SAAWA

AWARD CEREMONY

SAAWA

www.saawa.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

GET READY FOR AMC 8

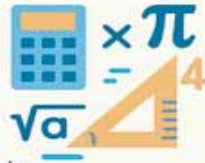## JOIN OUR 2-WEEK SUMMER PREPARATION PROGRAM

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 6–8

Are you aiming to boost your problem-solving skills and succeed in the AMC 8 Math Competition?

Our 2-week summer program will help students build strong foundations, practice past contest questions, and develop confidence in tackling challenging math problems.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Focused training in Algebra, Geometry, Logic, and Number Theory
- Daily sessions filled with engaging problems and expert strategies
- Designed by *Professor* Subash Midha, experienced math educator & AMC coach
- Online and accessible from anywhere!

COMING THIS SUMMER – STAY TUNED FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS!

Hosted by:
South Asian American Women's Alliance (SAAWA)
www.saawa.org

SAAWA Mini Grants Program 2025
Empowering 11th & 12th Graders to Innovate for a Sustainable Future

Project Option 1: AI Robof for Climate Awareness

Design a voice-interactive robot that educates users about climate change, carbon footprint, and sustainable practices. Students will use tools like Raspberry PI, GPT APIs, or Dialogflow to build a chatbot-powered robot that answers questions, shares tips, and engages users through interactive conversation

Project Option 2: Charge-as-You-Walk Energy Backpack

A solar–or motion-powered backpack that charges devices while commuting
A wearable innovation that convertsts walking motion into usable electrical energy to charge small devices like phones and LED lights

Program Highlights

- $100–$200 per project
- Eligibility: 11th & 12th grade students
- Application Opens: September 2025
- Submission Deadline: October 2025

Bring your creativity, compassion, and coding to build something that matters.

✉ Prof. Subash Midha – subash.midha@gmail.com

CODEQUEST SUMMER CAMP
EXPLORING COMPUTER LANGUAGES

DISCOVER PYTHON, JAVA, AND JAVASCRIPT IN A 2-WEEK HANDS-ON CODING ADVENTURE FOR GRADES 5-9

- Learn the basics of Python, Java and JavaScript
- Engaging daily coding projects and challenges

CAMP HIGHLIGTTS

- Learn the basics of Python, Java and JavaScript
- Engaging daily coding projects and challenges
- No prior programming experience necessary
- Guidance from experienced instructors

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Visit: www.saawa.org   Email: subash.midha@gmail.com

SAAWA STEM MINI-GRANTS 2025-2026

Project Focus: Real-Time Language Translation Goggles

Students will build goggles (or a similar wearable device) that can translate spoken language in real time and display the translation to the user

Grant Amount:
$100–$200 per project

Who Can Apply?

- Grades 8–10
- Individual or team (up to 4 students)

Proposal Must Include:

- Idea and goals
- Budget estimate
- Timeline
- Team info

Build Turf Without Microplastics

Students will design and prototype a safe, eco-friendly a alternative to artificial turf that does not use harmful microp-plastics.

For More Info:
Dr. Subash Midha
subash.midha@gmail.com
www.saawa.org

SAAWA Distinguished Teachers' Award 2025

Allyson J. Weseley

Allyson J. Weseley has been teaching for 35 years at Roslyn High School where she has served as the Coordinator of Secondary Research since 2003. Allyson is a champion of student-driven research in the high school setting. Over her tenure, she more than tripled the size of Roslyn's Research Program, broadened the scope of student work, and created the curriculum for all of the program's classes. Allyson founded and ran the Long Island High Psychology Fair for a decade and is the faculty sponsor of the Journal of Secondary Psychological Studies as well as the President of the Long Island's Research Association.

Allyson has mentored over 70 Intel Semifinalists/Regeneron Scholars including 10 Finalists, 2 of whom placed in the national top ten. She has accompanied scores of students to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and been selected to act as an ISEF Grand Awards judge. Allyson has published and presented extensively on research methods as well as co-authored numerous peer reviewed journal articles with her students.

Prior to devoting her life to science (fairs), Allyson founded the AP Psychology program at Roslyn and taught in it for over a decade. She is one of the authors of the Barron's How to Prepare for the AP Psychology Exam review book. Allyson has also served as a Reader and Table Leader for the AP Psychology exam and as the Member-at-Large of Teachers of Psychology in the Secondary Schools (TOPSS).

Allyson majored in Psychology at Princeton University where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude. She received a master's degree in Teaching, Curriculum and Learning Environments from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and earned a doctorate in Curriculum and Teaching from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Thanks

We are grateful to our supporters, sponsors, and judges of the Middle and High School Science Fairs as well as Essay Competitions. Without their help we could not have organized any of these events.

