2025 USEF - Special Awards

Award Name	Name	School	Project Title
Air and Waste Management Association - Great Basin Chapter Award	Ian Jake Kim	West High	Reducing Hydrofluorocarbon Emissions: Fine Tuning Phase Transitions in Two-Dimensional (2D) Perovskites For Solid-State Refrigeration
American Psychological Association Award	Sienna Vonderhoe	Juan Diego Catholic High	The Emotional and Physical Experiences of Adolescents from Coloring
American Psychological Association Award	Aadi Mishra	The Waterford School	Engaging Minds, Debunking Lies: Using Moral Foundations to Fight Misinformation
Association for Women Geoscientists - Junior Division 1st Place	Mary Fedorov	Challenger	Cleaning Utah Air: Analyzing the Efficiency of Various Pre-Filters in Smoke Particle Removal
Association for Women Geoscientists - Junior Division 2nd Place	Dalia Habib	Challenger	The Desert Garden
Association for Women Geoscientists - Senior Division 1st Place	Abigail Downs, Rebecca Miles, Liam Decker	Rowland Hall	Improving sustainable industrialization: Macroalgae Halimeda opuntia as a substitute for calcite in a novel biocement
Association for Women Geoscientists - Senior Division 2nd Place	Hannah Tsao	West High	Decontaminating Our Great Salt Lake utilizing Tagetes Erecta & Tagetes Patula for Phytoremediation
Broadcom Coding With Commitment	Grace Scott	Stansbury Park Elementary	Reaction Time Test
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Elementary Division	Annie Jia	Nibley Park Elementary	Effects of Microenvironments on Toxicity in the Lakebed of the Great Salt Lake
FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake Awards - Senior Division	Hamilton Patterson	Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)	Filtering arsenic using biochar
GENIUS Olympiad	Aneesh Rao	Skyline High	Enhancing Water Quality and Soil Reusability through Bio-Organic Biochar : A Novel Approach to Environmental Remediation and Sustainability
GENIUS Olympiad	Betty Otterstrom-Young	Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)	Remediating the soil with mycorrhizae
GENIUS Olympiad	Aditi Rao	Skyline High	A Novel Green Strategy for Mitigating Drought Stress: Investigating the Impact of Varied Concentrations of different Biodegradable Hydrogels on Enhancing Drought Resistance in Zea Mays
GENIUS Olympiad	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	We are the gateway of PFAS compounds in the environment
Lemelson Early Inventor Prize	Aert Glodowski	Bonneville Elementary	Illuminating Reading Glasses
Marinda Therapeutics Aspiring STEM Researcher - Elementary Division	Adam Lazaro	Esperanza Elementary	Harmful or Helpful? The Effects of Hydrogen Peroxide on the Roots of Plant Cuttings
Marinda Therapeutics Aspiring STEM Researcher - Junior Division	Emma Wann	Our Lady of Lourdes	Buzz Off! A natural, safe, effective and long-lasting way of keeping Horses safe from Horse Flies
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 1st Place	Rain Wang	Wasatch Jr. High	Predicting Type 2 Diabetes With Risk Matrix Modeling Vs. Logistic Regression Modeling
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 2nd Place	Daniel Hathaway	Bonneville Elementary	Plastic Wheels Rollin'
Mission Math Awards - Elementary Division 3rd Place	James Zheng	Challenger	The Sound of Silence
Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 1st Place	Aashita Mandiwal	West High	Modeling Lung Cancer Growth Using Differential Equations
Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 2nd Place	Aditi Nagalingam	West High	Fractal Analysis of Slime Mold Networks as a Cancer Vascularization Model
Mission Math Awards - Junior Division 3rd Place	Ella Wood	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 3	Sonic Sparks
NASA Earth System Science Award	Abigail Downs, Rebecca Miles, Liam Decker	Rowland Hall	Improving sustainable industrialization: Macroalgae Halimeda opuntia as a substitute for calcite in a novel biocement
NASA Earth System Science Award	Scott Vars	Skyline High	Using Python to Format Satellite Imagery to Analyze Vegetation Impacts on the Wasatch Front from 2000 - 2020
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Thea DeBellis, Ainsley Moore, Rachel Bragu	Rowland Hall	Blooming solutions: Transforming eutrophic algal blooms into biofertilizers
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Anna Lui, Isaac Granger	Rowland Hall	Investigating effectiveness and efficiency: Yeast-algae co-cultures in microbial fuel cells

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Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Marina Chen	Challenger	Do Heavy Metals Assassinate the Glow? Exploring Vibrio Fischeri Bioluminescence as a Bioindication for Heavy Metal Pollution
