

**3M “Young Scientist Challenge 2025”  
Official Rules**

**VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.**

**BEFORE YOU MAY ENTER, YOUR PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SUBMIT  
BOTH A CONSENT FORM AND A REGISTRATION FORM AS DESCRIBED BELOW.**

**1. ELIGIBILITY:** The 3M “Young Scientist Challenge 2025” (“Contest”) is open to legal U.S. residents who are at least ten (10) years of age as of May 1, 2025 and who are students enrolled in 5th through 8th grade at a public, charter, private, parochial, or home school located in one of the fifty United States or the District of Columbia. **Former Young Scientist Challenge finalists are not eligible to enter the Contest.** In order to be considered eligible, students must be currently enrolled in 5th through 8th grade at the time of entry and comply with these Official Rules and the safety guidelines set forth below (“Safety Guidelines”). Employees, officers, contractors, and directors of Discovery Education, Inc. (the “Sponsor”) and 3M Company (“Promotional Partner”), their parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising agencies, promotional suppliers, and their immediate family members (spouse, siblings, and children, regardless of where they live) and members of the same households (whether related or not) (collectively, “Contest Entities”) are not eligible. Sponsor’s determinations of eligibility are final and may be made at any time. Void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited.

**2. CONDENSED CONTEST TIMING:**

- Entry Submission Period: The Entry Submission Period commences at **5:00 PM Eastern Time (“ET”) on January 8, 2025** and expires at **11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025** (the “Entry Submission Period”).
- Judging: On or before June 20, 2025, all eligible entries will be judged by the Sponsor’s designated judges in accordance with the judging criteria set forth in Section 8 below, to determine ten (10) finalists and other prize winners.
- Finalist Announcement: The finalists will be announced by July 31, 2025.
- Winner Announcement: The winners will be announced in October 2025 (or later, if necessitated, in Sponsor’s sole opinion).

See below for additional details about the timing and phases of the Contest. The Sponsor reserves the right to extend the Entry Submission Period (and related dates) as deemed necessary in its sole opinion. If such changes are made, the new timing will be noted in these Official Rules and at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com) (the “Website”).

**3. BRIEF CONTEST DESCRIPTION:** Eligible students shall have the opportunity to create a video in accordance with the Challenge outlined in Section 5 below. For a student to officially enter the Contest, the student must be registered as described herein and his/her entry completed, submitted and received between 5:00 PM ET on January 8, 2025 and 11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025. Limit one entry per student. The ten (10) students with the highest overall scores from judging will be deemed finalists and will compete for the Grand Prize. The remaining students will be considered for a State Merit award or an Honorable Mention award. Up to 51 State Merit winners (one per state and the District of Columbia) will be named based on highest score among the remaining entries received per state which meet a minimum score determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. State Merit winners will each receive a Young Scientist Challenge swag bag as described below. Up to four (4) Honorable Mention winners (one per grade level) will be named based on the highest combined “Creativity” and “Overall Presentation” score among the remaining entries received per grade, as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Honorable Mention winners will each receive a Young Scientist Challenge swag bag and certificate, as described below.

**4. PARENT/GUARDIAN REGISTRATION AND CONSENT:** Starting at **5:00 PM ET on January 8, 2025**, an eligible student’s parent/legal guardian must visit the online registration form at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com). To access the application portal at [youngscientistlab.com](http://youngscientistlab.com), select “Register for the Challenge” at the top of the webpage. You will then be directed to the 3M Young Scientist Challenge application portal [https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025\\_3myoungscientistchallenge](https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025_3myoungscientistchallenge). Follow the on-screen directions to Create a Profile, download the Direct Notice to Parents and Parental Consent Form (“Consent Form”), print/read/complete/sign/upload the Consent Form, and provide any additional requested information and acknowledgements. The steps for a parent/legal guardian to complete that process are as follows:

1. Visit [https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025\\_3myoungscientistchallenge](https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025_3myoungscientistchallenge) and click “Sign Up” (under “Need an Account?”)
2. Provide your (parent/guardian) email address, and create/confirm a password.
3. Click the **“Create a Profile to Get Started”** button. Complete profile form with student name and parent/guardian email and submit by clicking the blue “Create Profile” button. You will then be directed back to your portal home page.

