



DRSEF Guide for Students

Fair Day Saturday February 23, 2019 at Centennial Hall, Fair Park, Dallas
Scienteer entry deadline February 8, 2019

Preparing for the Fair

The first step towards advancing to the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair is to enter the science fair at your local school as either an individual or as a team of 2 or 3 students. Top projects from school fairs advance to district fairs then top projects from district fairs advance to the regional fair. If you are homeschooled, email us at DRSEF@SMU.edu.

You can begin your background research at any time, but **before you begin your experiment** you need to set up a student account in Scienteer (an online project management system used by science fairs in Texas). Your science teacher will provide you a link to Scienteer. The [Scienteer Student Guide](#) explains this process.

Based on the information you enter in Scienteer, you will be guided to the forms you need to have approved **before you begin your experiment**. Scienteer uses the information you provide to complete forms for your school fair as well as the regional, state and international science fairs. Important forms that must be completed and approved before experimentation begins include:

- 1) Scientific Review Committee (SRC) for projects with vertebrate animals or biological agents
- 2) Institutional Review Board (IRB) for projects with human participants such as surveys

Fair Day

7:30 am to 8:30 am - Student check-in

Students and guests enter Centennial Hall through the East entrance. Students check in, provide day-of-fair phone number and collect packets. Students set up their projects then remain at their projects for Display & Safety inspection. Please note that many items are prohibited at the fair including:

- Plant material, living, dead or preserved
- Animal material, living, dead or preserved
- Sand, soil and rock
- Water and every other liquid
- Dangerous, sharp, hazardous, hot, cold, noisy or smelly materials

See the [ISEF Display and Safety Regulations](#) for a full list of prohibited items.

Covered tables and some chairs are provided. If 110V electric is required at the project, bring a 25 ft., 16 gauge, grounded extension cord to connect to one of the building outlets. Battery-operated items such as laptops, lights, videos, etc. should be brought fully charged and then kept off or in sleep mode until judged.

8:30 am - Family and guests leave Centennial Hall

9:00 am to noon - Round 1 judging with student interviews

All projects will be visited by 2 to 4 Category judges (red ribbons) for ~10 minute interviews. Some projects will be interviewed by Special Award judges (blue ribbons).

All team members must be present for interviews or points will be lost. Interviews cannot be scheduled. If you have not seen a judge by 10:30 am, notify a fair official or judge captain (yellow folder).

Noon - Students leave Centennial Hall, all projects stay

Noon to 1:30 pm - Round 2 judging for larger categories, no student interviews

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm - Grand Prize qualifiers notified and return to Centennial Hall

One project from each Category qualifies for the Grand Prize round. Qualifiers will be notified by phone and project numbers will be listed at www.drsef.org.

2:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Grand Prize judging with student interviews

A new set of judges will interview students for the Grand Prize round with winners determined in Life Science and Physical Science.

5:30 pm - Centennial Hall reopens to the public, ribbons displayed

Winner, placeholder and Honorable Mention ribbons will be displayed on projects from Category judging and Special Award judging.

Projects may be removed using the Removal Pass issued at check-in. Bring ID to the Administration Desk if a replacement pass is needed.

6 pm - Grand Prize Awards presented

7 pm - Centennial Hall closes, all projects must be collected by 7pm

Additional Information

STEM Party: Embarcadero Building at Fair Park is open from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm for students, families and guests with refreshments for sale, hands-on STEM activities and presentations.

Results: Results are posted online in the Dallas Morning News on Sunday and at www.drsef.org.

Banquets: Students who placed 1st - 4th in Category judging or received a Special Award are invited to receive their prizes at a formal luncheon at SMU in April. Their teacher is also invited at no charge. Students can purchase one guest pass as space allows.

Advancing: First, second, third and fourth from Category judging advance to the [Texas Science and Engineering Fair](#). Some students qualify to enter [Broadcom MASTERS](#) and to attend [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](#).