Editor's Note: Contact information for teams available upon request.

For Immediate Release:

San Jose Students Win National Science Bowl® Regional Competition, Secure Spot in National Finals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A team of middle school students from San Jose, California won their regional competition for the 2026 National Science Bowl® (NSB) this month. The team will move on to compete in the NSB National Finals this spring, the **U.S. Department of Energy** (DOE), which sponsors the NSB, announced today.

"For 36 years, the National Science Bowl® has challenged students to think boldly, collaborate under pressure, and push the boundaries of their scientific knowledge," said Harriet Kung, Deputy Director for Science Programs. "Congratulations to the Joaquin Miller Middle School team on advancing to the National Finals! This achievement reflects your hard work, dedication and talent and I wish you continued success as you advance to compete for the national title."

The team from your area that won their qualifying regional competition and will be advancing to the National Finals is:

Joaquin Miller Middle School, San Jose, California

The winning team from each of the 45 middle- and 68 high-school regionals will compete in the National Finals, held in Washington, D.C., from April 30 to May 4, 2026. Along with the competitions, the national event consists of several days of science activities and sightseeing.

The top two middle and high school teams will win $5,000 for their schools' math and science departments. Other schools that place in the top 16 in the National Finals will win $1,000 for their schools' science departments.

The 2026 competitors will follow in the footsteps of previous National Science Bowl® contestants and blaze a trail for students in science, math, and engineering. Approximately 350,000 students have participated in the National Science Bowl® in its 36-year history. Each year, more than 10,000 students across the country compete in the NSB.

The competition tests students on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math. The Department of Energy's Office of Science manages the National Science Bowl® and sponsors the finals competition.

DOE's Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States and is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. For more information, please visit the DOE Office of Science homepage.

For press inquiries and team information, please contact the NSB media manager, Nathan Clark, at nathan.clark@science.doe.gov.

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