat-sensitive Protist Presence in the Microbiome of Pocillopora damicornis Correlated with Thermal Stress Response of Coral

12th grade
Steamboat Springs

Aayush Paliwal
certificate, \$100
Pine Creek High School
Digital Defense: Using Molecular Docking to Combat the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic in North American Forests

9th grade
Colorado Springs

Yasaswini Vinjamuri
certificate, \$50
Heritage Heights Academy
Air-Purifying Geniuses

8th grade
Centennial

Ashton Power
certificate, \$100
Heritage Heights Academy
Dye or Die: The Effect of Various Saline Solutions on White Flowers

8th grade
Centennial

Niels Novotny
certificate, \$100
Cherry Creek High School
NDVI Analysis of DWC, Drip Through, and Potted Plants

10th grade
Greenwood Village

Colorado Biology Teachers Association *CBTA Best Biology Project Award*

Eashanand Palakollu
certificate, \$100
Cherry Creek Academy
Evaluating Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Microplastic-Induced Snowmelt in Colorado's Mountain Snowpack

7th grade
Englewood

Khaleesi Reynolds
certificate, \$150
Sargent Middle School
Can't Resist This

7th grade
Monte Vista

Paisley Wiersma
certificate, \$150
Genoa-Hugo School
The Cattle Calmer: The Effect of MBAS on Weaning Cattle

9th grade
Hugo

Emilio Ortiz
certificate, \$200
Monte Vista High School
Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under Simulated Drought Conditions

12th grade
Monte Vista

Colorado Bioscience Institute *Future of Life Sciences Award*

Joanna Raguraman
certificate, \$25
Discovery Canyon Middle School
Xenobiotic Nero-catastasis: Evidence for Biochemical Interference in the Cognitive Retention of Dugesia tigrina

8th grade
Colorado Springs

Yuna Lee
Sieun Jang
certificate, \$75
Fairview High School
Visualization of Beta-Amyloid Aggregation Using Split-GFP in Caenorhabditis elegans for Screening Small Molecules to Mitigate Protein Aggregation in Alzheimer's Disease

10th grade
11th grade
Boulder

Colorado Chemistry Teachers Association *CCTA Chemistry Award*

Rudrika Agarwal
certificate, \$150
Heritage Heights Academy
Microplastic Mayhem (Are you drinking microplastics?)

7th grade
Centennial

Liam Griffin
certificate, \$150
Sargent High School
Comparative Thermodynamic Analysis of Conventional and Alternative Deicers

10th grade
Monte Vista

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Colorado Environmental Health Association *Environmental Health Award*

Ingram Olson 7th grade
certificate, \$75, invitation to exhibit at the CEHA Annual Educational Conference (valued at \$400)
Telluride Middle School Telluride
Mycoremediation Exploration: Can Adding Materials or Plants Help Fungi Remediate Pollution in the Soil?

Natalie Muro 12th grade
certificate, \$150, invitation to exhibit at the CEHA Annual Educational Conference (valued at \$400)
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems

Colorado Foundation for Agriculture *Jack Fenwick Award for Agricultural Science*

Skyler Kechter 8th grade
certificate, \$50
Liberty School Joes
Keeping it Clean: Effective Methods of Preventing Coccidiosis by Lifecycle Interruption

Charli Poss 6th grade
certificate, \$50
Genoa-Hugo School Hugo
Burning Out: Sunlight's Impact on Bull Sperm Motility

Maggie Anderson 12th grade
certificate, \$50
Yuma High School Yuma
Expected Progeny Difference: Analysis of Maternal Trait Accuracy and Associated Calf Growth

Joseph White 10th grade
certificate, \$50
Limon Schools Limon
Biomass to Biogas

Colorado Medical Society *CMS Foundation Award*

Nhi Vuong 8th grade
certificate, invitation to exhibit at the Colorado Medical Society Annual Meeting (Sept. 19th in Vail) and attend the President's Inaugural Dinner with a paid overnight stay
Flagstaff Academy Longmont
Plant Compounds and Their Effect on Glucose Absorption in the Small Intestine

Naomi Kruse 12th grade
certificate, invitation to exhibit at the Colorado Medical Society Annual Meeting (Sept. 19th in Vail) and attend the President's Inaugural Dinner with a paid overnight stay
Schullandheim Home School Colorado Springs
Clean Vaccine: Assessing Antigen Recognition in a Minimal Excipient Vaccine Formulation

Colorado Mineral Society *Best Earth Science Award*

Amelie Andujar 8th grade
Emely Quijada 8th grade
certificate, \$35, book, mineral specimen
Brush Middle School Brush
Rain of Terror

Ezekiel Stulp 8th grade
James Miller 8th grade
certificate, \$50, book, mineral specimen
Lamar Middle School Lamar
Dust Busters! Who you gonna call?

