



Regeneron ISEF 2026 Fact Sheet

Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (Regeneron ISEF) Celebrates Top Young Scientists and Inspirational Innovators

Regeneron ISEF Event Week 2026

From May 9 to May 15, 2026, more than 1,700 young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and inventors will convene in-person for a week of connecting with their peers and global STEM leaders, events, and more than \$7 million in awards and prizes—marking more than 75 years of Regeneron ISEF.

The finalists, selected from 365 affiliate fairs in more than 60 countries, regions, and territories, have all completed exemplary research projects and earned the right to compete at Regeneron ISEF by winning at a Society-affiliated local, regional, state, or national science fair.

Regeneron ISEF 2026 will be an in-person event complemented by a virtual site where finalists will share their projects online. The projects are a result of inquiry-based learning methods designed to nurture critical reasoning skills, experience research using the scientific method, and demonstrate how math and science skills are crucial to making sense of today's technological world. It is the world's largest precollege science and engineering competition for 9-12th grade students living around the world.

At the competition, finalists undergo a rigorous judging process, during which time they interact with professional scientists, engineers, and mathematicians from around the world. They will also have the opportunity to share stories of their STEM journeys on stage, including their inspiration for their projects, challenges they encountered, and future plans for research and/or higher education.

Finalists' projects tackle topics ranging from virtual reality to sustainable energy to machine learning. Projects represent a wide range of scientific disciplines and are judged in 22 categories:

- Animal Sciences
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biomedical and Health Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
- Earth and Environmental Sciences

- Embedded Systems
- Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design
- Engineering Technology: Statics & Dynamics
- Environmental Engineering
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Physics and Astronomy
- Plant Sciences
- Robotics and Intelligent Machines
- Software Design
- Technology Enhances the Arts
- Translational Medical Science

For more information about each of the categories, please visit <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/categories-and-subcategories/>.

Regeneron ISEF 2026 Key Statistics

- Total number of finalists: 1,725
- Number of finalists from the U.S. and U.S. territories: 1,090
- Number of finalists outside of U.S. and U.S. territories: 635
- Number of countries, regions, and territories participating: 65
- Non-U.S. country with the most finalists: South Korea (58)
- Percent finalists by gender: 54.0% men; 45.2% women; 0.9% prefer not to answer

Regeneron ISEF 2026 Awards

Grand Awards are presented in each of the 22 ISEF categories:

- 1st Award: \$6,000
- 2nd Award: \$2,400
- 3rd Award: \$1,200
- 4th Award: \$600

Additionally, winners of the Top Awards are selected from among the 1st Award recipients:

- George D. Yancopoulos Innovator Award of \$100,000
- Regeneron Young Scientist Awards (2) of \$75,000 each
- Gordon E. Moore Award for Positive Outcomes for Future Generations of \$50,000
- The F. Thomson Leighton and Bonnie Berger Family Prize for STEM Excellence of \$50,000
- Craig R. Barrett Award for Innovation of \$10,000
- H. Robert Horvitz Prize for Fundamental Research of \$10,000
- Peggy Scripps Award for Science Communication of \$10,000

- Mary Sue Coleman Award for Life Science Innovation & Impact of \$10,000

For more information about Grand Awards and Top Awards, please visit

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/grand-awards/>

In addition, dozens of corporate, academic, government, and scientific organizations give Special Awards.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.societyforscience.org/get-involved/special-award-organizations/>

The History of Regeneron ISEF

The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (Regeneron ISEF), a program of Society for Science for over 75 years, is the world's largest global science competition for high school. Through a global network of local, regional, and national science fairs, millions of students are encouraged to explore their passion for scientific inquiry. Each spring, a group of these students is selected as finalists and offered the opportunity to compete for more than \$7 million in awards and scholarships.

In 2019, Regeneron became the title sponsor of ISEF to help reward and celebrate the best and brightest young minds globally and encourage them to pursue careers in STEM to positively impact the world.

Regeneron ISEF is supported by a community of additional sponsors, including Adam R. Scripps Foundation, Akamai Foundation, Aramco, Arizona Science Center, Arizona State University, Burton Family Foundation, Caltech, Catalyzer Venture Partners, Central Arizona Project, Cesco Linguistic Services, Google.org, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Howmet Aerospace Foundation, Insaco, Intel, Jacobs, Jane Street, Microsoft, Midjourney, Musical Instrument Museum, National Bank of Arizona, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pivotal Foundation, Schattner Foundation, Scripps Research, Siemens Energy, and Zook.

ISEF alumni have gone on to have world-changing careers in science and engineering and earn some of the most esteemed honors, including National Medal of Science recipients, MacArthur Foundation Fellows, National Academy of Sciences Members, and National Academy of Engineering Inductees.

Learn more at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>

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