4. Click the "Get Started" button, then open "Parental Consent" and click the link to download the Direct Notice to Parents and Parental Consent Form. Follow the instructions to sign and upload the Parental Consent Form.
5. Once submitted, Discovery Education will review the Parental Consent Form and approve/decline within approximately 48 hours.
6. Once your Parental Consent Form has been approved, you will be notified via email that you may complete the Parent-Student Details and Project Details sections with your student.
7. Once you have completed the Parent-Student Details and Project Details sections, click the green "Submit" to complete the parent/guardian registration and consent process.
8. Your student may now use the credentials you created in step 2 to access their portal to view updates and complete their application.

The registration and entry processes must be fully completed no later than **11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025**. *If the Consent Form and online registration form described above and the Entry Video described below are not all submitted by the applicable deadlines, the student will not be permitted to enter the Contest.*

**5. THE CHALLENGE:** Students should review the six entry topics presented at the Website, then identify a solution to an everyday problem that aligns with one of the six entry topics and that directly impacts them, their families, their communities, and/or the global population. The idea must be a new innovation or solution based on the student's own original idea, and cannot simply be a behavioral change or a new use for an existing product. The student must create a one- to two- minute video that:

- aligns with one of the six entry topics presented at the Website;
- explains the problem and how it impacts them, their families, their communities and/or the global population;
- describes a **new** innovation or solution that could impact or solve 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 have identified and have a broader impact locally or globally.

Participants can find additional inspiration online at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com)

What the judges are looking for:

- Description of the problem and how it affects the student, family, community or global population.
- Details about the science behind the **new** innovation or solution.
- Clear explanations and a demonstration of how well the problem and solution are understood by the student (remember the idea must be a new innovation or solution, and cannot simply be a behavioral change or a new use for an existing product).
- An explanation of how the innovation could have broader reach or impact beyond the student, family, or community.
- An explanation of how the student came up with their original idea.
- Proper citation for any non-original materials used in the student's entry.

Submission innovation must be created in its entirety by the entrant and cannot be generated, in whole or in part, by Artificial Intelligence. Any work generated in whole, or in part, by Artificial Intelligence, as determined in Sponsor's sole discretion, will be disqualified and any prize awarded based on such submission will be forfeited. Students are permitted to utilize Artificial Intelligence only to test their innovation and for no other purpose.

All forms of scientific fraud and misconduct are prohibited in all aspects of the Contest, including but not limited to plagiarism, data fabrication, and/or use/presentation of other researchers' work as one's own. Additionally, cited works should not make up any significant portion of the student's project or Entry Video (as described below). References and citations may be spoken during the Entry Video, or shown as text within the Entry Video (where text must appear in large enough type and for a sufficient duration that it may be read by an average viewer). All determinations of scientific fraud and misconduct will be made by Sponsor in its sole discretion, and such determinations may be made at any time. If such a determination of scientific fraud or misconduct is made after any recognition or prizes have been awarded to a particular student, Sponsor reserves the right to revoke any such recognition and demand the return of any such prizes (or the value of such prizes) from the affected student and his/her parent(s) and legal guardian(s).

**6. VIDEO SUBMISSION:** To enter, a student must submit one, and only one, entry video in accordance with the Challenge detailed above in Section 5 (the "Entry Video").

The Entry Video must be longer than 60 seconds, but not longer than 120 seconds. The Entry Video must be the original work of the student. Only the student can appear in the Entry Video; no other individuals may be filmed. Students must work independently on the development of their video concept and must record their video with minimal help or direction from others. Entries which include non-student work will be disqualified.

The Entry Video must be uploaded via the student's profile created at [https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025\\_3myyoungscientistchallenge](https://webportalapp.com/sp/2025_3myyoungscientistchallenge) as an MP4 file. Once the entry form is completed, the student must click the green "Submit" so that the entry is received by Sponsor's server no later than **11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025**. If a student wishes to save his/her work prior to submitting the entry, he/she may click the "Save Draft" button at the top or bottom of the entry form, then return prior to 11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025 to update the entry information and/or Entry Video and click the blue "Mark Complete" button as well as the green "Submit" button so that the entry is received by Sponsor's server. Once an entry form has been submitted, the student may still make edits and re-submit prior to the May 1, 2025 deadline. To make edits to a submission before the deadline, the applicant must contact [ysc@discoveryed.com](mailto:ysc@discoveryed.com) for instructions. If an entry form has not been submitted by 11:59 PM ET on May 1, 2025, the entry will not be included in the Contest judging.