William Walker 11th grade
certificate, \$50, book, mineral specimen
Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
Modeling the Impacts of Flow Rate on Riparian Beach Stability

Colorado Mycological Society *Excellence in Mycological Research Award*

Brynn Hamm 11th grade
certificate, \$25, CMS membership, signed copy of Vera Evenson's "Rocky Mountain Mushrooms"
Silverton Public High School Silverton
Plastic Decomposition Using Blue Oyster Mushrooms

Cami Wolkow 12th grade
certificate, \$50, CMS membership, signed copy of Vera Evenson's "Rocky Mountain Mushrooms"
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
Fungi: The Future Solution to Building Materials

Emilio Ortiz 12th grade
certificate, \$100, CMS membership, signed copy of Vera Evenson's "Rocky Mountain Mushrooms"
Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under Simulated Drought Conditions

Colorado Native Plant Society *CoNPS Award*

Kendyl Osborn 8th grade
certificate, \$150, 1-year membership to the Colorado Native Plant Society, book on Colorado native plants
La Junta Jr/Sr High School La Junta
Bumble Bees Please

Juakin Sawatzky 11th grade
certificate, \$150, 1-year membership to the Colorado Native Plant Society, book on Colorado native plants
Liberty School Joes
Phytoremediation of Mine Effluent Using Juncus Ensifolius

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Colorado Natural Heritage Program

Colorado Natural Heritage Program Conservation Award

Jack Jankelow 6th grade
 certificate, Wetlands of Colorado guidebook
 McClelland School Pueblo
Wildfire Burn Scar Reseeding and Restoration

Colorado Scientific Society

CSS Excellence in Earth Science Award

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, \$50
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and soil structure

Ashlyn Kozura 8th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Summit Middle Charter School Boulder
Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You

Noah Tice 12th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Fairview High School Boulder
Plausibility of Abiotic Formation of Martian Poppy Seeds and Leopard Spots Through the Oxidation of Iron Sulfide Grains

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using Biochar

Colorado Section of the American Chemical Society

ACS Chemistry Award

Sydney Montague 6th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Centauri Middle School La Jara
Medicine War

Rudrika Agarwal 7th grade
 certificate, \$125
 Heritage Heights Academy Centennial
Microplastic Mayhem (Are you drinking microplastics?)

Humza Memon 8th grade
 certificate, \$150
 Crescent View Academy Aurora
Effect of Osmotic Stress on the Microbial Activity: Modeling Biogas Inhibition through Idli Batter Fermentation

Abdullahi Adan 12th grade
 Kamal Khalif 11th grade
 Ebenezer Yimam 11th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Lotus School For Excellence Aurora
ZnO Nanoparticles for Simultaneous UV Disinfection + Filtration

Ria Rajasekharan 11th grade
 certificate, \$125
 Fossil Ridge High School Fort Collins
Laser Induced Graphene Electrodes for Capillary Microfluidic Electroanalysis

Sophia Zhang 12th grade
 Carolyn Long 9th grade
 certificate \$150
 Fairview High School Boulder
Water-Soluble Eutectogel Adhesives for Sustainable Packaging

Colorado State University, College of Agricultural Sciences

Innovations in the Science of Agriculture Award

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, \$500
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and soil structure

Laurynn Vetter 7th grade
 Bristol Cook 7th grade
 certificate, \$500
 Lone Star School Otis
Shape-Shifting Gel: Helping Plants Thrive Through Drought

Paisley Wiersma 9th grade
 certificate, \$500
 Genoa-Hugo School Hugo
The Cattle Calmer: The Effect of MBAS on Weaning Cattle

Jaelie Jaminet 9th grade
 certificate, \$500
 Sanford Jr/Sr High School Blanca
Observing pH Levels in Mares to Predict Parturition

Priya Mayjoy 10th grade
 certificate, \$500
 Lamar High School Lamar
Monitoring Apis Mellifera Linnaeus for winter survival (Year 3)

Colorado State University, Department of Agricultural Biology

Agricultural Biology Award

Kendyl Osborn 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 La Junta Jr/Sr High School La Junta
Bumble Bees Please

Talon Hodgson 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Nature's Filters

Priya Mayjoy 10th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Lamar High School Lamar
Monitoring Apis Mellifera Linnaeus for winter survival (Year 3)

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Emilio Ortiz 12th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular
 Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under
 Simulated Drought Conditions*

Colorado State University, Department of Chemistry *Excellence in Chemistry Award*

Connor Stone 8th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Brush Middle School Brush
*Science of the Sip: Coffee Grinder Brand, Ground Uniformity
 and Its Affect on Taste Profile*

Grace Zamora, Kayden Salapich, Callie Mincic 7th grade
 certificate, \$175
 Hoehne Jr/Sr High School Hoehne
*The Potential of Sagebrush-Derived Compounds as
 Antibacterial Agents*

Miley Gallegos 11th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Lotus School For Excellence Aurora
Creating Biodegradable Plastics from Gelatin

Austin Weickum, Drew Fox, Brais Novoa 11th grade
 certificate, \$175
 Stratton Schools Stratton
Operation S.H.I.E.L.D.