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Charlotte Soelberg	Churchill Jr. High	Ocean Wave Energy Generator
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Owen Eischeid	St. Vincent de Paul School	Creating and Changing A Fluidized Bed
Office of Naval Research - Junior Division	Lukas Johnstun	St. Joseph Elementary School	Crazy Coaster
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	Tiffany Nguyen	Juan Diego Catholic High	3D Printing a Biomedical Cell Chip to Explore the Effects of Flow on PASMC
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	Ian Jake Kim	West High	Reducing Hydrofluorocarbon Emissions: Fine Tuning Phase Transitions in Two-Dimensional (2D) Perovskites For Solid-State Refrigeration
Office of Naval Research Awards - Senior Division	Paul Stach	West High	OmniPass: Solving the Problem of Password Re-use in Cybersecurity
Red Butte Gardens - Elementary Division	Prisha Karia	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 2	Plastic vs. Nature: Who will win?
Red Butte Gardens - Junior Division	Elena Delorey	St. John the Baptist Middle School	The Effects of Nitrogen Fixation on the pH of Bean Soil
Red Butte Gardens - Senior Division	Betty Otterstrom-Young	Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE)	Remediating the soil with mycorrhizae
Regeneron Biomedical Science Award	Krishnam Goel	West High	Cutting the Cord: Using Inductive Coupling Principles & Litz Coils to Wirelessly Power Implanted Batteries and Sensors
Ricoh Sustainable Development Award	Samhith Vajjala, Kevin Siju Eappen, Veeranshu Danech	Hillcrest High	Clean Tides
Ricoh Sustainable Development Award	Dan Jiang	West High	Building Confidence in Climate Emissions Tracking with Zero-Knowledge Proofs
SAB Award for Addressing Climate Change - Elementary Division	Lily Sanders	Challenger	Protect Plants from Acid Rain
SAB Award for Addressing Climate Change - Elementary Division	Vidhan Kale	Challenger	Urban Heat Busters
SAB Award for Addressing Climate Change - Junior Division	Hyrum Perkins, Jose Fuentes Rocha	Albion Middle School	Understanding the air quality crisis in Salt Lake County
SAB Award for Addressing Climate Change - Junior Division	Dalia Habib	Challenger	The Desert Garden
SAB Award for Use of Supplies Accessible/Available at Home - Elementary Division	Sophia Robison, Lila Hathaway	Bonneville Elementary	Magnetic Powered Car: Vroom Vroom! Help us get the "Vroom" out of cars!
SAB Award for Use of Supplies Accessible/Available at Home - Elementary Division	Smera Nair	St. John the Baptist Middle School	H2O Heroes: See the Clear Difference
SAB Award for Use of Supplies Accessible/Available at Home - Junior Division	Melinda Zhou	West High	Testing the Effects of Coating Materials in Fruit Storage
SAB Award for Use of Supplies Accessible/Available at Home - Junior Division	Charlotte Soelberg	Churchill Jr. High	Ocean Wave Energy Generator
SAB Writing Award: Elementary, Mythical Creatures	Shrika Reddy Soorum	American Preperatory Academy, Draper 2	Yeti the Mythical Creature
SAB Writing Award: Junior, Mythical Creatures	Anushka Rajeev	Midvale Middle School	Unicorns
SAB Writing Award: Junior, Civilization in Space	Pranav Bagirithan	Challenger	Civilization in Space
SAB Writing Award: Junior, Science & Social Justice	Adwita Mandiwal	West High	The Hidden Cost of Advancement
Sab Writing Award: Senior, Mythical Creatures	Cecelia Hyman	Rowland Hall	Dragons
Sab Writing Award: Senior, Civilization in Space	Alden Rhodes	Rowland Hall	How Technology Can Pave the Way for Interplanetary Travel
Sab Writing Award: Senior, Science & Social Justice	Owen Taylor	Rowland Hall	Speed in the Markets: The Consequences of High Frequency Trading
Salt Lake Public Utilities - 1st Place	Aiden Karnam	The Waterford School	We are the gateway of PFAS compounds in the environment
Salt Lake Public Utilities - 2nd Place	Andrew Yenchek	Skyline High	Signal Transmission Through Aqueous Salt Solutions
Society for In Vitro Biology Award	Bhavya Soni	West High	A Novel Treatment for TP53- Deficient cancers
Society for In Vitro Biology Award	Angelina Nguyen	Hunter High	Engineering Photosynthetic Cardiomyocytes: A Computational Model for ATP Production and Ischemic Recovery

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Stockholm Junior Water Prize Award	Ian Jake Kim	West High	Reducing Hydrofluorocarbon Emissions: Fine Tuning Phase Transitions in Two-Dimensional (2D) Perovskites For Solid-State Refrigeration
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 1st Place	Jayden Roos	West High	Fission Impossible: The Future of Nuclear Energy