**7. ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Do not include any branded products, trademarks or logos in the Entry Video, other than trademarks or logos owned by Sponsor or Promotional Partner. Entries which contain a trademark or logo or promote any brand or product other than those belonging to Sponsor or Promotional Partner may be disqualified at the Sponsor's sole discretion; however, the Sponsor may choose not to disqualify an Entry Video which includes a trademark or logo if the Sponsor determines in its sole discretion that the inclusion of such trademark or logo is incidental. Student may be asked to sign an affidavit stating that he/she was not paid a fee, either monetary or in-kind, to promote an included trademark, logo or branded product. Entry Videos must not defame, misrepresent or contain disparaging remarks about Sponsor or its products, Promotional Partner or its products, or other people, products or companies. Entry Videos must not invade the privacy or publicity rights of any person, living or deceased, or otherwise infringe upon a person's personal or proprietary rights.

By entering this Contest, student and student's parent or legal guardian represent and warrant that the Entry Video is an unpublished original work that has not won any previous awards or recognitions (other than a school, school district or school-sponsored science fair where direct awards are not made available by corporate sponsors). The concept, ideas, and language used in the Entry Video must be wholly original to the student. Entry Videos may not contain any music or sound effects unless either: [a] the music/sound effect was created by the student or by someone who has given the student written permission to use his/her music/sound effect; [b] the music composition is in the public domain and was performed by the student or by someone who has given the student written permission to use his/her performance; or [c] the music/sound effect was acquired/licensed by the student from a royalty-free source **which does not require credits or other attribution to appear in connection with the Entry Video**. Students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must be certain that any music or sound effect conforms to all applicable requirements. Sponsor's determination as to whether any Entry Video potentially violates the rights of any third party and therefore is not eligible to compete in the Contest is final.

Submissions that are deemed by the Sponsor or judges in their sole discretion to be illegal, immoral, obscene, profane or not in keeping with Sponsor's values or reputation will be disqualified. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry at any time which, in the Sponsor's reasonable opinion, endangers the safety or well-being of any person, or in the event it is determined that the student and/or his/her parent/legal guardian have not complied with these Official Rules, including without limitation the Safety Guidelines. In addition to the Sponsor's right to do so at its discretion, the judges will also be instructed to disqualify any entry that describes dangerous conduct, stunts or tricks, conduct that could lead to physical injury, property damage or otherwise violates or is inconsistent with these Official Rules. Other than for finalist, State Merit, or Honorable Mention winner notification, neither Sponsor, nor anyone acting on its behalf, will enter into any unsolicited communication with any student regarding this Contest, nor will any entries be acknowledged or returned.

Participation in the Contest constitutes the student's and his/her parent's or legal guardian's full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules, and the decisions of Sponsor and judges, including but not limited to Sponsor's interpretations of these Official Rules. By entering the Contest, the student and his/her parent or legal guardian warrant that the student's Entry Video does not contain confidential material, and that neither the student nor the parent or legal guardian is aware of any conflicting rights in the submission or claims to the submission, including but not limited to copyright, trade secret or other intellectual property right.

Further, by participating, each student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s): (a) agrees to waive any claim for reimbursement for any equipment or materials necessary to submit an Entry Video regardless of whether or not any particular Entry Video is selected for any prize; (b) acknowledges that the material that will be submitted as part of the Contest may embody materials, suggestions, or ideas similar to those which have been developed by others or by the Contest Entities and hereby acknowledges that any similarity is purely coincidental and unavoidable in light of the volume of ideas that the Contest Entities routinely use and consider in the course of each of their business activities, and understands that he/she will not be entitled to any compensation because of use by the Contest Entities of any materials similar to those in a student's Entry Video; (c) hereby waives any right to any claim or liability with respect to the Contest Entities' use of similar materials; (d) acknowledges that the Sponsor is in no way obligated to broadcast, publish or use any Entry Video in any way; and (e) understands that submitting any element that is copyrighted by, or a trade secret of, another individual will result in the applicable student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s)

being responsible for any legal action the legal copyright or trade secret holder might take against the Releasees (as defined below in Section 11).