Colorado State University, Dept of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture *Excellence in Horticulture Award*

Lynnin Alba 6th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Alta Vista Charter School Lamar
The Frequency Factor

Laurynn Vetter & Bristol Cook 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Lone Star School Otis
Shape-Shifting Gel: Helping Plants Thrive Through Drought

Niels Novotny 10th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
NDVI Analysis of DWC, Drip Through, and Potted Plants

Emilio Ortiz 12th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular
 Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under
 Simulated Drought Conditions*

Colorado Veterinary Medical Association *Veterinary Science Award*

Khaleesi Reynolds 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Can't Resist This

Jaelie Jaminet 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sanford Jr/Sr High School Blanca
Observing pH Levels in Mares to Predict Parturition

Colorado's Electric Cooperatives *The Colorado EnergyWise Award*

Logan Haffner 8th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Cardinal Community Academy Keenesburg
Making the Invisible - Visible

Anirudh Rao 8th grade
 certificate, \$175
 STEM School Highlands Ranch
*Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries
 Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water*

Shreyas Gadepalli 10th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
*Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles: Enhancing Platinum
 Nanoparticle Stability in PEM Fuel Cells*

Ethan Bonnell 12th grade
 certificate, \$175
 Centaurus High School Lafayette
*SunSpot: A Solar-Powered Public Charging Station for the
 Future*

Colorado-Wyoming Society of American Foresters *Excellence in Forestry Research Award*

Ingram Olson 7th grade
 certificate, \$200
 Telluride Middle School Telluride
*Mycoremediation Exploration: Can Adding Materials or Plants
 Help Fungi Remediate Pollution in the Soil?*

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
 certificate, \$200
 Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
*Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using
 Biochar*

E-STEAM *E-STEAM Award*

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
*Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of
 grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and
 soil structure*

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, High Plains Section *IEEE Award*

Joel Wilson	8th grade
certificate, \$125 Amazon gift card	
Home School	Colorado Springs
<i>Hydrogen . . . A Green Gas of the Future?</i>	
Hung Le	11th grade
Drew McArtor	11th grade
Simon Helin	12th grade
certificate, \$175 Amazon gift card	
Fossil Ridge High School	Fort Collins
<i>AI Surgical Robot</i>	

Little Shop of Physics

Matthew McCausland Memorial Award

Callie Griffin	7th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
Sargent Middle School	Monte Vista
<i>Feel the Game: Basketball for the Blind</i>	
Hagen Short	8th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
Dove Creek Middle School	Dove Creek
<i>Rural De-Icer</i>	
Walter Martin	11th grade
Tucker McClain	11th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
Hoehne Jr/Sr High School	Hoehne
<i>An Experimental Study of Aerodynamic Efficiency in Ballistic Projectiles</i>	
Andres Montour	11th grade
Lee Pagels	11th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
East High School	Pueblo
<i>An Investigation of the Field Strength of Ceramic Blocks Using a Weighted Levitated Disk</i>	
Connor Knight	10th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
East High School	Pueblo
<i>Engineering the Optimal Airplane Wing for Maximum Lift-to-Drag Ratio</i>	
Ciyana Stum	6th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
Plainview School	Sheridan Lake
<i>Paper vs. Beans</i>	
Nimisha Upadhyay	8th grade
Azaria Saiz	8th grade
certificate, science equipment/instruments	
Challenge School	Aurora
<i>Power From Footsteps: How Piezoelectric Tiles Generate Electricity</i>	

Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin Aerospace Award

Calvin Yang-Jacobs	8th grade
certificate, \$150	
Southern Hills Middle School	Boulder
<i>Testing the Lift of Airfoils with a Wind Tunnel</i>	
Kowshik Shanmugamani & Aryaveer Sheoran	11th grade
certificate, \$350	
Cherry Creek High School	Greenwood Village
<i>Analyzing the Effectiveness of Blown Wing Application in Fighter Jet Movement Dynamics</i>	

National Centers for Environmental Information

NCEI Award of Scientific Excellence

Ashlyn Kozura	8th grade
certificate, anonymously donated cash award	
Summit Middle Charter School	Boulder
<i>Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You</i>	

