REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE 2024 EAST CENTRAL INDIANA
REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

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FAIR DATE AND LOCATION

- The 2024 ECI Regional Fair will take place on Saturday, February 24th on the Ball State University campus in Muncie, Indiana.

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be in grades 3 through 12 and from any of the following counties in order to participate: Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Henry, Howard, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Tipton, Union, or Wayne counties.
- Students applying to attend the regional fair should be winners from school or district fairs.
- If a student attends a school that is not associated with a school or district fair, or a student is home-schooled, the student may complete a project under the guidance of an adult sponsor (usually a teacher and/or school administrator) and apply to attend the Regional Science Fair.
- Projects from any field of science, engineering, or mathematics are acceptable.
- Projects should be experiments with data. Projects that are strictly demonstration will be ineligible for awards and advancement to the state fair.

DIVISIONS

- Elementary Division: Grades 3 to 4
- Junior Division: Grades 5 to 8
- Senior Division: Grades 9 to 12

INSTRUCTION PACKETS FOR CONDUCTING PROJECTS

- Participants in the Elementary Division and Junior Division must follow the instructions in the Rules for Elementary and Middle School Science Research for the ECI Regional Fair packet (hence forth: EMSR). The EMSR packet can be found our website.
- Participants in the Senior Division must follow the instructions in the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair packet (hence forth: ISEF). The ISEF packet can be found on our website and at this link.
EVALUATING FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- For Elementary and Junior Division participants, information in the EMSR packet should be used to determine if a project involves special circumstances.
- For Senior Division participants, the ISEF packet, ISEF Form 1, and ISEF Form 1A should be used to determine if a project involves special circumstances.
- Special circumstances include but are not limited to: working with hazardous chemicals or devices; working with microorganisms, bacteria, mold, vertebrate animals, or humans; working at a regulated research institution and/or with a qualified scientist; and working on a continuing project.

REGISTRATION AND PROJECT APPLICATION

- Registration and project application will take place online through the Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI) website: [https://sefi.org/register/](https://sefi.org/register/).
- The registration deadline is Monday, February 5, 2024
  - Registration entails:
    - Teachers entering their students into the system.
    - Fair participants, a guardian, and/or teachers entering the participant’s demographic and basic project information.
- Teachers, please enter your students in the system as soon as you know who you are sending to the regional fair but no later than Friday, February 2, 2024.
  - See the SEFI Website Teacher Instructions document on our website for assistance.
  - Note: if you need to make a new teacher account, the process takes several days.
- The project application deadline is Monday, February 12, 2024.
  - The project application entails participants fully completing everything required of them in the SEFI website: demographic and basic project information, research plan, and uploading any required supporting documents.
**PROJECT APPLICATION MATERIALS**

- **Participants in the Elementary Division** must briefly summarize their project in the Experimental Methods box of the Research Plan section on the SEFI registration website. No forms are required for elementary division projects.

- **Participants in the Junior Division** must complete all of the boxes in the Research Plan section on the SEFI registration website. No forms are required for projects that do not involve special circumstances.
  - All participants with projects involving special circumstances must answer specific questions about their project (see the Projects Involving Special Circumstances section in the EMSR) and upload that information to the SEFI website as a PDF document. **The determination of special circumstances needs to be done before participants begin their projects!**
  - Additionally, participants working with humans, at a research institution, and/or with a scientist must fill out the ISEF forms corresponding to their circumstances if they wish to be considered for advancement to the state fair.

- **Participants in the Senior Division** must complete all of the boxes in the Research Plan section on the SEFI registration website. All participants must complete the following ISEF forms: Checklist for Adult Sponsor (Form 1), Student Checklist (Form 1A), and Approval Form (Form 1B). A Research Plan/Project Summary document must also be prepared according to the directions in the ISEF packet. **All forms and documents should be completed before participants begin their projects!**
  - Participants with projects involving special circumstances must complete the appropriate additional forms from the ISEF packet before they begin their projects!
  - All participants are encouraged to complete the Risk Assessment Form (Form 3) and use the ISEF Rules Wizard to help determine whether their project involves special circumstances and requires additional forms from the ISEF packet.
  - Participants and adult sponsors are responsible for ensuring projects comply with all rules given in the ISEF packet.
ABSTRACTS

- **Participants in the Junior and Senior Divisions** will need to prepare an Abstract once their project is finished. The abstract is to be typed or copied/pasted into the appropriate box on the SEFI website no later than Monday, February 29, 2024.

- Abstracts must not exceed 250 words.

- Abstracts are a summary of your project.
  - An opening sentence that addresses your project’s purpose (to science/knowledge, to the real world, or just why you were interested in the topic) is encouraged.
  - The following parts should be addressed as you summarize: your question and/or hypothesis, your procedure (brief explanation of methodology, NOT every step), main or summarized results, and your conclusion (answer to your question and/or evaluation of your hypothesis).
  - Abstracts should be brief; one or two sentences per part is plenty.

PROJECT DISPLAYS

- Project displays will consist of a physical poster. Display instructions will be provided at a later date, but an overview follows. The poster must be constructed of a durable material and be able to stand on its own on a table. Each participant will have a display area of 48 inches wide by 54 inches tall by 30 inches deep in which to put their poster and any optional demonstration materials.

FOR ASSISTANCE

- Our regional fair website will have useful information to assist you:
  [https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/biology/researchandcommunity/ecisciencefair](https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/biology/researchandcommunity/ecisciencefair)

- Those following the ISEF packet and/or using any ISEF forms, may find the following website helpful: [https://student.societyforscience.org/international-rules-pre-college-science-research](https://student.societyforscience.org/international-rules-pre-college-science-research)

- Questions should be directed to the science fair email address: sciencefair@bsu.edu