## 8. WINNER DETERMINATION:

**Round 1:** All Entry Videos will first be screened to ensure they meet the entry criteria. A panel of qualified judges from Sponsor, Promotional Partner and its partner organizations, educators and science professionals will then score qualifying Entry Videos. Entry Videos will be scored using the following judging criteria:

- (i) Creativity (ingenuity and innovative thinking) (30%);
- (ii) Scientific knowledge (30%);
- (iii) Persuasiveness and effective communication (20%); and
- (iv) Overall presentation (20%).

The judges will rank all eligible Entry Videos received. The students with the 10 highest scoring Entry Videos will be deemed finalists and will have the opportunity to participate in the summer mentorship program (see below) and proceed to a second round of judging (see below) during the Final Event (as defined below), all pending verification of eligibility and continued compliance with these Official Rules and Sponsor's instructions. The 10 finalists will be notified by phone and/or email in June 2025. The rest of the ranked entries will be sorted by state, and up to 51 State Merit winners (includes the District of Columbia) will be selected (1 per state) based on highest score among the remaining entries received per state, if they meet a minimum score determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Once the State Merit winners have been determined, up to four (4) Honorable Mention winners (one per grade level) will be named based on the highest combined "Creativity" and "Scientific Knowledge" score among the remaining entries received per grade, as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. The State Merit and Honorable Mention winners will be notified by phone and/or email in June 2025. See additional winner notification details in Section 10 below. In the event of any ties, the "Overall presentation" score will be used as a first tiebreaker. In the event any tie remains after applying this first tiebreaker, the "Creativity" score will be used as a secondary tiebreaker.

**Summer Mentorship.** Each finalist will be assigned to a 3M scientist selected by Sponsor in its sole discretion, who will act as the finalist's mentor for purposes of the Summer Mentorship Program. Finalists will receive a summer assignment to develop an invention or innovation (an "Innovation"), to be completed under the mentorship of their designated mentor. This project may or may not be related to the topic of the student's Entry Video, but will involve a real-life innovation. The designated mentor will suggest some 3M tools or technologies that could benefit the finalist's innovation. Finalists must use at least one 3M technology (suggested by the mentor or otherwise) in their final presentation, and communicate its relevance in their final presentation. Each finalist and their designated mentor will connect virtually and work through pre-assigned objectives with the resources and support of Sponsor. During the Summer Mentorship Program, each finalist will also create: [a] an electronic presentation about their Innovation; [b] a prototype of their Innovation (which may consist of both physical and digital elements, but must include one physical component); and [c] a finalist video ("Finalist Video") as directed by Sponsor. All program details and deadlines will be determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion.

**Round 2:** The 10 finalists will participate in and attend the 3M Young Scientist Challenge culminating event (the "Final Event"). The Final Event will occur in October 2025 at 3M Headquarters located in St. Paul, Minnesota (unless changes to the Final Event timing and/or format are deemed necessary by Sponsor in its sole discretion, in which case the new timing and/or format will be noted in these Official Rules and at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com)). Sponsor and Promotional Partner will determine the exact Final Event date(s) in their sole discretion. At the Final Event, the 10 finalists will have the opportunity to participate in a series of scored challenges to demonstrate their scientific knowledge, and to present the Innovation presentation and prototype that they developed during their Summer Mentorship Program.

At the Final Event, the finalists will be judged by a panel of qualified judges selected by Sponsor, Promotional Partner and their partner organizations, according to judging and scoring criteria to be provided to the finalists prior to the Final Event. The judging criteria will also designate a tiebreaking criterion, to be used in the event of any ties. The finalist who scores the highest according to these judging criteria will be deemed the Grand Prize Winner. Once the Grand Prize Winner has been determined, the next-highest scoring finalist will be deemed the Second Place Prize Winner, and so on, until the Tenth Place Prize Winner has been deemed. Sponsor reserves the right to award additional prizes or titles at the Final Event, in its sole discretion.

The decisions of Sponsor and Judges are final and binding in all matters.