National Security Agency

NSA Special Award

Laurel Kent	8th grade
certificate, Gripper bot	
Eagleview Middle School	Colorado Springs
<i>SnackSnap: Developing a Mobile-Based Diagnostic Tool to Identify Hyper-Palatable Foods</i>	
Bhavish Matli	6th grade
certificate, Handheld computer/communicator	
Home School	Parker
<i>Risky Business: Developmental Peaks in Dopamine-Linked Eye-Blink Rates</i>	
Tyler Goodnow	12th grade
certificate, Headphones	
Nederland Middle/High School	Nederland
<i>Using an AI Model to Interpret Nerve Signals to Move a Robotic Hand</i>	
Amy Zhang	11th grade
certificate, Solar gps watch	
Lakewood High School	Lakewood
<i>Just Look, Don't Type: Enabling Intent-Level Communication through Gaze Grounding and Disambiguation</i>	

Platte River Power Authority

Platte River Power Authority Special Award for Environmental Responsibility

Joel Wilson	8th grade
certificate, \$200	
Home School	Colorado Springs
<i>Hydrogen . . . A Green Gas of the Future?</i>	
Joseph White	10th grade
certificate, \$300	
Limon Schools	Limon
<i>Biomass to Biogas</i>	

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair

Special Awards Press Release

Platte River Power Authority's Special Award for Energy Efficiency and Innovation

Anirudh Rao certificate, \$200 STEM School	8th grade Highlands Ranch
<i>Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water</i>	
Collin Richardson certificate, \$300 Wiggins High School	9th grade Wiggins
<i>The Power of Hydrogen</i>	

Rocky Mountain Association of Geologist *Excellence in Earth Science Award*

Clay Grossman certificate, \$200 Summit Middle Charter School	8th grade Boulder
<i>Trust the Trees: How Mangroves Impact Coastal Flooding</i>	
Shaurya Sisodia certificate, \$300 Liberty Middle School	8th grade Aurora
<i>The Effects of Soil Liquefaction on The Structural Stability of Buildings</i>	
Colter Dennison certificate, \$200 Mancos High School	10th grade Mancos
<i>Toxic Tributaries 3: Mines Effect On Rivers Health</i>	
William Walker certificate, \$300 Monte Vista High School	11th grade Monte Vista
<i>Modeling the Impacts of Flow Rate on Riparian Beach Stability</i>	

Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association *Water Research Award*

Ellis Evans certificate, \$50 Eagleview Middle School	8th grade Colorado Springs
<i>Connecting Contaminants: A Correlation between Air and Water Quality</i>	
Eashanand Palakollu certificate, \$75 Cherry Creek Academy	7th grade Englewood
<i>Evaluating Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Microplastic-Induced Snowmelt in Colorado's Mountain Snowpack</i>	
Natalie Muro certificate, \$50 Palmer High School	12th grade Colorado Springs
<i>A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems</i>	
Cameron Kempisty certificate, \$75 Air Academy High School	9th grade Colorado Springs
<i>Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using Biochar</i>	

Science Toy Magic

Physics Classroom Demonstration Award

Lucille Lapp certificate, \$50 Brush Middle School	6th grade Brush
<i>Swing Away</i>	
Musab Atif certificate, \$100 Crescent View Academy	6th grade Aurora
<i>Effect of Friction on Objects in Motion</i>	
Tanner Houser certificate, \$50 Sargent High School	12th grade Monte Vista
<i>Demonstrating a Potential Method for Black Hole Information Recovery via Simulated Hawking Radiation</i>	
Julia Gao certificate, \$100 Fairview High School	11th grade Boulder
<i>Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction</i>	

Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Colorado Section

Award for Excellence in Mineral Science and Engineering

Metta Omundsen & Anna Steaves plaque, \$300 Miller Middle School	6th grade Durango
<i>Meticulous Melting Matter</i>	
Shaurya Sisodia plaque, \$400 Liberty Middle School	8th grade Aurora
<i>The Effects of Soil Liquefaction on The Structural Stability of Buildings</i>	
Lola Sondrol plaque, \$400 Monte Vista High School	9th grade Monte Vista
<i>Sustainable Cleanup: Mycoremediation as a Green Alternative for Heavy Metal Removal</i>	
Paisley Anderson plawue, \$600 Creede High School	9th grade Creede
<i>The Rusting Creek: The Impact of Mining Contamination on Riparian Vegetation in West Willow Creek</i>	

Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Colorado Chapter 354

Andy Keller Memorial Award

Hagen Short certificate, \$100, recognition by the local chapter Dove Creek Middle School	8th grade Dove Creek
<i>Rural De-Icer</i>	

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Special Awards Press Release

Siena Halterman 7th grade
 certificate, \$150, recognition by the local chapter
 Sacred Heart of Jesus School Boulder
En Pointe. On Point.

