



2026-27 Texas Ugly Bug Contest



The Microscopy Society of America and the Texas Society for Microscopy welcomes your participation in the 2026 -27 Ugly Bug Contest.



Who Can Participate?

The Ugly Bug contest is open to all Texas elementary schools (K-6th grade), public or private. Only one (1) bug per school may be submitted. If multiple classrooms submit bugs, we will hold a run-off election to pick the ugliest bug from your school.

What to Do?

1. Collect Bugs. Bugs must be native to Texas. Spiders, stinging insects, endangered insects and scorpions will NOT be accepted.
2. Pick the ugliest or most unique bug. Small insects make the best entries!
3. Write a description of your ugly bug.
4. Contact the TSM Member Lab in your area to arrange for mailing or pickup by Friday, October 30, 2026. Be sure to include the provided entry form with your submission.

What Happens Next?

Your bug will be processed and imaged with an electron microscope. Images will be available for online voting in January & February. Vote online for your favorite ugly bug at: <https://uglybugcontest.org/>

The school with the winning bug from Texas will receive a STEREO MICROSCOPE with camera and a slide kit in March!.



The ugliest bug in Texas will then go on to compete for the ugliest bug in the nation! National voting will take place in April.

Area	TSM Member Lab	Contact
San Marcos, TX	Texas State University	Joyce Anderson Jha39@txstate.edu
Austin, TX	University of Texas at Austin	Michelle Mikesh mfmikesh@austin.utexas.edu
Waco, TX	Baylor University	Bernd Zechmann Bernd_zechmann@baylor.edu
Dallas, TX	University of Texas at Dallas	Josefina Arellano Josefina.arellano@utdallas.edu
College Station, TX	Texas A&M University	Stan Vitha stanvitha@tamu.edu

A complete list of contest rules and guidelines is available at <https://uglybugcontest.org/>.

Be sure to click on the link for **Texas!**