



Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2021

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES AND CHANGES

ELEMENTARY DIVISION

New:

- The Science Festival will be completely Virtual (on-line) this year.
- The number of projects a school can advance has increased for this year only since there isn't a physical space limitation.
- Registration Fees have been reduced.
- Students will need to create their virtual presentation, including a project board and answers to reflection questions, using the new "Elementary Division Project Board Template" provided by the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival. This takes the place of the physical project board, Project Research Form, and Code of Conduct/Media Release.
<http://www.sciencefest.org/images/pdfs/ElemProjectTemplate.pptx>
- Elementary Schools must finalize their online registrations and submit all paperwork, including the students' virtual presentations in pdf format, on or before **January 28, 2021**.
- During the registration process, teachers can select which special awards each project may qualify for judging.
- All judging of the virtual presentations will take place on-line without student interviews.
- The Judge criteria sheet has changed to reflect the on-line judging format for this year.
<http://www.sciencefest.org/images/pdfs/ElemJudgCrit.pdf>
- Awards will be posted on-line on February 25, 2021.
- A school representative will need to sign up for a time slot to pick up ribbons and special awards during the week of March 1-5, 2021.

IMPORTANT:

EVERY PROJECT REGISTRATION NEEDS TO INCLUDE AN UPLOADED PRESENTATION IN PDF FORMAT THAT FOLLOWS THE RULES OF THE **ELEMENTARY DIVISION PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE**

- Judging sheets will not be returned to the schools
- Registration Fee is a flat **\$10 per project**.
- Due to time limitations the number of projects per school is as follows:

NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
0–499	16 projects maximum
500–699	18 projects maximum
700–899	20 projects maximum
900+	22 projects maximum

(More on next page)

PROJECTS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED

No student in the Elementary Division will be allowed to design and conduct any science project that involves:

- projects where the student has grown **mold** or **bacteria** of any kind (no moldy food studies, etc.)
- firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- causing pain, suffering, sickness or death of an animal
- any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials
- fermentation or distillation of consumable alcohol

PROBLEM PAPERWORK, MISSING PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Incorrect and incomplete school paperwork, as well as missed deadlines, cause a great deal more work for teachers, parents, and Science Festival organizers. Due to time limitations, late registration will not be permitted. Registrations without an uploaded project presentation will be considered incomplete and the project will not be evaluated by a judge.

Where to Get the Documents You Need

The Elementary Division Project Board Template and Sample Judging Sheet, can be downloaded from www.sciencefest.org.

Common Problems Found with Registration:

- Student is registered online in the wrong grade level
- Student didn't turn in their virtual presentation
- Student didn't answer the reflection questions in their virtual presentation
- Virtual presentations is not submitted as a pdf