Hayden Drullinger 12th grade
 certificate, \$200, recognition by the local chapter
 Liberty School Joes
No Flow, No Grow

Society of Women Engineers, Rocky Mountain Section *SWE Award*

Siena Halterman 7th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Sacred Heart of Jesus School Boulder
En Pointe. On Point.

Callie Griffin 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Feel the Game: Basketball for the Blind

Brynn Hamm 11th grade
 certificate, \$75
 Silverton Public High School Silverton
Plastic Decomposition Using Blue Oyster Mushrooms

Sophia Zhang 12th grade
 Carolyn Long 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Fairview High School Boulder
Water-Soluble Eutectogel Adhesives for Sustainable Packaging

Soil & Water Conservation Society, Colorado Chapter *Natural Resource Conservation Award*

Eashanand Palakollu 7th grade
 certificate
 Cherry Creek Academy Englewood
*Evaluating Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Microplastic-
 Induced Snowmelt in Colorado's Mountain Snowpack*

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
*Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of
 grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and
 soil structure*

Addison Mondragon 12th grade
 certificate
 Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Sink or Swim II: Analyzing Impacts of River Conservation
 Methods on Each Other While Building River Conservation
 Projects*

Ayush Vispute 11th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Rampart High School Colorado Springs
*Complete in Csilico Discovery and Validation of New High
 Performing Carbon Capturing Organisms*

State of Colorado, Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety *DRMS Outstanding Science Exhibit Award*

Laurynn Vetter 7th grade
 Bristol Cook 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Lone Star School Otis
Shape-Shifting Gel: Helping Plants Thrive Through Drought

Lola Sondrol 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Sustainable Cleanup: Mycoremediation as a Green Alternative
 for Heavy Metal Removal*

STEMgirls, LLC *STEMgirls Middle School Rising Star Award*

Callie Griffin 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Feel the Game: Basketball for the Blind

The Morrow Family *Dental & Forensics Award*

Davis Wischer 7th grade
 certificate, \$50
 St. Mary's Catholic School Greeley
Minty Fresh - or Plaque Mess?

Lucy Boehm 6th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Eagleview Middle School Colorado Springs
*How Does Food Affect Blood Sugar: With and Without a
 Working Pancreas*

Acalia Baca 11th grade
 certificate, \$50
 Rocky Ford Jr/Sr High School Rocky Ford
Self-Heimlich Force Analysis

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
*Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using
 Biochar*

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Special Awards Press Release

The Sara Volz Family

The Volz Family Award for Outstanding Work in Fundamental Science

Pranav Challa 11th grade
certificate, \$300
Stargate Charter School Thornton
*Magnetic-Field-Dependent Optical Signatures of Quantum Dots
as an Analog for Spin-Sensitive Neural Imaging Limits*

Ella Wilson & Hailey Znamenacek 12th grade
certificate, \$300
Steamboat Springs High School Steamboat Springs
*Heat-sensitive Protist Presence in the Microbiome of
Pocillopora damicornis Correlated with Thermal Stress
Response of Coral*

The Warnock Family Warnock Family Award

Julia Muro 9th grade
certificate, \$150
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
*Sting at the Cellular Level: How Bee Venom Lyses Cell
Membranes as a Pathway to Kill Cancer Cells*

Julia Gao 11th grade
certificate, \$150
Fairview High School Boulder
*Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-
Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction*

The Wilkins Family Young Entrepreneur's Award

Surie Jia 11th grade
certificate, \$750
Fairview High School Boulder
*Engineering a Smart Wearable Sleep Sensor Using Shape-
Memory Polymer Networks*

Thermo Fisher Scientific

Advancing Equity through Innovation Award

Vikram Raju 11th grade
certificate, \$200
Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
*Opi-Gone: A Novel Synthetic Protein Switch to Restore GABA
Release and Regulate Dopamine in Opioid Use Disorder*

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
certificate, \$200
Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
*Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using
Biochar*

Natalie Muro 12th grade
certificate, \$200
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
*A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal
Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems*

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited River Conservation Award

Jett Smith 6th grade
certificate, \$100
Centauri Middle School La Jara
Damming Evidence

Lola Sondrol 9th grade
certificate, \$150
Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Sustainable Cleanup: Mycoremediation as a Green Alternative
for Heavy Metal Removal*

Aayush Paliwal 9th grade
certificate, \$250
Pine Creek High School Colorado Springs
*Digital Defense: Using Molecular Docking to Combat the
Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic in North American Forests*