## 9. PRIZES:

- **Up to 4 Honorable Mention Prizes (one per grade level):** Each Honorable Mention prize winner will receive a Young Scientist Challenge swag bag with items selected by Sponsor in its sole discretion, and a Young Scientist Challenge Honorable Mention certificate. The approximate retail value (“ARV”) of each Honorable Mention prize is \$75.
- **Up to 51 State Merit Prizes:** Each State Merit award winner will receive a Young Scientist Challenge swag bag with items selected by Sponsor in its sole discretion. ARV of each State Merit prize is \$75.
- **10 Finalist Prizes:** All 10 finalists shall be awarded the following:
  - Participation in the Summer Mentorship Program as described in Section 8 above.
  - Support to create a blog for posting their innovation diary which will include notes, videos, images—any and all documentation in support of their bid for the Final Event. There is no retail value ascribed to this educational opportunity.
  - A trip to the Final Event to compete for the Grand Prize (as defined below). Trip includes: hotel accommodations for 2 or 3 nights as determined by Sponsor for the finalist and one parent or legal guardian (one standard room of double occupancy) at a hotel selected by Sponsor; roundtrip coach airfare for the finalist and one parent or legal guardian from a major airport nearest the finalist’s home (airport and airlines selected by Sponsor in its sole discretion); ground transportation to and from the destination airport and to and from the Final Event; select activities; and select meals. Meals shall consist of 3 dinners for the finalist and one parent/guardian and an additional 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches for the finalist. Travel dates and destination will be determined by Sponsor and are subject to change as deemed necessary by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Gratuities and incidental expenses not included. The parent/legal guardian of the finalist is responsible for any necessary travel authorizations and for any travel insurance. Actual value will vary depending upon point of departure, location of Final Event, and other contingencies. Any differences between actual costs and ARV will not be awarded. Finalist and parent / legal guardian must travel together on the same itinerary. If finalist resides within a 100-mile radius of Final Event city, Sponsor, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to provide ground transportation in lieu of air transportation and no compensation or substitution will be provided for difference in prize value. All other expenses not specified herein are the finalist’s sole responsibility. Air carriers, hotels and other transportation will be selected by Sponsor. Travel, accommodations and activities are subject to availability and certain restrictions. Trip must be taken at time determined by Sponsor or the prize will be forfeited in its entirety. ARV of each Trip is \$2,610; actual value will be determined by winner’s residence and seasonal rates. **Note that Sponsor reserves the right to change the Final Event timing and/or format if deemed necessary in Sponsor’s sole discretion (including but not limited to holding the Final Event in a virtual format), in which case the new timing and/or format will be noted in these Official Rules and at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com).**
  - \$1,000, awarded as a check made payable to the finalist;
  - A Contest medal selected by Sponsor;
  - The opportunity, at Sponsor’s option and sole discretion, to participate in future Contest-related promotional events.
  - An invitation to join the 3M Young Scientist Challenge Alumni Network, which brings together Finalists and mentors from the first year of the 3M and Discovery Education partnership in 2008 through the latest Challenge year.
- In addition to the Finalist Prize described above, each Finalist will also receive one of the following prizes, based on the outcome of the Final Event:
  - **Second Place Prize through Tenth Place Prize:** Each Second Place through Tenth Place Prize Winner (9 total prizes) will receive the following:
    - \$1,000 awarded as a check made payable to the finalist.
  - **Grand Prize:** the Grand Prize winner (1 total prize) will receive the following:
    - A grand total of \$25,000, awarded as a check made payable to the winner (for avoidance of doubt, this is comprised of \$24,000 plus the \$1,000 portion of the winner’s Finalist Prize);
    - A Contest trophy selected by Sponsor; and
    - The title of “America’s Top Young Scientist 2025”.

The Grand Prize winner must be available to fulfill all duties and obligations within the year after they are named as such. Grand Prize winner must be available to fulfill these commitments as a condition of entry. Duties and obligations include:



- Traveling to and attending a press trip to New York, Los Angeles or other top media market for two-to-three days with parent/legal guardian within one week (or less) of the Final Event. Trip may be arranged as early as the day after the Grand Prize winner announcement. Sponsor or Promotional Partner will provide flights and hotel for this trip;
- Conducting in-person and phone interviews with media on behalf of 3M Young Scientist Challenge;
- Updating/creating social media accounts (e.g. Twitter) to note their Contest status in their biography. (Creating/updating of social media accounts is at the discretion of parents/legal guardians and subject to minimum user age of social platforms); and
- Alerting Sponsor of any/all media opportunities, grants, awards, speaking engagements, etc., offered within the year after he/she is named as a winner.