Advisors
Dr. Ellen McCulloh, Paul Paino, Erin Garland, Jennifer Verwys, Shannon Kelly, Dr. Steven Gordon, Tami Cruz, Jeanette Collette, Veronica Ade, Chris Pollatos, Andrew Choi, Arthur Kalish, Suprabha M. Jain.

Supporters of SAAWA
Soni Midha, Shreya Pasricha, Deepa Pasricha, Dr. Bhavana M. Kohli, Dr. David McCulloh, Dr. Sreenadh Jonnavithula, Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, Bina Sabapathy, Bharathi Nelanuthala

Dr. Anila Midha   Prof. Subash Midha
Founder & President   Chairperson
                                                               STEM Programs

Maya Lerner

Maya Lerner is the Library Media and Educational Technology Department Head, a Staff Developer, and a Science Teacher at Great Neck North High School, with 15 years of experience in education. Maya works closely with both students and staff to help them navigate today's complex information landscape, leverage educational technology and AI tools thoughtfully, build strong research habits, and think critically about the content they encounter.

She was recently named the Nassau BOCES School Library System's Administrator of the Year in recognition of her leadership and innovation. Maya has presented on the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on teaching and leadership at the Nassau-Suffolk High School Principals' Annual Conference, the SAAWA workshops for science research educators and math educators, and in numerous district and building-level professional development sessions. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in education, with a research focus on the information literacy.

SAAWA ESSAY WRITING CONTEST 2026

For Middle and High School Students (Grades 8–12)

Topic: *How Artificial Intelligence will change our daily lives in the future*

Submission Deadline: December 15, 2025

Prof. Subash Midha
Chairperson, SAAWA STEM Program

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subash.midha@gmail.com

www.saawa.org

Robot Building Program – Summer 2025

Presented by the Saawa Institute of Excellence in STEM

Join us for the **Second Exploration in Robotics Summer 2025 Program!**

This engaging course is designed for students in grades 5–8 to explore basic STEM concepts and the design process through hands-on robotics.

Program Highlights:

- **Learning & Design:** Students will master fundamental STEM concepts while learning the design process.
- **Robotics in Action:** Participants will design, build, and program their own robots using **Snappy XO** – a fun, innovative robotics platform developed at Stony Brook University on Long Island.

Program Details:

- **Dates:** July 14th – July 25th, 2025
- **Location:** Arya Samaj of Long Island, Inc.
  319 Jerusalem Ave, Hicksville, NY 11801
- **Schedule:** Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (2 weeks)

Program Fee:
$550 (includes the cost of the robot, which students get to keep) For additional information, please contact Professor Subash Midha at subash.midha@gmail.com

SAAWA Essay Writing Contest 2025 Award Winners
Is Artificial Intelligence a Threat to Human Job Security in the Present or Future?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

First Prize
- Ammar Artif - The Wheatley School

Second Place
- Olivia Zeng - The Wheatley School

Third Prize
- Kyle Lau - The Wheatley School

Honorable Mention
- James Muller - Wisdom Lane Middle School
- Esther Jang - Wisdom Lane Middle School
- Arianna Yang - Paul J Gelinas Junior High School

HIGH SCHOOL

First Place:
- Arav Shelat - Jericho High School

Second Place:
- Sharanya Shanmugavel - Jericho High School
- Emma Yan - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School

Third Place:
- Olivia Kim - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School
- Adittya Nischal - New Hyde Park Memorial
- Aaila Rehman - Wheatly High School

Honorable Mention:
- Rishmeet Kaur - Valley Stream North Jr. / Sr. High School
- Sanjana Kunam - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School
- Rebekh Anna Thomas - New Hyde Park Memorial
- Vihaan Singh - Hicksville High School
- Mary Bisogno - Saint Anthony's High School
- Madyson Gavilanes - Saint Anthony's High School
- Saman Khalill - Bay Shore High School
- Jasmine Trusty - Uniondale High School

- Nicholas Scaccia - Carle Place High School
- Julia Cestone - Eastport-South Manor High School

Judges' Choice Award

- Partap Sidhu - Bethpage High School

Innovation in Breast Cancer Research Award

- Anchita Agarwal - Jericho High School

Humanity in Science Award

- Brandon Lam - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Samarth Motaganahalli – Syosset High School

Innovative Health Diagnostics Award

- Samvath Karanam - Hauppauge High School

SAAWA South Shore High School Science Fair 2025 Award Winners

Biology

First Place:
- Adaobi Okammelu - Valley Stream North High School

Second Place:
- Vanessa Maltez - Long Beach High School

Third Place:
- Erin Garnier - Valley Stream North High School
- Kayla DiMaio and Anais Kapto - Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School