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 2nd Place	Kethan Reddy	Challenger	A Machine Learning Approach to the Detection and Removal of Microplastics using Coagulation
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Junior Division 3rd Place	Linnea Schmid	Wasatch Jr. High	Building a Smart Watering System
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Senior Division 1st Place	Krishnam Goel	West High	Cutting the Cord: Using Inductive Coupling Principles & Litz Coils to Wirelessly Power Implanted Batteries and Sensors
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Senior Division 2nd Place	Phuc An Nguyen	Hunter High	Aloe Barbadensis Bioplastic Wrap: A Natural Solution for Prolonging Food Freshness
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Project in Energy or Environmental Science - Senior Division 3rd Place	Samhith Vajjala, Kevin Siju Eappen, Veeranshu Danech	Hillcrest High	Clean Tides
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 1st Place	Ayan Mishra	The Waterford School	Earthquake Prediction: Achieving Accuracy with Minimal Resources
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 2nd Place	Anagha Karthik	Wasatch Jr. High	Decoding the Silent Language
T.D. Williamson's Outstanding Young Scientist 3rd Place	Shranaav Senthil	Beehive Academy	Integrating AI into the Solar Tracker
The Leonardo - Elementary Division	Jonny Dunn	Draper Elementary	A Study of QWERTY-Induced Lexical Drift in Baby Name Trends
The Leonardo - Elementary Division	Siddharth Sammeta	Woodstock	Science of Spinning Tops with LEGOS
The Leonardo - Junior Division	Sophie Nguyen	Entheos Academy	Investigating the 'Mpemba Effect' - Can Hot Water Freeze Faster Than Cold Water?
The Leonardo - Junior Division	Owen Wilcox, Max Lindhardt	Butler Middle School	Antibubbles
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Rain Wang	Wasatch Jr. High	Predicting Type 2 Diabetes With Risk Matrix Modeling Vs. Logistic Regression Modeling
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Vivian Le	Challenger	Renewable Rays, Better Days
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Kaden Nguyen	American Preparatory Academy APA West Valley 1	The Spectacular Spider Web Shooter
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ayan Mishra	The Waterford School	Earthquake Prediction: Achieving Accuracy with Minimal Resources
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Annie Jia	Nibley Park Elementary	Effects of Microenvironments on Toxicity in the Lakebed of the Great Salt Lake
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Mrigank Gupta	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 2	A Cool Project - Air Cooler
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Mara Jurynec	Churchill Jr. High	Fungal Fighters - Identifying mushrooms that have antimicrobial properties
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Anagha Karthik	Wasatch Jr. High	Decoding the Silent Language
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Delilah Hart	Albion Middle School	Does Microgravity Affect Plant Growth?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Aert Glodowski	Bonneville Elementary	Illuminating Reading Glasses
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Diya L Singh	Challenger	HCl Meets Minerals
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Shrika Sooram	American Preparatory Academy APA Draper 2	Water Wars
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Keagan Stump	Copper Canyon Elementary	Sugar Spikes
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Sofia Flanery	St. John the Baptist Middle School	Butterflies Favorite Flower
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ryder Hales	McMillan Elementary	Clean Water Quest
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Alonso Avila	Challenger	Water vs Sand
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Avery Roos	Challenger	Mighty Microplastics vs Flower Power
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Aasha Gill	Wasatch Jr. High	Let's Roll
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Shranaav Senthil	Beehive Academy	Integrating AI into the Solar Tracker
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Wahida Zeena	Wasatch Jr. High	My Stomach Hurts
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Brock Ware	Twenty Wells	Battle of the Thermal Barriers
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Aditi Nagalingam	West High	Fractal Analysis of Slime Mold Networks as a Cancer Vascularization Model
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ellianna Gu	Wasatch Jr. High	Is Seeing Really Believing?: Can humans tell the difference between reality and AI?

