




**Young Scientist  
Challenge**



in partnership with: 

## The 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge

### Overview

The 3M Young Scientist Challenge is a premier national science competition for students in grades 5 through 8. In its twelfth year, the Young Scientist Challenge is designed to encourage the exploration of science and innovation among America's youth and to promote the importance of science communication. In 1999, Discovery Communications launched the competition to nurture the next generation of American scientists at a critical age when interest in science begins to decline. In 2008 3M joined forces with Discovery Education in a quest to nurture the next generation of American scientists with an innovative and interactive science program open to every middle school student in America. Over the past 20 years, winners have gone on to speak in front of members of Congress, work with the nation's top scientists, and pursue academic careers in science.

### Process

In order to enter, students must be in grades 5 through 8, and must submit a video entry (see below) online at <https://www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge> by **May 7, 2020**.

Students are challenged to create a one-to-two-minute video describing an innovative solution to a real-world problem using science and engineering principles. Video entries must demonstrate the student's understanding of the scientific concept explained and should also exhibit his or her comfort level discussing science in general.

Videos do NOT need to be "produced" or have high production value. Judges are not evaluating production skills. Videos may be recorded on cell phones or simple digital cameras, for example. In addition, local libraries and schools may be able to loan cameras to students.

Videos will be screened to determine whether they meet all entry requirements and will then be presented to a panel of online judges. Judges will review the video submissions and choose the 10 national finalists who will go on to compete for \$25,000 and the title of "America's 2020 Top Young Scientist." Judges will then identify *up to* 51 state merit winners: one from each state and the District of Columbia. Winning entries will be based on the average of scores awarded by a panel of judges using the following rubric:

- (i) Creativity (ingenuity and innovative thinking) (30%);
- (ii) Scientific knowledge (30%);

- (iii) Persuasiveness and effective communication (20%); and
- (iv) Overall presentation (20%)

### **Summer Mentorship**

In June, 10 national finalists will be paired with 3M scientists to complete a summer assignment having to do with innovation. Together they will work virtually through pre-assigned objectives with resources and support provided by Discovery Education and 3M.

### **The Finals**

In the fall, the 10 finalists will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the competition finals (October 2020 at 3M's world headquarters in St. Paul, MN), consisting of a series of scientific challenges designed for students in grades 5 through 8. Finalists will be judged on their scientific problem solving and communication skills.

### **Prizing**

#### **Grand Prize Winner**

- \$25,000
- The title of "America's Top Young Scientist"
- A one-of-a-kind 2 day/1-night destination trip

#### **Top 10 Finalists**

- A trip to the 3M Innovation Center in St. Paul, MN to compete in the final event
- \$1,000
- Participation in a unique summer mentorship with a 3M scientist

#### **Improving Lives Award**

- A one-of-a-kind 2 day/1-night destination trip

#### **Two Runner-Up Prize Winners**

- A one-of-a-kind 2 day/1-night destination trip

#### **Honorable Mention (total of 6 awarded)**

- "Excitations" for a \$500 excursion

#### **Merit Winners (up to 51 - one from each State and the District of Columbia)**

- 3M Innovation Prize Packs

## Video Topics

### VIDEO SUBMISSION

The challenge is to create a one- to two- minute video that...

- explains the problem and how it impacts the entrant, their family, their community or the global population;
- describes a new innovation or solution that could solve or impact the problem;
- explains the science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics behind their innovation; and
- illustrates how their innovation could both address the everyday problem they've identified and have a broader impact locally or globally.

### ENTRY TOPICS

Your submission video for the 3M Young Scientist Challenge should show us how your innovation will Improve Lives for the Future. Your solution must be a new innovation or idea, and cannot simply be a new use for an existing product. The proposed innovation should fall under at least one of these categories:

- **Improving Health**
- **Improving Safety**
- **Improving Mobility**
- **Improving the Environment**
- **Improving Energy Consumption**
- **Improving the Community**

For more information on the entry topics visit <https://www.youngscientistlab.com/challenge>