





S C I E N C E : S E R V I C E



In 1999, the “Discovery Young Scientist Challenge” was launched. Now nationally recognized and newly renamed, the “Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge” is helping develop the next generation of world-class science communicators.





Competition Creation and Administration

- Discovery and Science Service, Inc. partnered to create the DCYSC in 1998. Science Service administers the DCYSC.
- At that time, Science Service's major competitions were for high school students
 - Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
 - Intel Science Talent Search
- Discovery pitched the idea of a contest to benefit junior high school and middle school students. Studies indicate that this is the critical time at which students in this country lose interest in math and science.
- 1999 marked the first Discovery Young Scientist Challenge.



Competition Overview and Selection Process

- The DCYSC is a nationwide competition for 5th-8th graders.
- Judges at ISEF's 320 U.S. fairs nominate up to 10% of their 65,000 junior-level entrants. Projects are judged on the following criteria:
 - scientific process, skill and aptitude
 - effective communication by the student

At the nomination stage, each contestant receives:

- lapel pin
- certificate
- those who submit an entry form will receive a T-shirt

Nominees are then asked to complete an entry form consisting of several essay questions.



- 400 semi-finalists are chosen based on their written entry.
Each of the 400 semi-finalists receives:
 - A certificate of recognition
 - A small prize for their teacher
 - DCI Cable Affiliate recognition where possible

The 2003 Semi-Finalists were announced this summer.



- 40 finalists win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC for the competition finals as well as:
 - Exclusive Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge shirts
 - A \$50 gift certificate to a Discovery store or catalog
 - A chance to appear on TV in programming being created by Discovery Science
 - The Discovery Young Scientist Challenge Medal
 - A plaque for their teacher
 - A trophy for their school

The 2003 finalists will be announced on September 17th



Finalist Week - Washington, DC - October 18-22, 2003

- Finalists participate in a first day “Science Fair” at the National Academy of Science.
- The next two days are “team challenges” held at a local airport and based on the 100th year anniversary of flight.
- The challenges will be developed and administered by Steve Jacobs, the new Mr. Wizard
- While working together on teams, contestants will be judged on their communication and leadership skills
- Students will present their original fair project to judges and the general public.
- Winners will be selected on the basis of their public presentation score (30%) and team challenges (70%)



Finalist Week Prizes

1st place - \$15,000

2nd place - \$7,500

3rd place - \$3,750

4th – 40th place - \$500

1st – 3rd place winners also receive:

- A trophy for the student
- A plaque for the students' teachers
- A trophy for the students' schools
- A "Jake's Attic Live" show visits their school



Finalist Week Special Awards

In addition, special prizes from DCI networks and DCYSC partners are awarded including, for example, the "Travel Channel Dream Science Trip". This award is given based on a written essay completed by finalists before coming to Washington, D.C.

In 2000, this award went to Shana Matthews, who won a trip to the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland to work with the scientists who cloned "Dolly" the sheep.



Special Prizes - 2002

- Animal Planet “Emergency Vet” Award
- Department of Commerce Award for Technology
- Discovery Channel “Enthusiasm for Discovery” Award
- Discovery Science Channel FIRST Robotics Award
- National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Young Naturalist Award
- National Park Explorer Award
- Polaroid Visual Learning Award
- SeaWorld / Busch Gardens "Adventures in Science" - Team award
- TLC “Techno-Challenge” Award
- Travel Channel “Dream Science Trip” Award
- University of California at Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute Award
- University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy/TOPS: "Reaching for the Stars" Award



The 2002 Award Ceremony