

2026 NY ACS CHEMAGINATION DESCRIPTION AND RULES

CONTEST OVERVIEW

The 2026 New York Section of the American Chemical Society Chemagination Competition will be held on **Wednesday, March 4th, 2026**, at St. John's University, Queens NY from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

It will consist of a poster session and judging, followed by a presentation for the students and the award ceremony.

For this event, high school students are asked to imagine that they are living 25 years in the future and have been invited to write an article for ChemMatters, a magazine for high school students that focuses on the role of chemistry in everyday life. The subject of the article is: *"Describe a recent breakthrough or innovation in chemistry (and/or its applications) that has improved the quality of people's lives today."* To view a sample ChemMatters magazine visit [acs.org](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html), and look under Education: <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters.html>.

In addition to the article, students are asked to design a cover for the magazine. The article must be written as if the student is living in the year 2051, looking back at innovations that have occurred since 2026. The innovation must fall into one of the following categories:

* **Alternative Energy**
* **Environment**

* **Medicine and Health**
* **New Materials**

A few examples of areas where development is expected are nanotechnology, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, green chemistry, sustainability, intelligent devices for sensing, proteomics, climate models, microplastic remediation, biopharmaceutical therapies, medical devices and/or implants and new energy sources.

Evaluation of the entry is based upon:

- (1) The written article, which is submitted in advance,
- (2) The knowledge of and soundness of the science as demonstrated in the article and during the poster presentation.

RULES

ARTICLES must:

- Be written by a team of **two or three students**; each student may be on only one team.
- Be about 1000 words (figure captions are not included in the limit).
- Present the chemistry/scientific concepts/ideas/principles behind the innovation.
- Describe the innovation and indicate how it has improved people's lives.
- Present a "history" of the changes that had to occur over the "past" 25 years (starting from 2026) to develop this innovation.
- Include drawings, diagrams, illustrations and descriptions of the chemical process and any technology involved in all key aspects of the proposed innovation.
- Cite a minimum of three technical references.
- Include a cover design for the magazine. The cover design can be an original computer graphic or a free-hand drawing.

SCORING:

- Winners are selected by the judges based on the quality of the article and the quality and understanding of the science of the proposed innovation.
- Criteria for scoring include scientific thought, creativity, clarity, thoroughness and teamwork.

ELIGIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS:

- All students must be currently enrolled in an accredited high school or home school and be taking or have recently completed a grades 9-12 science class.
- All entries become the property of the ACS and will not be acknowledged or returned.
- The ACS, its agents and contractors, are not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, or postage-due entries.
- Acceptance of the prize constitutes consent to use the winners' names, likeness and entries for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes.
- Prizes are not transferable.
- Taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winner.

First place category winners from Local ACS Section' Chemagination contests will be eligible to participate in the regional Chemagination contest at the 2026 Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (2026 MARM Chemagination).

KEY DEADLINES:

- February 9** High school teams confirm their intent to participate in the 2026 NY ACS Chemagination and submit the number of teams that will be participating.
- February 16** Teams submit their entries (article and cover art) for evaluation by the judges. **Please email them** to Dr. Carlos Sanhueza (chavezc@stjohns.edu)
- February 16** Submission fee of \$90 for each project is due. Please make the check payable to NYACS and send it to the following address:
- Brian R. Gibney
1327 N Long Beach Road
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
brg33@newyorkacs.org
(917) 399 0607
- March 4** The New York Section contest will be held on **Wednesday, March 4th, 2026**, at St. John's University (D'Angelo building, Ballroom 416)

Carlos Sanhueza and Shanzhi Wang,
2026 NY ACS Chemagination Co-Chairs