



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Finalists, Regional Finalists, and State Winners Named in the
21st Annual eCYBERMISSION STEM Competition**

*Over \$1,600,000 worth of U.S. EE Savings Bonds at maturity awarded to eCYBERMISSION State Winners,
Regional Finalists, and National Finalists*

[ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA] – Monday, May 8, 2023 – eCYBERMISSION announced the State Winners, Regional Finalists, and National Finalists for its 21st annual competition. eCYBERMISSION challenges sixth- to ninth-grade students to form teams and select a community problem to investigate with science or solve with engineering. More than 1,800 teams took part in this year’s competition, with the top three per grade in each region continuing to Regional Judging and only 20, five per grade level, advancing to the National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE) this summer.

“The U.S. Army is proud to provide opportunities like eCYBERMISSION to help develop and mentor the next generation of STEM talent,” said AEOP Cooperative Agreement Manager, Christina Weber. “The fortitude of these students to identify community problems and act as change makers seeking to remedy them is exactly what this Nation needs for a secure and successful future.”

“The caliber of projects developed by the students this year has been high,” said NSTA Executive Director Erika Shugart, Ph.D. “I’m excited about the future of scientific discovery when I see this level of innovation and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all the winners thus far and best of luck to the National Finalists moving on in the competition.”

eCYBERMISSION State Winners were decided based on the scoring by volunteer Virtual Judges, who spent two weeks evaluating team submissions, called Mission Folders. The top scoring teams from each region per grade level advanced to Regional Judging, which took place virtually from April 24-28. After Regional Judging, the top teams per grade level from each of the five regions were selected to advance as National Finalists. These 20 teams will compete in Hunt Valley, Maryland during NJ&EE, taking place June 26-29.

eCYBERMISSION awards U.S. EE Savings Bonds totaling up to \$1,696,000 at maturity (\$848,000 at time of purchase) to State Winners, Regional Finalists, and National Finalist teams to be split amongst the students based on their award placement. At the conclusion of NJ&EE, National Winners, the highest scoring team per grade level, will receive additional U.S. EE Savings Bonds worth up to a cumulative \$96,000 at maturity, \$48,000 at purchase date, split amongst the students.

Below lists the National Finalist teams advancing to NJ&EE. For a full list of State Winners, Regional Finalists, and National Finalists, visit www.ecybermission.com/winners.

Projects for the 2023-2024 eCYBERMISSION competition may begin now, and registration and project submission opens in the fall. For more information, visit www.ecybermission.com.

National Finalists

North Central

6th Grade – MISSing Monarchs – Annie Wei, April Yao, Elizabeth Moody, Olivia Kim, and Team Advisor Richard Gash – Bay Village, Ohio

7th Grade – Toxic CHLORO Fighters – Addison Graham, Becket Tumney, Orion Riddell, Riley Campbell, and Team Advisor Richard Gash – Bay Village, Ohio

8th Grade – Remote Reality! – Saanvi Thammineni, Khanak Parikh, Kartika Palani, and Team Advisor Venugopal Thammineni – Aurora, Illinois

9th Grade – Urica – Nidhi Sagaram, Samil Sharma, Viraj Vyas, and Team Advisor Bhavna Sharma – Naperville, Illinois

North East

6th Grade – Aqua Pups – Clara DuPlessie, Elliana Shahan, and Team Advisor Beth DuPlessie – Foxboro, Massachusetts

7th Grade – The Ripple Effect – Bailey Rider, Caitlin Holmes, Jacqueline Warner, Mika Kunigonis, and Team Advisor Patricia Killian – Corning, New York

8th Grade – Cardio for Chemo – Elizabeth Vetzzev, Rebecca John, and Team Advisor Kelly McDonald – Andover, Massachusetts

9th Grade – Soundsations – Akshay Jilla, Armaan Jain, Shrey Agarwal, Zaheen Ahmed, and Team Advisor Ravi Sestetty – Clarksburg, Maryland

