

2026 Champaign County Science Day Results

On Thursday, February 19, 2026, the 12th Annual Champaign County Science Day was held at Urbana High School, for Champaign County students, grades 5-12. Forty-seven students from Urbana Senior High School, and Graham Middle and Elementary Schools completed science research projects and presented their findings to area professionals, researchers, and educators.

This event offered students a venue that promotes the development of creative thinking, research and writing skills and career motivation toward the sciences, all in one program. Project topics may be in biology, chemistry, botany, space & earth sciences, computers, zoology, microbiology, biochemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, medicine & health and behavioral & social science.

Twenty-six students received the highest rating of “Superior”. They were, from Urbana HS – Michael Nannarone, Jetson Armstrong, Levi Zachrich, Morgan Hoffman, Abigail Gsell, Kinzley Register, Maci Leaman, Sydney Padilla, Jada Hall, Owen Jenkins; from Graham Elementary – Avery Croker, Addison Delaney, Vincent Deppen; from Graham MS – Reese Barger, Ellen Kies, Mallorie Erter, Alice Rogers, Carly Birchfield, Jenna Johnson, Mackenzie Crooks, Alaina Lockwood, Xavier Garcia, Liam Kizer, Jase Rogers; and from Jackson Center - Huitt Kipker & Eli Springer. These students are eligible to go to the Upper Miami Valley Regional Science Day held at Edison State Community College in Piqua on Saturday, March 14th.

The Grand Prize Award for Best Overall Project (\$100) went to Michael Nannarone of Urbana HS. The award for 2nd place overall (\$50) went to Reese Barger & Ellen Kies, Graham MS and the award for 3rd place overall (\$50) went to Levi Zachrich, Urbana HS.

Topic Category Awards included: Cargill Awards in Animal Science, Environmental Science, Plant Science 1st (\$100), Jetson Armstrong, Urbana HS; 2nd (\$50) Mackenzie Crooks, Graham MS; Premier Health Award in Medicine & Health and Behavioral Science (\$100) Reese Barger & Ellen Kies, Graham MS; Cargill Award in Medicine & Health and Behavioral Science (\$50) Michael Nannarone, Urbana HS; Shepherd Award in Chemistry (\$100) Mallorie Erter & Alice Rogers, Graham MS; Lightle Science Fund Award in Chemistry x 2 (\$50 each) Levi Zachrich, Urbana HS, Xavier Garcia, Liam Kizer & Jase Rogers, Graham MS; Lightle Science Fund Awards in Energy, Material Science 1st (\$100) Carly Birchfield & Jenna Johnson, Graham MS; 2nd (\$50) Owen Jenkins, Urbana HS; Lightle Science Fund Awards in Physics 1st (\$100) Avery Crocker, Graham Elementary; 2nd (\$50) Vincent Deppen, Graham Elementary. Additional awards included: Award for Best Presentation of Data (\$50) went to Arya Massey, Graham MS; Award for Best Abstract (\$50) Mallorie Erter & Alice Rogers, Graham MS; McMurry Family “Spirit of Science” Award (\$100) went to Rees Hedrick, Graham MS.

Event sponsors included Cargill, Premier Health-UVMC, the Lightle Family Science Fund, 100 Proof Press of St. Paris, David Shepherd, the McMurry Family, and Urbana High School. Area professionals and community members volunteered to judge the projects, aided by area science teachers. Anyone with questions about the Science Day program should contact Dr. Martin E. English, 790 E. Shoop Rd., Tipp City, OH 45371, or email: info@ohioumvsd.com.