



Austin Energy Regional Science Festival

ELEMENTARY RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Participation

Students **must be in Elementary School and a minimum of 3rd grade** to participate in the Elementary Division of the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival.

2. Virtual Presentation

Science Fest will be virtual (on-line) this year. All Elementary students must create a virtual presentation using the **Elementary Division Project Board Template** which includes a virtual project board and answering reflection questions about the project.

<http://www.sciencefest.org/images/pdfs/ElemProjectTemplate.pptx>

This must be submitted in pdf form by the student's teacher.

3. Scientist Training

The Scientist Training program is **not available** at the Elementary Level.

4. Projects That Are Not Allowed

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

- Firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- **Growing bacteria or mold of any type : NOT ALLOWED**
- 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
- Projects that involve fermentation and or distillation of any amount of drinkable alcohol like Kombucha, wine, beer etc.

5. Virtual Presentation Guidelines

All student projects must follow the guidelines listed below.

Items Not Allowed: Virtual presentations must follow the rules of the Elementary Division Project Board Template.

- No font size smaller than 16pt.
- No animations or videos.
- No photographs or pictures of animals or people in surgical techniques, dissections or necropsies.
- No personal information such as student name, email address, home address, phone number, or social media contacts.

(More on next page)

Allowed and Encouraged

- Students should always plan on taking photographs of their project steps as a visual explanation of their effort. Students must ask permission before photographing any other individuals for display on their project.

Required Items

- Be sure to properly credit/acknowledge all sources of graphics and photographers on the display board (Photograph taken by . . .).
- Be sure to answer all questions on slide 2, “Reflections on Learning” of your virtual presentation.

6. Parental Help

Some students are fortunate to have parents who have time to help them. However, parents who do the thinking or build the project for students do not really help them. Parents are encouraged to help their children in these ways:

- Read and discuss the “Rules for Participation”
- Select projects which are appropriate for the child’s age and grade level
- Plan and manage project work, documentation and clean-up times
- Take your child to the public library or other places for research
- Help with documentation for a young child
- Ensure the child’s safety

Students must list any parental help in the Reflections on Learning section of the presentation.

10. Registration Deadlines

All online registrations must be submitted at www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021.**

Due to time limitations, late registration will not be permitted.