



STOCKHOLM

JUNIOR WATER PRIZE

USA

United States 2026
Stockholm Junior Water Prize
State Winners



The following state winners have advanced to the U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize national competition, to be awarded June 8-10, 2026, at the Industrial Water Solutions Conference in Chicago, Illinois

Alabama
Saisha Sahoo

Evaluating the Phytoremediation Potential of *Pontederia Cordata* for Cobalt, Lithium,
and Lead

Alabama School Of Fine Arts
Science Teacher: Hungsin Chin

Sponsored by Alabama's Water Environment Association

Alaska

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association

Arizona

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Arizona Water Association

Arkansas

Stevie Watkins and Anderson Goldthorpe

Battling Algal Blooms: How Rotifers Keep Microcystis in Check

Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

Science Teacher: Patrycja Krakowiak

Sponsored by the Arkansas Water Environment Association

California

Sathvika Siva and Diya Narayanan

Rhizosphere-Activated Fertilization: Dual-Trigger pH & Enzyme-Sensitive Fertilizer
Pellets to Prevent Aquatic Dead Zones

Lynbrook High School

Science Teacher: Nicole Dellasantina

Sponsored by the California Water Environment Association

Colorado

Natalie Muro

A Novel Field-Based Approach to Reducing Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater
Ecosystems

Palmer High School

Science Teacher: Nathaniel Lohmann

Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

Connecticut

Ellie Mao

Field and Lawn Runoff Removal of Nitrates and Phosphates via Fabrication of an Iron
and Calcium Fortified Biochar Filtration Material and Pouch

Greenwich High School

Science Teacher: Andrew Bramante

Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

Delaware

No qualifying entries.

Florida

Anagha Iyer

A Novel Approach to Wastewater Spill Remediation: Isolation, Identification, and
Encapsulation of Bacteriophages for Pathogen Mitigation

American Heritage School

Science Teacher: Juliana Caulkins

Sponsored by the Florida Water Environment Association

Georgia

Alex Han and Eric Shu

Hydrochar as an Alternative to Powdered Activated Carbon as an Adsorbent

Peachtree Ridge High School

Science Teacher: Corey Wellmaker
Sponsored by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Hawaii

Charlotte Bronstein

The Use of Native Hawaiian Plants in Constructed Wetlands to Filter Synthetic
Greywater
Seabury Hall

Science Teacher: Kassia Gann
Sponsored by the Hawaii Water Environment Association

Idaho

Samuel Smith and Ethan Linford

Efficacy of Granular Activated Carbon and Biochar Incorporation Within Stormwater
Swales to Reduce Heavy Metal and
Nutrient Runoff
Lake City High School

Science Teacher: Jamie Esler
Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Illinois

Muhammed Mubarak Ali

Comparative Analysis of Field Methods for Detecting Cyanobacteria in Freshwater
Dunlap High School

Science Teacher: Emily Dawson
Sponsored by the Illinois Water Environment Association

Indiana

Leila Dahlstrom and Lilian Dahlstrom

The Double Salt Effect: Modeling Salinity Impact from Immediate Roadside Runoff
versus Delayed Sediment Desorption in Aquatic Systems
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
Science Teacher: Jonas Dahlstrom

Sponsored by the Indiana Water Environment Association

Iowa

Gracie Liu

Evaluation of Carbon-Amended Biosand Filters on Nitrate Removal

West High School

Science Teacher: Megan Bildner

Sponsored by the Iowa Water Environment Association

Kansas

Anya Reddy

The Use of Natural Biocoagulants to Treat Excess Algal Growth and the Recycling of

Subsequent Residue as a Soil Fertilizer

Blue Valley North High School

Science Teacher: Shelly Weir

Sponsored by the Kansas Water Environment Association

Kentucky

Samyukta Garapati

Transforming Agricultural Waste into Sustainable Filtration Systems: Chemically

Activated Rice Husk-Derived Biogenic Silica for Phosphate

Removal

DuPont Manual High School

Science Teacher: Keri Plevchak

Sponsored by the Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee

Louisiana

Sahil Thorat

Extensively Monitoring Soil Moisture Using Automated System

Caddo Parish Magnet High

Science Teacher: Cameron Hall

Sponsored by the Louisiana Water Environment Association

Maine

Victoria Wahlig

Quantifying Ship Noise Pollution in Casco Bay and Its Potential Impact on Maine's
Blue Economy
Falmouth High School
Science Teacher: Cary James
Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

Maryland

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Chesapeake Water Environment Association

Massachusetts

Ronita Skukla

Enzymes to the Rescue! Novel Enzymatic Processes for Treating microplastics and
nanoplastics in aqUatic ENvironments (NEPTUNE)
Acton Boxborough Regional High School
Science Teacher: Brian Dempsey
Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

Michigan

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Michigan Water Environment Association

Minnesota

Parth Rana

ChemPrint: Machine Learning-Based Source Attribution of PFAS Contamination Using
Multi-Compound Chemical Fingerprint Analysis in Minnesota
Groundwater
Wayzata High School
Science Teacher: Joel Ellingson
Sponsored by the Central States Water Environment Association

Mississippi

Katie Chung

Waste Heat Recovery from Data Centers via Thermoelectric Generation

Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

Science Teacher: William Funderburk

Sponsored by the Mississippi Water Environment Association

Missouri

Ananya Goli

A Waste-to-Hydrochar Lead-Filtering System for Advancing Safer and Low-Cost

Water Solutions in Underserved Communities

Ladue Horton Watkins High School

Science Teacher: Allen Weltig

Sponsored by the Missouri Water Environment Association

Montana

Colter Sandon

Collection of Water Vapor Using Biomimicry

North Toole County High School

Science Teacher: Amanda Nix

Sponsored by the Montana Water Environment Association

Nebraska

Caroline Timm

Mucket Bucket System: Enough Algae for Juvenile Mussels?