Sponsor reserves the right to add additional prizes at any time. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, if at any time during the Entry Submission Period, the Judging Period or at any time thereafter, the Sponsor determines that not enough or no eligible entries exist from which to determine finalists or any one or more of the prize winners, then the Sponsor may in its sole and exclusive discretion determine that not enough or no eligible contestants exist, and then may either suspend or terminate the Contest or modify it (or any parts thereof) in any equitable manner that the Sponsor deems appropriate in its sole and exclusive discretion, including, without limitation, by not awarding any one or more of the prizes set forth in these rules.

**10. WINNER NOTIFICATION AND ADDITIONAL PRIZE DETAILS:** The potential finalists and potential State Merit Winners and potential Honorable Mention Winners (along with their parent(s)/legal guardian(s)) will be notified by email or by telephone (as provided on the Contest entry form) in June 2025. The Grand Prize through Tenth Place Prize winners will be notified during the Final Event. All potential winners will be sent a claim form, which each potential winner (along with his/her parent or legal guardian) will be required to sign and return to Sponsor in order to receive their prize(s). Each potential finalist and his/her parent or legal guardian, upon being selected, must submit a completed and signed Appearance Consent and Release Form to Sponsor for the final competition and any on-air program about the Contest. In addition, as a condition of participation, each potential finalist (together with their parent or legal guardian, as applicable) may be required to complete and return an affidavit/declaration of eligibility and liability release, an IRS W-9 form, a (where legal) publicity release, a Non-Disclosure Agreement, an Intellectual Property Agreement, and/or other similar documents, all as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Further, each finalist may be required to complete and submit a revised version of their Entry Video which addresses all of the Sponsor's concerns as presented at the time of notification as a potential finalist. Each potential finalist/winner (and his/her parent or legal guardian) will be required to complete and return any requested documents and/or materials within five (5) days of request. Failure to timely complete and return the properly signed affidavit and releases or other prize documentation and requested materials, or if a potential winner chooses to decline a prize for any reason, or fails to comply with any requirement of these Official Rules, may result in disqualification and the applicable prize/status being forfeited. Return of any prize/prize notification as undeliverable, or inability of Sponsor to contact potential winner(s), may result in disqualification. In the event of disqualification, at Sponsor's sole discretion the applicable prize/status may be awarded to an alternate winner selected from among the remaining applicable eligible entries via the means of winner determination described herein, pending verification of eligibility. No responsibility is assumed by Sponsor for any incorrect or missing postal address, email address or phone number associated with an entry, or any change of address, email or phone number of a participant after entry submission. The parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of each finalist hereby agree that their child, as a finalist, will participate in all advertising, publicity (including live and taped television appearances), press, and promotional events scheduled by Sponsor in connection with the Contest. Failure to participate in said events may result in disqualification and forfeiture of prizes. While not obligated to do so, the Sponsor may in its sole discretion bear such reasonable costs and expenses for a finalist to appear for such appearances and events. Note that finalists are prohibited from submitting or allowing their Contest project (neither the project that they originally presented during the Entry Period nor the project that was developed during the Summer Mentorship Program) to be submitted into or, continue any participation with the Contest project in any other contest or competition, from the time they are notified as a potential finalist until the Final Event has concluded, even if the winners of the other contest or competition will be decided after the Final Event (and even after the Final Event, note that any submission of materials to another contest or competition must not conflict with the rights the student has granted to Sponsor and Promotional Partner). Any failure by Sponsor to enforce the signing of any requested documents will not constitute a waiver of such fundamental requirements of those documents as issued.

Participants fully understand that (a) the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and any resulting disease (together with any mutation, adaptation or variation thereof, "COVID-19") is extremely contagious and there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any place where people are or have been present; (b) no precautions, including the protocols that may be implemented from time to time based upon public health and government-sponsored guidelines, can eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19; (c) while people of all ages and health conditions have been adversely affected by COVID-19, certain people have been identified by public health authorities as having greater risk based on age and/or underlying medical conditions; and (d) exposure to COVID-19 can result in being subject to quarantine requirements, illness, disability, other short-term and long-term health effects, and/or death, regardless of age or health condition. By participating in any Contest-related trip, event, or gathering, each such

participant hereby agrees to follow all COVID-19-related safety protocols and procedures required by Sponsor and/or the provider of any event, venue, travel service, or accommodation ("Provider"), which may include but are not limited to obtaining COVID test(s) at time(s) specified by Sponsor/Provider and furnishing proof of such tests and their satisfactory results, wearing required personal protective equipment, and/or following established sanitization procedures and behavioral/physical distancing requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the participant being denied access to one or more aspects of the trip, event, or gathering, in which case Sponsor reserves the right not to provide any substitute trip, event, gathering, or related opportunity (and, to the extent that such a failure results in a participant being unable to participate in a required aspect of the Contest, to disqualify such participant from the Contest).