Zonta Club of Boulder County Amelia Earhart Award

Callie Griffin 7th grade
certificate, \$100
Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Feel the Game: Basketball for the Blind

Scholarships

CO₂/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Foundation

Reduction of CO₂ & Greenhouse Gases Scholarship

Shreyas Gadepalli 10th grade
certificate, non-renewable scholarship
Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
*Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles: Enhancing Platinum
Nanoparticle Stability in PEM Fuel Cells*

Colorado School of Mines

Colorado School of Mines CSEF Scholarship

Zoe Wang 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Fairview High School Boulder
*Restoring Klebsiella pneumoniae Susceptibility to Tobramycin
via Antibiotic Adjuvants*

Abhijay Kodadala 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Grandview High School Aurora
Renaturing Proteins with Organic Materials

2026 Colorado Science and Engineering Fair Special Awards Press Release

Ayush Vispute 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Rampart High School Colorado Springs
*Complete in Csilico Discovery and Validation of New High
Performing Carbon Capturing Organisms*

Kowshik Shanmugamani 11th grade
Aryaveer Sheoran 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
*Analyzing the Effectiveness of Blown Wing Application in
Fighter Jet Movement Dynamics*

Om Vegesna 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Fairview High School Boulder
*New Materials for the Green Synthesis of Energy Intermediates
from Waste via Selective Hydrogenation and In-Silico Screening*

Dev Patel 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Centaurus High School Lafayette
*Physics-Based Simulation and Machine Learning for Optimal
Two-Layer Thermal Protection System Design*

Julia Gao 11th grade
\$1,000 Mines scholarship, renewable for up to 3 additional years
for use towards an undergraduate degree at the Colorado School
of Mines
Fairview High School Boulder
*Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-
Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction*

Colorado State University, College of Agricultural Sciences

Scholarship: Excellence in Agricultural Innovation

Niels Novotny 10th grade
\$1,000 non-renewable scholarship to be awarded for the 1st
semester of attendance at CSU while enrolled in a CAS major
Cherry Creek High School Greenwood Village
NDVI Analysis of DWC, Drip Through, and Potted Plants

Domenica Plaza Homiston 11th grade
\$1,000 non-renewable scholarship to be awarded for the 1st
semester of attendance at CSU while enrolled in a CAS major
Fairview High School Boulder
*Barn Illuminance as a Modulator of Dairy Cow Behavior and
Welfare*

Colorado State University, Fort Collins CSU Fort Collins Scholarship

Priya Mayjoy 10th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Lamar High School Lamar
Monitoring Apis Mellifera Linnaeus for winter survival (Year 3)

Natalie Cappelletti 12th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Fairview High School Boulder
*Mitigating and Miscommunicating: Analyzing and Visualizing
Discourse Markers from Bilingual Children Across the United
States*

Aariv Arora 9th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Stargate Charter School Thornton
*Computational Screening of FDA-Approved Cancer Drugs for
Targeting Altered Proteins in Cholangiocarcinoma*

Abhijay Kodadala 11th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Grandview High School Aurora
Renaturing Proteins with Organic Materials

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
*Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using
Biochar*

Om Vegesna 11th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Fairview High School Boulder
*New Materials for the Green Synthesis of Energy Intermediates
from Waste via Selective Hydrogenation and In-Silico Screening*

Hayden Drullinger 12th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
to 3 additional years

Liberty School Joes
No Flow, No Grow

Natalie Muro 12th grade
certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for
up to 3 additional years

Palmer High School Colorado Springs
*A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal
Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems*

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Dev Patel 11th grade
 certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
 to 3 additional years
 Centaurus High School Lafayette
*Physics-Based Simulation and Machine Learning for Optimal
 Two-Layer Thermal Protection System Design*

Aayush Paliwal 9th grade
 certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
 to 3 additional years
 Pine Creek High School Colorado Springs
*Digital Defense: Using Molecular Docking to Combat the
 Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic in North American Forests*

Julia Gao 11th grade
 certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
 to 3 additional years
 Fairview High School Boulder
*Year Two: Toward Expansion of the Standard Model with Multi-
 Hadron Final States and Muon Neutrino Reconstruction*

Emilio Ortiz 12th grade
 certificate, \$1,000 scholarship to attend CSU, renewable for up
 to 3 additional years
 Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular
 Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under
 Simulated Drought Conditions*

Colorado State University, Pueblo Colorado State University-Pueblo Scholarship

Havoc Martinez & Nikolas Martinez 12th grade
 \$1,000 renewable scholarship to Colorado State University,
 Pueblo
 Central High School Pueblo
WET Technology - Magnetic Outlet Adapter