Honorable Mention:
- Michelle Vera Evangelista - Seaford High School
- Navrosedip Kundlas - Valley Stream North High School
- Presley Crawford, William Villegas and Dominique Sheppard - Uniondale High School
- Avery Bjelland and Lea Cardenas - Malverne High School
- Leah Pisano - Lynbrook High School South

SAAWA Science Fairs

SAAWA Science Fairs and Workshops

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:
- Elin Kim - Lynbrook High School South

Second Place:
- Aleeza Dhillon - Valley Stream North High School

Third Place:
- Saman Khalil - Bayshore High School

Honorable Mention:
- Matthew Solomon - Seaford High School
- Raj Kumar Singh - Valley Stream North High School
- Lara Vardar - Lynbrook High School South

Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:
- Camryn Rose Sainsbury - Seaford High School

Second Place:
- Aidan Tarsia - Long Beach High School

Third Place:
- Brandon Haviken - Lynbrook High School South

Honorable Mention:
- Jaaziah Bennett and Matthew Carreon Sanchez - Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School
- Celine Buly - Valley Stream North High School
- Sami Mohammed- Lynbrook High School South

Physical Science

First Place:
- Abigail Reichbach - Valley Stream North High School

Second Place:
- Cian Edward Thomas Dobbin - Seaford High School

STEM

First Place:
- Devin Byrne - Lynbrook High School South

Second Place:
- Ethan Rodriguez - Bayshore High School

Third Place:
- Cathlyne Cueto - Lynbrook High School South

Honorable Mention:
- Kyle Ryan Simcox - Seaford High School
- Markus Daly - Malverne High School

SAAWA High School Science Fair 2025 Award Winners

Junior Division

Biology

First Place:
- Baran Eriskin, James McCreesh and Austin Samartano - Commack High School

Second Place:
- Valeria Paez Martinez, Aarya Raina and Liam Shih - George W. Hewlett High School
- Luke Zhong - Great Neck North High School

Third Place:
- Riann Stubbs - Freeport High School
- Kyra Hylton - Elmont Memorial High School

Honorable Mention:
- Thea Olmsted - Long Beach High School
- Kate Spieler - North Shore High School
- Adam Camisi and Jasmine Wang - Roslyn High School
- Emma Wang and Anna Wang - Manhasset High School
- Sia Kripalani - The Wheatley School
- Angel Kohli - Seaford High School
- Natalia Hamue, Diana Lima and Kimberly Sandoval - Mineola High School
- Carew Davis - Oyster Bay High School

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:
- Andrelis Gutierrez Castro and Iris Iglesias Vasquez - Freeport High School

Second Place:
- Mairead Hill-Hotz - St Anthony's High School

Third Place:
- Leah Chan and Gefen Portnoy - Roslyn High School
- Chloe Mullady - St Anthony's High School
- Nelson Zaim - St Anthony's High School

Honorable Mention:
- Zara Cooper, Abby Sonoda and Anne Goldstein - Roslyn High School
- Jillian Wagner - St Anthony's High School
- Helen Su - Great Neck North High School

Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:
- Carina Dai, Sofia Carlese, and Antonia Gorecki - Roslyn High School

Second Place:
- Hailey Hwang, Joanna Huang, and Bella Ouyang - Roslyn High School

Third Place:
- Cassel Koss - Long Beach High School
- Brianna Cosme - W. Tresper Clarke High School

Honorable Mention:
- Erica Verbsky, Hailey Hwang, and Nathalie Zhang - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School
- Bella Vyas and Alayna Vyas - New Hyde Park Memorial High School
- Winston Lin, Mohammad Faiz and Sebastian Mendoza-Reyes - George W. Hewlett High School
- Sofia Khan, Ava Joseph, and Giuliana Corrales - New Hyde Park Memorial High School
- Erik Ravn - Chaminade High School

Physical Science

First Place:
- Liam Connolly and Yi Chen - Manhasset High School

Second Place:
- Nicole Charalambous and Harsita Thulasidas - Bethpage High School
- Vikram Gauld and Charlie Kong - Manhasset High School

Third Place:
- Junyuan Deng and Tianyi Liu - Manhasset High School
- Mohammad Shayaan, Saad Siddiqui, and Navreet Singh - Bethpage High School

Honorable Mention:
- Prisha Chadha and Olivia Brigati - Commack High School
- Evan Sedgwick - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Samir Bhuiyan, Nikhil Pillay, and Aayan Mansi - W. Tresper Clarke High School
- Cristal Martinez - Freeport High School