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ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Lauren Hildebrand	J.E. Cosgriff Memorial	Which types of plants consume carbon dioxide the fastest?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Aashita Mandiwal	West High	Modeling Lung Cancer Growth Using Differential Equations
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Aaditya Kuberan	West High	TidyBot: Your Mini Cleaning Companion
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Alisha Chapala	Challenger	The Bleaching Point: Exploring Hair's Threshold
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Dalia Habib	Challenger	The Desert Garden
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Adwita Mandiwal	West High	Breathing Between the Lines: Using VOCs as a Path to Early Cancer Detection
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Daphne Wilson	Wasatch Jr. High	Breathe Easy: Improving Air Quality in Your Home
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Lily Coulter	Challenger	Quantifying Bacterial Resistance to Antibiotics
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Sophia Langarica	Entheos Academy	Composite vs aluminum
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Winston Turpin	Challenger	Absorption of Tetrahydrofuran Using Magnesium Compounds
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Mary Fedorov	Challenger	Cleaning Utah Air: Analyzing the Efficiency of Various Pre-Filters in Smoke Particle Removal
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Kethan Reddy	Challenger	A Machine Learning Approach to the Detection and Removal of Microplastics using Coagulation
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Zoey Swenson	Challenger	Biofilm
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Lina Saleh	Rowland Hall	Can We Reduce Perchlorate and Lead Toxicity in Baby's Food ?
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Joshya Yerrapureddy	West High	Landscapes in Pixels: Advancing Agricultural Strategies through Histogram-Based Color Analysis
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Calvin Simon	J.E. Cosgriff Memorial	The Effect Fidgets Have on Students With and Without ADHD
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Ted Henry Barratt	Beehive Academy	Terror in the Turf
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Anushka Rajeev	Midvale Middle School	Comparing AI Generated Text with Student Responses Using Computer Programming
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Pranav Bagirathan	Challenger	Hybrid Electric House
ThermoFisher Junior Innovators Challenge	Talia Clark	Challenger	Experimental Validation of the Principles of a Step-up Transformer
United States Air Force Award - Elementary Division	Elisabeth Slobodnic	St. John the Baptist Middle School	Can Golf Balls Make Planes Fly Safer?
United States Air Force Awards - Junior Division	Corinne Gray	J.E. Cosgriff Memorial	Driving on Sunshine at Night: Does Longer Solar Charging of a Supercapacitor Extend Motor Runtime?
United States Air Force Awards - Junior Division	Jessica Paulson	St. John the Baptist Middle School	Secrets to a Floating Leaf
United States Air Force Awards - Senior Division	Evan Weinstein	Rowland Hall	Autonomous Pathfinding and Object Avoidance in Small Drones
US Metric Association Award	Maximus Widmaier	Juan Diego Catholic High	Stellar simulations: How fuel density and temperature affect fusion reaction rates
US Metric Association Award	Bala Naga Sahasra Tella	West High	Engineering Fluorapatite for Bone Scaffolds: The Role of Thermal Processing in Structural Performance
USEF Director's Award - Elementary Division	Layla Saleh	Rowland Hall	A Novel Prednisolone Gel for Ear Inflammation
USEF Director's Award - Junior Division	Zoey Swenson	Challenger	Biofilm
USEF Director's Award - Senior Division	Angelina Nguyen	Hunter High	Engineering Photosynthetic Cardiomyocytes: A Computational Model for ATP Production and Ischemic Recovery
Yale Science and Engineering Association Award - Senior Division	Samuel Lu	Rowland Hall	The Role of the Small GTPase ARF6 in Mediating Oxidative Stress-Induced Senescence in the Retinal Pigment Epithelium