

MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge (M3 Challenge) 2026

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Basic informational text is first, followed by details that can be added if space is available. Please find related downloadable images at <https://m3challenge.siam.org/newsroom/share-m3/>.

Basic Challenge information:

MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge (M3 Challenge), a program of [SIAM](#), is a free online contest for high school juniors and seniors and sixth form students in England and Wales. Teams of 3-5 students use math and data to solve a real-world problem during their chosen 14 continuous hours over Challenge weekend. Teams work at the location(s) of their choice, in person or using online collaboration tools. Scholarships totaling \$100,000+ or £75,000+ will be awarded in 2026; \$2 million+ has been awarded to date. Additional awards are given Teams that include MATLAB code (optional) and for teams from Title 1 eligible schools in the U.S. who demonstrate excellence and creativity in solving one or more parts of the Challenge problem. M3 Challenge culminates annually with an in-person final event in New York City with all expenses paid for finalist teams.

For rules, resources, and to register, visit <https://m3challenge.siam.org/>.

Register by February 20, 2026

Challenge Weekend (Friday through Monday): February 27 – March 2, 2025

If space available, consider adding to basics above:

Free access to math modeling handbooks, videos, and sample problems on the website's "[Resources](#)" page help teams prepare for success. Sign up to "[get alerts](#)" to ensure you don't miss important information. For rules, resources, and to register your team(s) by February 20, 2026, visit m3challenge.siam.org or email your questions to m3challenge@siam.org.

Some other specifics:

- Registration and participation are completely FREE – there is NO BARRIER to participation other than having internet access. MathWorks, as title sponsor, funds the key elements so that the Challenge can take place at no cost to students or schools.
- M3 Challenge has taken place completely online every year since 2006. Teams have always been able to work virtually using online collaboration tools, adding to the contest's "real-life" aspect.
- One big problem is posed every year for the Challenge. It is unknown to teams until they login and download the PDF on Challenge weekend to start their 14 hours of work time. The problem typically has a socially conscious theme – equity, the environment, conservation or recycling, energy use, health, and other topics that young people care about and want to think about and work on. The problems are open-ended and are therefore subject to interpretation and perfect

for brainstorming before quantifying the elements. Participation is a transformative experience for many.

About SIAM...

The mission of Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) is to build cooperation between mathematics and the worlds of science and technology through publications, research, and community. Learn more about applied math, math modeling and SIAM at www.siam.org. As part of its array of programs, SIAM organizes MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge (M3 Challenge), a free, Internet-based competition that inspires students to pursue STEM majors and careers. Working in teams, students solve an open-ended problem in 14 hours. Scholarships totaling \$100,000+ are awarded each year. Additional awards are given for outstanding (optional) code. More than \$2 million in scholarships have been awarded to date. M3 Challenge gives students the opportunity to experience first-hand the vital role applied math plays in society and demonstrates its value in gaining insight into big multi-faceted world problems. Free resources are available. Learn more at m3challenge.siam.org.