Lyons Decatur Northeast

Science Teacher:

Paul Timm

Sponsored by the Nebraska Water Environment Association

Nevada

Student Name

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Water Environment Association

New Hampshire

Tina Jin

Sustainable Animal Bone-Based Filtration for Achieving Potable Water Standards in
Under-Resourced Regions

Phillips Academy Andover

Science Teacher: Clyfe Beckwith

Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

New Jersey

Siddhanth Ganesh

The Effect of Biochar Coupled with Intermittent Aeration for the Mitigation of N₂O
Fluxes in Vertical Subsurface Flow Wetlands

Livingston High School

Science Teacher: Michael Coleman

Sponsored by the New Jersey Water Environment Association

New Mexico

Trinity Peterson

Evaluation of Efficiency of Thermal Desalination at Different Pressures

Rio Rancho High School

Science Teacher: Jennifer Miyashiro

Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association

New York

Bryan Cheng and Austin Jin

SENTINEL: Scalable Environmental Network for Temporal Intelligence and Ecological
Learning, Multimodal Artificial Intelligence for Early Water

Pollution Detection

Great Neck South High School

Science Teacher: James Truglio

Sponsored by the New York Water Environment Association

North Carolina

Aarush Jain and Soham Kela

GRIME (Garbage River Interception and Modeling Engine)

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Science Teacher: Ryan Sakaguchi

Sponsored by NC One Water

North Dakota

No qualifying entries.

Ohio

Tharun Nambi and Shubh Kshirsagar

WWTP Compliance Failure Prediction

Olentangy Orange High School

Science Teacher: James Savinell

Sponsored by the Ohio Water Environment Association

Oklahoma

Sophia Zhao

Chitosan-Modified Loofah Scaffold for Sustainable Microplastic Removal from Water

Norman North High School

Science Teacher: Laura Sabatelli

Oklahoma Water Environment Association

Oregon

Frieda Eraut

Testing How "Tumbleweed" Bundles Pick Up Microplastics

West Linn High School

Science Teacher: Danielle Schroeder

Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Pennsylvania

Gavin Zhao

Removal of Dissolved Copper and Zinc from Schuylkill River Sediment Leachate Using
Commercially Available Wood-Based Biochar: A Bench-Scale
2x2 Factorial Study
Conestoga High School
Science Teacher: Robert Desipio
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

Puerto Rico
Mara Villefuerte

FlowSafe: Cost Effective Eco-Friendly Household Waterflow Monitoring System
Academia Maria Reina
Science Teacher: Yiria Muñiz
Sponsored by the Puerto Rico Water Environment Association

Rhode Island
Jinseo Kim

A Comparative Study of Microplastic Abundance in Coastal Sediments and Surface
Water In Third Beach and Narragansett Bay
Portsmouth Abbey School
Science Teacher: Shane McCarthy
Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

South Carolina

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the Water Environment Association of South Carolina

South Dakota
Magnus Olson

Optimizing the Design of Samplers for Early Detection of *Dreissena polymorpha* in
South Dakota
Olson Academy
Science Teacher: Byron Olson
Sponsored by the South Dakota Water Environment Association

Tennessee

Dinh Phan and Rickie Wu

Efficient PFAS Removal Via Microbially Enhanced Biochar

Farragut High School

Science Teacher: Matthew Milligan

Sponsored by the Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee

Texas

Rishabh Yadav and Karishma Parghi

Triple Threat: Leveraging Functionalized Hydrogels, Magnetic Amplification, and
Electrostatic Filtration in a Multimodal System for Optimized Water
Purification

The Academy of Science and Technology

Science Teacher: Debra Creel

Sponsored by the Water Environment Association of Texas

Utah

Aiden Karnam

Foaming Out Forever Chemicals: Air-Water Partitioning of PFAS in Wastewater
Treatment and Implications for Human Exposure

The Waterford School

Science Teacher: James Harris

Sponsored by the Water Environment Association of Utah

Vermont

Cindy Do and Gavin Blackburn

Phylax

South Burlington High School

Science Teacher: Nathaniel Moore

Sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association

Virginia

Jayden Nam

Using NASA Satellite Gravity Measurements to Detect Critical Groundwater Depletion
Two Months Before Physical Well Networks
Chantilly High School
Science Teacher: Ian Goozh
Sponsored by the Virginia Water Environment Association

Washington

Sanjay Srinivasan

Polydimethylsiloxane-Coated Polysaccharide Hydrogels for Sustainable Oil Spill
Remediation
Eastlake High School
Science Teacher: Lara Dean
Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

West Virginia

State winner not yet determined. Check back by Friday, May 8th, 2026.

Sponsored by the West Virginia Water Environment Association

Wisconsin

Anvi Mathur and Neev Pratap

Real-Time Attribution of Agricultural Nitrate Sources with Low-Cost Potentiometric ISE
Sensing and Advection-Dispersion-Reaction Inversion
Brookfield Central High School
Science Teacher: John Wilkinson
Sponsored by Central States Water Environment Association

Wyoming

Caden Thacker

Determining the Potential Toxicity of Fracking Surfactants: An Assessment of Product
Viability to Reduce Environmental Water Contamination
Greybull High School
Science Teacher: Joel Kuper
Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association