Due to the unknown future effects of the COVID-19 global health crisis and any related impacts, Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to modify the timing and/or format of the Contest and Final Event, including but not limited to postponing the Final Event or holding the Final Event in a virtual format. If such changes are made, the new timing and/or format will be noted in these Official Rules and at [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com).

**11. RESTRICTIONS, RIGHTS AND RELEASE:** All taxes on prizes and all expenses related to acceptance and use of the prizes not specified are the sole responsibility of the applicable prize recipients (and/or their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) if prize recipient is a minor). Any travel-related prize must be used on the dates specified by Sponsor, or such prize will be forfeited in its entirety. By participating, students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) (collectively, "Participants") agree: [a] to these rules and decisions of Sponsor and judges, which shall be final in all respects relating to the Contest; and [b] to release, discharge and hold harmless Contest Entities, Discovery, Inc., and YouTube, together with the respective parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees, contractors, representatives, agents, shareholders, successors and assigns of each (aforementioned individuals and organizations collectively, the "Releasees"), from any and all injuries, liability, losses and damages of any kind resulting from their participating in the Contest (including, but not limited to, traveling to, preparing for or participating in any Contest-related activity) or their acceptance, use or misuse of a prize (or any part of a prize) including, without limitation, personal injury, death and property damage, and claims based on publicity rights, copyright, trademark, defamation or invasion of privacy. Further, by participating, Participants hereby agree to indemnify and hold the Releasees harmless from any and all claims, damages, expenses, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) and liabilities (including settlements), brought or asserted by any third party against any of the Releasees due to or arising out of such Participant's entry, or such Participant's conduct in creating an entry or otherwise in connection with this Contest, including but not limited to: claims for trademark infringement; copyright infringement; violation of an individual's right of publicity or right of privacy; or defamation. Based on releases/affidavits and the details of the Consent Form provided, students and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree to grant Sponsor and Promotional Partner: [a] the irrevocable and perpetual, royalty-free, worldwide right, in all media (now known or later developed) to assign, use, publish, edit, adapt, modify, alter, reproduce, distribute, broadcast, display, create derivative works or otherwise exploit all submitted materials (including but not limited to the Entry Videos, blogs/journals, and Innovations/presentations), for commercial or non-commercial use; and [b] permission to use his or her name, photograph, likeness, Entry Video, Innovation, biographical information, voice, voice likeness, and city and state address for advertising, publicity and promotional purposes in all media, including but not limited to within Sponsor's and Promotional Partner's websites in perpetuity, without compensation (unless prohibited by law) and agree to execute specific consent to such use upon request if required in addition to the terms of this document. Further, by participating, each student and his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree not to instigate, support, maintain, or authorize any action, claim, or lawsuit against any of the Releasees, on the grounds that any use of the Entry Videos, blogs/journals, Innovations/presentations, finalist videos, or any derivative works, infringes any of their rights, including, without limitation, copyrights and moral rights. Releasees are not responsible for and shall not be liable for: [a] electronic, hardware or software program, network, Internet or computer malfunctions, failures, or difficulties of any kind, including without limitation, server malfunction or by any human error which may occur in the processing of entries; [b] failed, incomplete, garbled or delayed computer transmissions; [c] late, lost, misdirected, corrupted, delayed, stolen or incomplete entries, links, emails or mail; [d] errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing or judging of entries, the announcement of the prizes or in any Contest-related materials; [e] changes to social media platform policies and procedures that may interfere with the operation of the Contest; or [f] any condition caused by events that may cause the Contest to be disrupted or corrupted. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest or any portion thereof should viruses, bugs or other causes corrupt the administration, security or proper play of the Contest, and to limit entries to those submitted prior to the action taken, or to proceed in such a manner as may be deemed fair and equitable by Sponsor in its sole discretion and to award the prizes from among all eligible entries received prior to such action taking place. No prize transfer or cash redemption of non-cash prizes. No prize substitution or modification, in whole or in part, except by Sponsor due to prize unavailability, safety or security considerations, or any other reason as solely determined by Sponsor in which case a prize of comparable or greater value will be awarded. In the event of any discrepancy between the English language version of these Official Rules and any other translated versions, abbreviated versions, or Contest-related advertising or disclosures, the English language version of these Official Rules shall prevail. CAUTION: ANY ATTEMPT BY A PARTICIPANT TO DELIBERATELY DAMAGE ANY WEB SITE OR UNDERMINE

