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## American Junior Academy of Science



AJAS, the American Junior Academy of Science, is the only national honor society recognizing America's premier high school students for outstanding scientific research. The AJAS mission is to introduce, encourage, and accelerate pre-college students into the professional world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) nominates premier Washington high school researchers as AJAS delegates. The chosen delegates are invited to attend the AJAS annual conference, held in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting. During the conference, AJAS delegates tour local institutions of scientific importance, share their research with their peers and with other scientists, attend conference sessions, and are inducted as Lifetime Fellows of the American Junior Academy of Science. AJAS is a program of the National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS).

Washington State candidates are identified from science competition finalists and invited to submit an application package. The delegates are chosen based on their academic record and strong interest in science research or engineering. Delegates are also invited to the WSAS annual meeting to display a poster and discuss their work with WSAS members. The Washington State Science & Engineering Fair is privileged to select AJAS candidates from the Fair for this prestigious honor.

In 2023, the thirteenth year for the Washington State Academy of Sciences award program, ten students were selected to represent Washington State and receive Fellowships at the 2023 AJAS convention in Washington DC. Delegates enjoyed tours of the National Institute of Standards & Technology, George Washington University, lab tours at the Universities at Shady Grove, the Smithsonian Museums, and the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. They also enjoyed the opportunity to have breakfast with some of America's top scientists. AJAS keynotes included the director of the NASA Pluto flyby mission, and Dr. William Phillips, recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics.

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