



2023 Science Fair Rules & Guidelines

1. Each project must follow the scientific method with all 7 steps clearly shown on their display. (Title/Purpose, Hypothesis, Background Research, Materials, Data/Procedure, Results, Conclusion)
2. Displays must be a tri-fold display (4' x 3' is the average size). May not be wider than 4' or taller than 7'.
3. Collections of items are not allowed, unless it is made into an experiment and follows the scientific method.
4. Regardless of which Fair your child enters, absolutely no family will be allowed to stand next to the participants during the judging time. This includes picture-taking family members. Family members are welcome to explore our outdoor exhibits during the judging time. There will be time to view projects after judging.
5. Please be wary of younger siblings touching the displays. Participants worked very hard on their projects and we want to respect that hard work.
6. **Parents may help their children with their projects at home, especially our younger participants. But the majority of the work needs to be the student's work and the student's understanding of what they learned during the process of the experiment. Please remember the term "help" does not mean the parent does 100% of the work for the child. The purpose of this Fair is for your children to learn the scientific process on their own and to have FUN with Science. **Please note:** Your child will not win in the competitive fair if the judges know they did not do the work on their own and cannot answer any questions about what they learned. They will be asked questions to explain what they learned during the process. The judges don't care how perfect the project came out, just that the child did the work themselves.
7. Each student will be judged at least twice. Each judge will spend approximately 5-7 minutes with each participant. This process can take over an hour by the time the judges make it around to your child twice. Please be patient during this time, and explain this to your children. Whatever time the judges take with the other participants is the same time he will take with yours. The younger children will be judged much quicker than the older ones so they won't have to wait around quite as long as the older students.

8. Again, outdoor exhibits will be open to explore. As always, respect our exhibits and don't make a mess. Please keep all little ones occupied and quiet during the judging time.
9. Payment (\$7 per applicant) must be made before the deadline or your child will lose his spot.
10. Participants who are competing in the Competitive Fair will be judged a little stricter than our Non-Competitive participants.
11. NO FOOD or DRINK allowed by project. (Except water). Each participant will be able to have a water bottle at their station, set on the ground next to their board. We ask that you please bring a reusable water bottle. If you forgot one and a child needs water we can provide them with a plastic water bottle.
12. Please note: This is our first homeschool science fair. We are doing our very best to find the best judges possible for our Fair. It is sometimes difficult to find volunteers who are willing to donate their time. ECSC cannot be held responsible for what comments he/she writes, but please note, I have asked them to offer positive encouragement at all times.

Failure to follow any of these specific rules will result in a forfeit of winning the Competitive Fair.