STEM

First Place:
- Saveet Gupte - Bethpage High School

Second Place:
- Orla Gajwani - Roslyn High School

Third Place:
- Tracy Jiang, Nikhil Peter, and Vidhi Sevak - Bethpage High School
- Jadon Maroto and Aditya Ghotra - Oceanside High School

Honorable Mention:
- Jack Yin - Roslyn High School
- Samvath Karanam - Hauppauge High School
- Charles Byers - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Walter Lai - Jericho High School
- Christy Fu, Aashrita Koyi, and Joanna Kwak - Jericho High School

Senior Division

Biology

First Place:
- Aafia Ahmed - Elmont Memorial High School

Second Place:
- Emaan Tehseen - Elmont Memorial High School
- Sophia Akmal - Syosset High School

Third Place:
- Jonah Sethna and Andrew Li - Manhasset High School
- Sarah Joseph - Great Neck South High School
- Noa Karp - Roslyn High School

Honorable Mention:
- Sarah Kruger - Roslyn High School
- Kylie Wen - Mineola High School
- Aryana Adur - Jericho High School
- Justin Zhao - Jericho High School
- Trisha Sampure - Garden City High School
- Lauren Krupski - North Shore High School
- Emily Telon Jacinto - Freeport High School

Behavioral and Social Sciences

First Place:
- Shruti Singh - The Wheatley School

Second Place:
- Yael Novak - Roslyn High School

Third Place:
- Mannat Jain **-** Garden City High School

Honorable Mention:
- Inderpal Chadha - Herricks High School
- Demetri Tymchynyuk - Syosset High School
- Quinton Hu - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Benjamin Moses - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Allyssa Aquino - MacArthur High School

Earth and Environmental Sciences

First Place:
- Catherine Chen - Manhasset High School

Second Place:
- Julia Corra - Paul D. Schreiber High School

Third Place:
- Kahela Michel - Elmont Memorial High School

Honorable Mention:
- Regina Huang and Maya Shah - Manhasset High School
- Belen Vazquez and Krisha Wadhwa - Manhasset High School
- Varda Qudratullah - Elmont Memorial High School
- Ryan Donohue and Colton McCurley - Chaminade High School

Physical Science

First Place:
- Daniel Sawicki - St Anthony's High School

Second Place:
- Madison Qu and Mia Hoang - Manhasset High School
- Roy Choi - Manhasset High School

Third Place:
- Serin Jo - Roslyn High School
- Lucienne Keyoung and Isabel Gonzalez - Manhasset High School

Honorable Mention:
- Chase Ridley - Elmont Memorial High School
- Samantha Stoneking and Kristina Theodosopoulos - Manhasset High School
- Sophie Hu - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School
- Antonio Savastano - Chaminade High School
- Zahin Gani - Jericho High School

STEM

First Place:
- Cynthia Qian - Jericho High School
- Julia Xu - Great Neck South High School
- Anish Pahari - Jericho High School

Second Place:
- Tommy Yuan - Jericho High School
- Nandini Khaneja and Benson Chou - Great Neck South High School

Third Place:
- Chloe Lee and Olivia Zhen - Great Neck South High School
- Joshua Chang and Shichen Liu - Great Neck South High School
- Alec Josen - Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School

Honorable Mention:
- Max Lippman - Roslyn High School
- Vivian Leung - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Ayan Mahajan and Henry Gucker - The Wheatley School
- Yeewan Melody Chen - Syosset High School

Volunteer Service Awards

Distinguished Volunteer Service Award

- Grace Nolan - St. Anthony's High School

Leadership Volunteer Service Award

- Catherine Dinh - Mineola High School

Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

- Anthony Caizza - St. Anthony's High School

Honorable Mention:

- Brandon Lam - Paul D. Schreiber High School
- Allison Hernandez - Commack High School
- Mishaal Hammad - Valley Stream Central High School

SAAWA Mini Grant Recipients

Madyson Gavilanes - Saint Anthony High School

Anish Musthyala - Syosset High School

Bir Sidhu - John F. Kennedy Middle School

Sameha Vundecode - Smithtown High School West

Joyce Xu - William A. Shine Great Neck South High School

Xiaowu (Walter) Lai - Jericho High School

Manasvi Dendukuri and Jasmine Dhingra - Jericho High School

Alexa Tan - Jericho High School

Jolyna Weng, Joanna Kwak, Christy Fu, and Hannah Kim - Jericho Senior High School

Jivika Raut and Caren Ye - Jericho Senior High School

Jeffrey Yu - Jericho Senior High School

Anchita Agrawal - Jericho Senior High School

Michael Lyakhov - Great Neck North High School

Nikhil Peter, Vidhi Sevak, and Tracy Jiang - Bethpage High School

This Journal is compiled and edited by Dr. Anila Midha