

How to Enter the Southern Tier Scholastic Science Fair

Each entrant must be recommended by faculty advisor. For home-schooled students, the advisor may be anyone familiar with the student's project, other than a parent or guardian. The intent is to encourage the entrant to draw on resources other than those usually available to him/her. The advisor is **not** required to attend the project presentation at the Science Fair.

1. Register	All entrants must have submitted a completed registration form by the due date. A registration fee must also be submitted by each entrant (both entrants submit the fee in a group project) at this time. Of this amount, \$8 of this can be waived for economically disadvantaged students. A faculty advisor must send a letter on school stationery requesting this reduction.
2. Submit a Project Summary (Students in grades 6-8)	<p>Submit two typed copies of a one-page project summary (abstract) by the due date along with the registration form and fee. The project summary must be typed (single spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) and include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Title, Name of Student, Name of School, Grade, Category & Level • Summarize your principal hypothesis, methods and materials, and conclusions.
3. Submit a Project Report (Grades 9-12 only)	<p>Submit two typed copies of a Project Report by the due date, along with the registration form and fee. Project Reports received after the deadline will not receive a full score and may not be accepted for judging.</p> <p>The Project Report must be typed (single spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, preferred). It must consist of the following sections, preferably in the order listed below. Pages should be numbered sequentially using Arabic numerals. Proper credit must be given where others' work is used or referred to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- including project title, your name, school, and grade • Hypothesis or Statement of Purpose • Procedure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- including material list • Discussion/Conclusions/Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- including supporting data, tables, graphs, pictures, and/or other documentation • References/Bibliography
4. Design, Construct and Present a Display	See rules for construction on the following pages.

The Basic Rules And Exhibit Information

Participation

1. The Fair is open to students in grades 6 through 12 who complete the entry form with a teacher/advisor signature. **ALL** projects should demonstrate a scientific or mathematical principle or solve a problem using the scientific method.
2. Each entrant can exhibit only one project for judging, and it must represent the work of that person. Group projects that consist of two students working together on a research project may be entered. Both members of the group should be able to serve as spokesperson, be fully involved with the project, and be familiar with all aspects of the project. The final work should reflect the coordinated efforts of both group members and will be evaluated using the same rules and judging criteria as individual projects. Students must attend the fair and judging in order to be eligible for an award.
3. Fair Day: Entrants will participate from 9 a.m. until the close of the Awards Ceremony. Specific directions for setup and times for judging will be given prior to the day of the Fair. Parents, teachers, and other interested parties, are invited to view the projects of all students involved.
4. Only the exhibitor of a particular exhibit may be near an individual display during judging of the oral presentation for that display. Parents, teachers, and other interested parties, must allow the judging to be carried out without interference.
5. Participants must be present at the Awards Ceremony to receive an award.

Exhibit Rules

Science Fair exhibits must adhere to the following guidelines. These guidelines will be rigidly enforced. Projects not meeting these requirements will not be judged, nor permitted for display.

1. Maximum Sizes:

Table Exhibit: 122 cm W x 198 H cm x 76 cm D (4 feet W x 6.5 feet H x 2.5 feet D)

Floor Exhibit: 122 cm W x 274 H cm x 76 cm D (4 feet W x 9 feet H x 2.5 feet D)

All exhibits must fit within the above space limitations. This includes elements of the exhibit that may extend or protrude. The Science Fair committee reserves the right to reject any project as unsafe or unsuitable for display.

2. Construction: The project display board shall be sturdy and self supporting, using durable materials, such as tri-fold poster board, plywood, pegboard, masonite, or metal. Absolutely no construction paper will be accepted as a project display board.
3. The exhibit may be assembled at the exhibit area, but it may not be built there. The exhibitor must furnish all materials. Power outlets will be provided, but the exhibitor must provide all cords and wire.

4. The Project Summary or Report should be included with the exhibit.
5. Computers and all equipment are students' responsibilities; they may be brought in and removed the day of judging. **IMPORTANT: LOSS OR DAMAGE** - Valuable equipment, such as computers, may be part of the display only if the student entrant accepts full responsibility. It is advised that computer equipment be on display only during the actual judging period.
6. The Science Fair Committee is not responsible for any losses incurred. All items of the project must be identified with the student's name and school. All items must be removed by the closing of the Fair.
7. All students entering a project in the Southern Tier Scholastic Science Fair receive Certificates of Participation. Medals at the Gold, Silver, and Bronze level will be awarded as determined by the judges. Awards will be given based on the student's achievement level with the selected project in the context of other projects within the student's division. The judges, in consultation after individual judging of all projects, will determine each project's final score. The decision of the judges is final. Additional special awards may be given at the discretion of the judges, to include merchandise and/or cash awards.

Presentation

1. Each student should come prepared to give a maximum two-minute oral presentation, which requires interacting with the exhibit and/or Project Report. Questions may be asked of the student by the judges after the student finishes the presentation. The student shall provide all materials for the oral presentation.
2. If the exhibit is removed prior to the awards ceremony, then the Committee reserves the right to disqualify the student.

Safety Regulations

1. Fire regulations prohibit the hanging of charts, cloth, or paper decorations from the table below the exhibit.
2. The following rules for 110-volt operations must be observed: All wiring, switches, and metal parts that carry high voltage must be located out of reach of observers and must be designed with an adequate overload safety factor. High voltage equipment must be properly insulated and shielded with a grounded metal box or cage to make accidental contact impossible. If electricity is needed, exhibitor shall provide a minimum 20-foot extension cord.
3. (a) All project displays must adhere to all state and federal laws for public safety. Lasers must be appropriately shielded.

(b) No hazardous materials may be exhibited at the project display. This includes, but is not limited to, acids, hazardous microbes, carcinogenic materials, and unsealed foodstuffs that may attract pests. For these items, the substitution of illustrations or photographs is encouraged. Materials in violation of this rule will be removed without notice to the participant before judging.

(c) The Science Fair Committee will disqualify any project deemed unsafe.

(d) The display of live or preserved animals is not permitted. Projects may not display photographs of procedures detrimental to the health and well being of vertebrate animals. Photographs of surgical procedures may not be exhibited.

Experimental and Testing Regulations

1. All certification regulating safe and humane procedures must be turned in with the application forms and a copy displayed with the project. Please use forms that are a part of the official application package.

2. Experimental work with live, vertebrate animals must conform to proper and humane procedures. All experiments on animals should be done under the supervision of a qualified person; e.g., M.D., D.V.M., teacher, etc. The teacher must approve the experimental procedure before starting. No live, poisonous or venomous animals may be displayed. Certification of Humane Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animal is required.

3. Experimental work with human subjects, because of federal regulations, has become increasingly rigid. Students must plan carefully before undertaking research that involves the use of human subjects in either a behavioral or biomedical study. Certification of Compliance of Research involving human subjects must be filled out and approved first. This will protect subjects from unnecessary exposure to physical or psychological risks and experimenters and schools from legal complications.

4. Tissue samples required for projects must be obtained from an appropriate institution or biomedical scientist. The student may not obtain them directly from living humans or vertebrate animals. This includes tissues, organs, human or animal parts, including blood. Certification of Tissue Sample source is required. Do not display tissue at the Fair; pictures are encouraged.

5. Projects utilizing drugs of any kind require a Certificate of Drug Supervision signed by the student's teacher. No drugs of any kind may be exhibited. Pictures are encouraged.

Note: Failure to comply with all rules and regulations will result in denial of application. For any further questions on the above rules, please call the Science Fair Committee representative at (607) 778-5065.