Society

American Psychological Association Achievement in Psychological Science Award

Bhavish Matli 6th grade
 certificate, one-year student affiliate membership in APA
 Home School Parker
*Risky Business: Developmental Peaks in Dopamine-Linked Eye-
 Blink Rates*

Anthony Zarlengo 12th grade
 certificate, one-year student affiliate membership in APA
 Green Mountain High School Lakewood
RamJam: Digital Student Connectivity

Association for Women Geoscientists AWG Student Award for Geoscience Excellence

Ashlyn Kozura 8th grade
 certificate, one-year AWG honorary SAGE student membership
 Summit Middle Charter School Boulder
Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You

Cameron Kempisty 9th grade
 certificate, one-year AWG honorary SAGE student membership
 Air Academy High School Colorado Springs
*Sequestering PFAS from Biosolids: A Natural Solution Using
 Biochar*

Citadel Securities

Citadel Securities Innovation Prize

Eleanor Smith & Rylee White 7th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Connect Charter School Pueblo
Brain Lateralization in Goats

Ayush Vispute 11th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Rampart High School Colorado Springs
*Complete in Csilico Discovery and Validation of New High
 Performing Carbon Capturing Organisms*

Lemelson Foundation

The Lemelson Early Inventor Prize

Joel Wilson 8th grade
 certificate, \$100
 Home School Colorado Springs
Hydrogen . . . A Green Gas of the Future?

NASA

Earth System Science Award

Mikaela Ludden 8th grade
 Charlotte Hoffman 7th grade
 certificate
 Challenge School Aurora
The Effects of Climate Change on African Whites' Tree Frogs

Colter Dennison 10th grade
 certificate
 Mancos High School Mancos
Toxic Tributaries 3: Mines Effect On Rivers Health

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award

Mikaela Ludden 8th grade
 Charlotte Hoffman 7th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, NOAA lapel pin
 Challenge School Aurora
The Effects of Climate Change on African Whites' Tree Frogs

Diego Jose 9th grade
 certificate, letter of congratulations, NOAA lapel pin
 Aurora Science and Tech Middle Aurora
 School
*Building *Ph*ilters: Constructing a Phosphorous Capturing
 Filter to Abrogate Red Tide Blooms*

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Special Awards Press Release

Regeneron

Biomedical Science Award

Naomi Kruse 12th grade
certificate, \$375
Schullandheim Home School Colorado Springs
*Clean Vaccine: Assessing Antigen Recognition in a Minimal
Excipient Vaccine Formulation*

Ricoh

Sustainable Development Award

Addison Alexander 7th grade
certificate, trees will be planted by One Tree Planted on the
students' behalf
Mancos Middle School Mancos
Sorghum vs. Flood, Drought and Darkness

Emilio Ortiz 12th grade
certificate, trees will be planted by One Tree Planted on the
students' behalf
Monte Vista High School Monte Vista
*Roots to Resilience: Testing the Effects of Arbuscular
Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Different Potato Cultivars Under
Simulated Drought Conditions*

Society for In Vitro Biology

Outstanding Achievement in In Vitro Biology Award

Madison Gunnels 10th grade
Chase Pollart 11th grade
certificate, one-year membership in SIVB
Brush High School Brush
*The Effects of Northeast Colorado Irrigation Water Sources on
Alfalfa Seed Germination*

Haley Smith 11th grade
certificate, one-year membership in SIVB
Yuma High School Yuma
*The Impact of Age, Exercise, and Sex on Cortisol Levels of
Horses*

Stokholm Junior Water Prize

Regional Water Prize Award

Natalie Muro 12th grade
certificate, nomination to apply to the SJWP competition
(deadline is April 15th)
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
*A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal
Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems*

Isaac Stong 11th grade
certificate, nomination to apply to the SJWP competition
(deadline is April 15th)
Green Mountain High School Lakewood
*How Much More Impacted by Microplastics Are Urban Lakes
and Reservoirs Than Rural Lakes and Reservoirs*

Paisley Anderson 9th grade
certificate, nomination to apply to the SJWP competition
(deadline is April 15th)
Creede High School Creede
*The Rusting Creek: The Impact of Mining Contamination on
Riparian Vegetation in West Willow Creek*

Casey Moore 12th grade
certificate, nomination to apply to the SJWP competition
(deadline is April 15th)
Centennial High School Pueblo
Lead Filtration

Abdullahi Adan 12th grade
Kamal Khalif 11th grade
Ebenezer Yimam 11th grade
certificate, nomination to apply to the SJWP competition
(deadline is April 15th)
Lotus School For Excellence Aurora
*ZnO Nanoparticles for Simultaneous UV Disinfection +
Filtration*

