STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE USA

United States 2026
Stockholm Junior Water Prize
State Winners

Water Environment Federation
the water quality people

xylem
Let's Solve Water

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
Kevin Zhang
Effect of Melting Arctic Sea Ice on Polar Bear Encounter Risk at the Industrial Footprint in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska
West Anchorage High School
Science Teacher: Shannon Donley
Sponsored by the Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association

Arizona
Elise McHallam
Interfacial engineering of poly(styrene)-block-poly(acrylic acid) as smart receptor for rapid detection of Aflatoxin b1: Insights into supramolecular interactions
Basis Oro Valley
Science Teacher: Michael Gray
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 Polevchak

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

No state winner named for 2026 competition

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

Jerry Zuo

Ride the Waves, Drink the Water: A Portable Floating Desalination System Enabled by Wave-Driven Pumping

Skyline High School

Science Teacher: Casey Warner

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

Sarah Chen

Desert Dust as a Phosphorus Trigger for Eutrophication in Effluent-Influenced Freshwaters

Ed W. Clark High School

Science Teacher: Tracy Lombardi

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 Hight 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
No state winner named for 2026 competition
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

No state winner named for 2026 competition

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