South Central

6th Grade – 1 Peter 5:7 – Ava-Grace Sadler, Olivia Roach, Rylee McReynolds, Sydney Kubala, and Team Advisor Laura Stary – Lubbock, Texas

7th Grade – H2O Bros – Lucas Higgins, Lincoln Dooley, Jaxson Ferran, Brex Stephens, and Team Advisor Laura Stary – Lubbock, Texas



8th Grade – HydroAid – Annerson Dooley, Jett Hurst, Denver Jewell, and Team Advisor Laura Stary – Lubbock, Texas

9th Grade – Invincible Inventors – Harper Beck, Gabby Harlow, Julia Harbert, Vivian Lawhead, and Team Advisor Renee Blake – Kansas City, Missouri

South East

6th Grade – Gladiators 1 – Brooklynn Smith, Daelyn Griffin, Malyia Boone, Natalie Sanchez Ortega, and Team Advisor Chaka Picha – Memphis, Tennessee

7th Grade – Mad Scientists – Arush Sajja, Ghanishth Awashthi, Jagreet Choudhury, Navaneeth Roshan, and Team Advisor Tachina Jones – Memphis, Tennessee

8th Grade – Disarmed Arms – Eoin Samuel, Naren Pai, Saicharan Karthikeyan, Sajith Gogineni, and Team Advisor Thenmozhi Kandasamy – Raleigh, North Carolina

9th Grade – Little MAAKs – Kherington Phillips, Mia Riley, Ava Call, Avery Jones, and Team Advisor David Phillips – Evans, Georgia

West

6th Grade – HP Team 8 – Daniel Chang, Dylan Kim, Francisco Ramirez, Xuanzhe Wang, and Team Advisor May Lualhati – Las Vegas, Nevada

7th Grade – Trailblazers 2.0 – Kimberly Watson, Malachi Chaya, Natalia Rowe, and Team Advisor Lora Gibbons – West Jordan, Utah

8th Grade – Water Warriors – Aditya Vashistha, Charles Skidmore, Eric Wang, William Parsons, and Team Advisor Audrey Skidmore – Scottsdale, Arizona

9th Grade – Apollo2 – Makaela Gibbons, Malia Chaya, Rockland Stout, Weston Bruderer, and Team Advisor Lora Gibbons – Stansbury Park, Utah

About eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a free, virtual science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) competition for students in grade six to nine that promotes teamwork, self-discovery, and the real-life applications of STEM. Students work in teams, with the help of an adult Team Advisor, and select a problem in their community to explore with science or solve with engineering. With eCYBERMISSION, students experience STEM firsthand and learn how they can use it to change the world while interacting with STEM professionals and competing for state, regional, and national awards. eCYBERMISSION students have applied for and received patents, expanded their projects into businesses, and achieved further national recognition, including the first ever TIME's "Kid of the Year". eCYBERMISSION is part of the



Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) and administered by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA).

About the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)

The United States Army has long recognized that a scientifically and technologically literate citizenry is our nation’s best hope for a secure, rewarding, and successful future. For over 50 years, the U.S. Army has supported a wide range of educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for our youth, college, and graduate students, as well as our valued teachers. Through AEOP, the U.S. Army continues its long tradition and strong commitment to the advancement of STEM education and literacy. Leveraging its most valuable assets – world-class scientists and engineers and research facilities – AEOP offers our nation’s youth and teachers a collaborative, cohesive portfolio of opportunities that effectively engage future workforce generations in meaningful, real-world STEM experiences, competitions, and paid internships. For more information about AEOP, please visit www.usaep.com.

About the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)

The [National Science Teaching Association](http://www.nsta.org) (NSTA) is a vibrant community of 40,000 science educators and professionals committed to best practices in teaching science and its impact on student learning. NSTA offers high quality science resources and continuous learning so that science educators grow professionally and excel in their career. For new and experienced teachers alike, the NSTA community offers the opportunity to network with like-minded peers at the national level, connect with mentors and leading researchers, and learn from the best in the field. For more information, visit www.nsta.org, or follow NSTA on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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