Thermo Fisher Scientific

Junior Innovators Challenge

Hannah Deering 8th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
Yuma Middle School Yuma
*Year Two: The Effect of Leg Length on Canine Speed Across
Multiple Breeds*

Kendyl Osborn 8th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
La Junta Jr/Sr High School La Junta
Bumble Bees Please

Nadiya Abarca-Reynoso 8th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
Skinner Middle School Denver
*How Does Time Affect Witness Reliability After an Incident Has
Occurred?*

Dhriti Mehta 7th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
Flagstaff Academy Longmont
Effects of Notetaking on Memory Retention

Kynzleigh Hanel 7th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Barnyard Bacteria

Mabel Grimsley 7th grade
certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
Vail Mountain School Vail
Elite Essential Oils

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Kenley Mitchell 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Sargent Middle School Monte Vista
Small Plastics, Big Problems!

Sydney Montague 6th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Centauri Middle School La Jara
Medicine War

Sienna Harden 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 St. Joseph's Catholic School Fort Collins
*Save the Cows, Save the Soil, Save the World! The impact of
 grazing in Northern Colorado on soil fertility, soil function, and
 soil structure*

Ashlyn Kozura 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Summit Middle Charter School Boulder
Forecasting the Flash: What Makes Lightning Choose You

Anirudh Rao 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 STEM School Highlands Ranch
*Mirai - A Sustainable Alternative to Electrochemical Batteries
 Using Treated Nanomaterials and Water*

Nimisha Upadhyay & Azaria Saiz 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Challenge School Aurora
*Power From Footsteps: How Piezoelectric Tiles Generate
 Electricity*

Payal Gopinath & Evan Gopinath 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Nevin Platt Middle School Boulder
*An Objective Measurement of Physical Properties and
 Environmental Impact of Climbing Chalk*

Shaurya Sisodia 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Liberty Middle School Aurora
*The Effects of Soil Liquefaction on The Structural Stability of
 Buildings*

Joel Wilson 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Home School Colorado Springs
Hydrogen . . . A Green Gas of the Future?

Hagen Short 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Dove Creek Middle School Dove Creek
Rural De-Icer

Laurel Kent 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Eagleview Middle School Colorado Springs
*SnackSnap: Developing a Mobile-Based Diagnostic Tool to
 Identify Hyper-Palatable Foods*

John Dicker 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Monte Vista Middle School Monte Vista
Reducing Human Pesticide Exposure Through Technology

Anmoldeep Gill 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Lamar Middle School Lamar
Effects of Probiotics on Pathogenic Adhesion

Marat Gilfanov & Takahiro Stewart 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Southern Hills Middle School Boulder
The Solution to Pollution

Calvin Yang-Jacobs 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Southern Hills Middle School Boulder
Testing the Lift of Airfoils with a Wind Tunnel

Alexander Snow 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Compass Community Fort Collins
 Collaborative School
The Effect of Surface Dimples on Aerodynamics

Yasaswini Vinjamuri 8th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Heritage Heights Academy Centennial
Air-Purifying Geniuses

Laurynn Vetter & Bristol Cook 7th grade
 certificate, nomination to enter the 2026 Junior Innovators
 Challenge (deadline is June 10, 2026)
 Lone Star School Otis
Shape-Shifting Gel: Helping Plants Thrive Through Drought

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US Metric Association

Best Use of the International System of Units Award

Eashanand Palakollu 7th grade
certificate, one-year membership in the USMA
Cherry Creek Academy Englewood
*Evaluating Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Microplastic-
Induced Snowmelt in Colorado's Mountain Snowpack*

Natalie Muro 12th grade
certificate, one-year membership in the USMA; eligible to apply
for the annual USMA Metric Scholarship Award
Palmer High School Colorado Springs
*A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal
Blooms in Freshwater Ecosystems*

Yale Science & Engineering Association

YSEA Science Fair Award

Helen Wan 11th grade
certificate, E-book
Pine Creek High School Colorado Springs
*Medicine Dissolution in a Ground-Based Acoustically Levitated
Environment*

Teacher

Colorado Association of Science Teachers

CAST Teacher Award

James Osborn
certificate, \$200, 1-year free CAST membership
La Junta Jr/Sr High School La Junta

Nathaniel Lohmann
certificate, \$200, 1-year free CAST membership
Palmer High School Colorado Springs

Laird Family & Salesforce

Doug Steward Memorial Teacher Award

Dr. Paul Strobe
certificate, \$400
Fairview High School Boulder

Jenine Winslow
certificate, \$400
Eagleview Middle School Colorado Springs

Lockheed Martin

CSEF Teacher of the Year Award

Dr. Paul Strobe
certificate, memento, \$3,000 grant for school
Fairview High School Boulder