



**Society for Science & the Public (SSP)**

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# News Release

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## **FINALISTS IN U.S. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED**

### **30 Young Scientists Compete for National Recognition and Top \$20,000 Scholarship**

Washington, DC, September 17, 2008 – Society for Science & the Public today named thirty of the nation’s top young scientists as Finalists of its 2008 SSP Middle School Program—America’s premiere science competition for middle school students.

Jiahe Gu from Nashville, TN, was selected as a Finalist with his project, “Under Pressure.”

California, Florida, and Oregon lead the nation with three Finalists each; followed by Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah with two Finalists each. A full listing of these Finalists can be found at [www.societyforscience.org/msp](http://www.societyforscience.org/msp); brief Finalists’ project descriptions, biographical information, and interviews are available upon request.

Finalists will travel to Washington, DC in October to compete for \$40,000 in scholarships and awards, with the top winner receiving a \$20,000 award from the Society for Science & the Public. Each Finalist will receive at least \$500 in awards. The 2008 Finalists were selected from over 75,000 students who entered local science fairs nationwide in 2007–2008. From this pool, over 1,900 students submitted written entries and were narrowed down in early September to 300 Semifinalists, representing 42 states and Puerto Rico.

As the best and brightest young scientific minds in the nation, each of the 30 Finalists and their teachers are honored for their dedication and achievement. Nobel Laureate and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Society for Science & the Public, Dudley Herschbach, said of the 2008 Finalists, “It’s a joy to applaud the audacity, verve, and zest of these 30 youngsters in seeking and exploring challenging questions on their own. The exhilaration of discovering and sharing new

insights is the driving force of science. That is why undertaking independent projects at an early age augers well for future achievement.”

Finalists receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC for a four-day event to be held October 18–22. The top winners, to be named October 21, will be selected based on presentation of their original science fair project and participation in team-based, interactive scientific challenges to be held at the Koshland Science Museum.

Elizabeth Marincola, President of Society for Science & the Public, said, “By rewarding our nation’s most outstanding young scientists, we hope to encourage their future interest in independent research while promoting public engagement in science in the schools and communities that they represent.” Society for Science & the Public (formerly Science Service), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the public engagement in scientific research and education, owns and has administered the national middle school science program since 1999. SSP welcomes Elmer’s as a sponsor of this year’s program and is now working to identify a title sponsor for future years of its national middle school science program and competition.

### **About Society for Science & the Public**

Since 1942, the science education programs of Society for Science & the Public (SSP), including the Intel Science Talent Search (originally the Westinghouse) and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, have produced future winners of the world’s most prestigious scientific and academic honors. Former Finalists of SSP programs have gone on to win the Nobel Prize, the Fields Medal, the National Medal of Science, and MacArthur Foundation Fellowships.

Through decades of dedication to excellence, SSP has offered many of the most revered and prestigious science education resources in the world. To learn more about its programs and publications, including the nation’s leading science magazine, *Science News*, visit [www.societyforscience.org](http://www.societyforscience.org).

### **About Elmer’s**

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Society for Science & the Public (SSP) is one of the nation’s oldest non-profit organizations dedicated to public engagement in science and science education. Established in 1921, SSP is a leading advocate for the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. Through its acclaimed education competitions and its award-winning magazine, *Science News*, Society for Science & the Public is committed to inform, educate, and inspire.

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