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## SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY EXPERIMENTAL VEHICLE TEAM WINS POPULAR SCIENCE NATIONAL SCHOOL INVENTORS CHALLENGE

**MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Sept. 18, 2009** – Saint Thomas Academy <<http://www.cadets.com/>> announced today that its Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT) has won the first-ever PopSci National School Inventors Challenge <<http://www.popsci.com/winners>> , from *Popular Science*, the magazine dedicated to delivering The Future Now. The team won the high school division for its invention of the safer urban motorcycle, a street-legal motorcycle that travels 60 mph for 40+ miles before needing to be recharged by an on-board, 110-volt charger. “Crush zones” and other safety features protect the driver by keeping him inside the vehicle in a collision.

The winning entries were culled from more than 300 submissions nationwide that fit the contest’s “improve our world” theme. Winners were selected in Elementary, Middle and High School divisions, with each winning school receiving \$5,000 in science equipment from Science Kit and one Grand Prize Winner receiving an additional \$1,000 in Celestron products.

“We founded this contest as a fun way to get kids excited about science and technology,” said Mike Haney, deputy editor of *Popular Science* and one of the contest’s judges. “The contest entries we received were innovative and ambitious and these kids have certainly proven they’re up to the challenge of improving our world now and in the future.”

Finalists were selected by a panel of science and technology experts, including Steve Greenburg, author of *Gadget Nation*; Andrea Childs, Science Kit chemist; and Haney. Contestants were split into three divisions: elementary school, ages 5-11; middle school, ages 12-14; and high school, ages 15-19.

“It’s really great that the boys continue to receive accolades for designing the future of transportation,” said Mark Westlake, the Academy’s physics instructor and EVT adviser. “It reinforces the boys’ dedication to the study of physics, science and true-to-life engineering tasks.”

Each year, Saint Thomas Academy’s EVT gives 15 budding scientists the opportunity to solve real-world, engineering problems by designing and building experimental vehicles to compete in national engineering contests. Saint Thomas teams have built a one-person car that gets more than 1,300 mpg, an electric car that travels 50 miles on two car batteries, a solar bike averaging 30 mph, and a street-legal solar car they raced from Texas to California. The teams have won 10 national championships, set numerous national records, and have been featured in *Popular Mechanics* and on CNN, *Dragonfly TV* and *Make TV*.

For more information on the PopSci School Inventors Challenge, please visit [www.popsci.com/sciencecontest](http://www.popsci.com/sciencecontest) <<http://www.popsci.com/sciencecontest>> .

### **About Saint Thomas Academy**

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, Catholic, college preparatory, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit [www.cadets.com](http://www.cadets.com) <<http://www.cadets.com/>> .

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