THE LEGITIMATE OPERATION OF THE CONTEST MAY BE A VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS AND SHOULD SUCH AN ATTEMPT BE MADE, SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SEEK DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ATTORNEYS' FEES) AND OTHER REMEDIES FROM ANY SUCH PERSON TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. Internet entry must be made at the authorized website address of [www.youngscientistlab.com](http://www.youngscientistlab.com). Entries may not be made by any other individual or any entity, and/or originating at any other Internet website or e-mail address, including but not limited to commercial contest and sweepstakes subscription notification and/or entering service sites. Any person who enters by any of the methods described above will be disqualified. Use of any device to automate entry is prohibited. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry at any time in the event it is determined that the student and/or his/her parent/legal guardian have not complied with these Official Rules. The Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. By participating in this Contest, Participants agree to waive any right to claim ambiguity or any deficiency in these Official Rules or the Contest, including its administration. The Contest and Website are provided on an 'AS IS' basis. Releasees make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, as to the operation of the Website or the information, content, materials, or products included on the Website. To the full extent permissible by applicable law, the Releasees disclaim all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. When terms such as "may" are used in the Official Rules, Sponsor has sole and absolute discretion. Participants agree to waive any rights to claim ambiguity of these Official Rules.

**12. DISPUTES/GOVERNING LAW:** Except where prohibited, Participants agree that: (a) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Contest, or any prizes awarded, or the determination of winners, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court located in the State of Maryland; (b) any and all claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this Contest and in no event will Participants be permitted to obtain attorneys' fees or other legal costs; (c) under no circumstances will Participants be permitted to obtain awards for and Participants hereby waive all rights to claim punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased; and (d) Participants' remedies are limited to a claim for money damages (if any) and Participants irrevocably waive any right to seek injunctive or equitable relief. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, the rights and obligations of Participants, or the rights and obligations of the Releasees in connection with the Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Maryland, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of the State of Maryland or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Maryland.

**13. PRIVACY:** Information submitted in connection with the Contest will be treated in accordance with these Official Rules and Sponsor's Privacy Policy (as may be amended from time to time), located at <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/cep/privacypolicy.cfm>; provided, that in the event of any conflict between these Official Rules and such Privacy Policy, the terms and conditions of these Official Rules shall prevail.

**14. WINNERS LIST:** To receive the winners' first name, last initial, city and state, mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by December 31, 2025, to: Young Scientist Challenge 2025 Winner List, PO Box 172, Newtown, CT 06470-0172.

Sponsor: Discovery Education, Inc., 4350 Congress Street, Suite 700, Charlotte, NC 28209.  
©2025 Discovery Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

**GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES:** The guidelines are for your general knowledge and are not a substitute for professional advice or common sense. Be sure to thoroughly research your scientific concept prior to performing your project.

1. Research the scientific concept thoroughly to understand any dangers involved in your demonstrations.
2. You cannot use (i) human blood/body fluids, (ii) animals, (iii) live ammunition, firearms, or explosives, (iv) poisonous plants, or (v) radioactive material.
3. Parts of the body are not to be placed in danger. Do not directly view the sun, infrared, or ultraviolet sources.
4. Do not taste any non-food substance or food substance that has been subjected to possible contamination.
5. Dress safely for your presentation (e.g., gloves, eye protection, an apron, ear protection, safety shield, etc.).
6. Keep quantities of hazardous materials to a minimum, and always have waste containers for the disposal of such materials.
7. Comply with all local fire and safety rules and regulations; use caution when heating all forms of matter; always have a fire extinguisher available.
8. Thoroughly check all motors to make sure all parts are sturdy and that safety nuts are securely fastened.



9. Always check to see if certain elements of your demonstration require you to obtain state and/or local permits. Always obtain the necessary permits prior to conducting your demonstration.
10. Always practice your demonstration before filming.
11. **We strongly recommend that you review the safety guidelines established by the National Science Teachers Associations at: <http://static.nsta.org/pdfs/ScienceActivitySafetyChecklist.pdf>**