65th Shenandoah Valley Regional Science Fair
Rules and Guidelines: <u>Senior Division</u>
March 12, 2024

Welcome to the 65th edition of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year will see some changes:

- Due to funding challenges and the high cost of attending ISEF in Los Angeles, we will only be able to send <u>ONE</u> project consisting of <u>1-2 students and 1 chaperone</u>. Projects with teams of 3 students will not be eligible for ISEF, though they will be eligible for VSSEF. We recommend you avoid or minimize teams of 3 students. We hope with enhanced fundraising going forward we will be able to send two projects regardless of number in the future.
- Registration Fees are unchanged at $18 per *student* in the Senior Division (high school). In the future we will work to reduce fees through sponsorship.
- The deadlines for submission of all materials will be strictly enforced in order to provide us with adequate time to program the fair.
- We are provisionally planning a public session (students, parents, teachers ….) between 2:00 and 3:00 pm
- The Fair will again be in person, subject to changes to State, local, University or Fair rules related to health and safety of the staff and students.

  Contacts. Please contact the following if you have any questions:

  Corey Cleland, JMU, Fair Director (clelandcl@jmu.edu) – questions beyond judging, special awards, registration, Forms
  Kristopher Kubow, JMU, Judging (kubowke@jmu.edu) – judging questions
  Kelley Aitkin, Supervisor, Science & Art, Frederick County (aitkenk@fcpsk12.net) – project registration questions
  Kara Bates, MRGS, Chair, Scientific Review Committee (krbates@shenandoah.k12.va.us) – questions on required Forms

Deadline

➢ **February 21, 2024   Online Project submission and Support Forms**

Fair Website and Registration Link: http:\\svrsef.org

Location

The annual Shenandoah Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SVRSEF) is scheduled for Tuesday March 12, 2024 at James Madison University in Godwin Hall. Snow date is March 13.

Eligibility

To be eligible to present a research project in the SENIOR division, a student must reside in the Shenandoah Valley Fair Region (roughly between Clarke Co to the north and Rockbridge Co to the south; more specifically, Highland County, Bath County, Rockbridge County, Staunton City Winchester City, Page County, Harrisonburg City, Warren County, Shenandoah County, Augusta County, Rockingham County, Frederick County, Clarke County), be enrolled in one of the grades 9-12 in any public, private, parochial, Christian school or in an equivalent documented program of home schooling, and not be over the age of 21.

Students may only present research that was conducted since March, 2023. However, student(s) may present research on a continuing project if the presented work is based on new research within the past year. A student may enter/contribute to only one research project. The project must be the student(s)' own work. Only 1, 2 or 3 students can contribute to a project.

Projects involving: weapons and their components (including paintball and potato guns), sleep deprivation or drinking of alcohol by human or animal subjects, or any exclusions based on ISEF Rules, are not allowed.

Submission Process – Project information

Registration, Forms, and abstract must be submitted <u>electronically</u> by Tuesday, **11:59 PM, February 21st, 2024** via the **SVRSEF.org** website. The information, required includes:

1) All 1-3 student names	5) abstract
2) Parent email & home address	6) teacher/sponsor,
3) School	7) teacher/sponsor email, phone
4) preferred Scientific category	8) Required Forms in a single PDF (see below)
	9) Research Summary

The Registration Link can be found in January at the Fair website: **www.svrsef.org**

Projects must be classified into one of the following 14 Scientific Categories (note these differ somewhat from ISEF):

1)	Animal Science	8)	Engineering
2)	Behavioral and Social Science	9)	Energy and Transportation
3)	Biochemistry	10)	Environmental Science
4)	Cellular and Molecular Biology	11)	Medicine and Health
5)	Chemistry	12)	Microbiology
6)	Computer Science and mathematics	13)	Physics and Astronomy
7)	Earth and Planetary Science	14)	Plant Science

Note that at the Fair small categories may be combined or large categories divided to create more balanced Judging Groups. Consequently, it is possible that some scientific categories may not have winners or there may be more than one winner in a category. For students that progress to the State Fair or ISEF, they can change their categories.

Please consult **Kelley Aitken** (aitkenk@fcpsk12.net) with any questions about electronic submission.

Submission Process – Required Forms

Forms that should be completed and signed *before* research begins. Depending on the research, some forms *may* not be required; see description at the top of each form. "Always required" forms are indicated.

Form 1: Checklist for Adult Sponsor / Safety Assessment Form [always required]
Form 1A: Student Checklist / Research Plan (<u>BEFORE experimentation)</u> [always required]
Form 1B: Approval Form (requiring <u>Parent/Guardian signature</u>) [always required]
Form 2: Qualified Scientist Form
Form 3: Risk Assessment Form [required if hazardous materials or tools are used or might be perceived as such]
Form 4: Human Participants and Informed Consent Form
Form 6A: Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Form (<u>BEFORE experimentation)</u>
Form 6B: Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form

Forms that can be completed and signed *after* research is completed but before the Fair. Depending on the research, some or all of these three forms *may* not be required; see description at the top of each form.

> Form 1C: Regulated Research Institutional / Industrial Setting Form
> Forms 5A,B: Vertebrate Animal Form (5A and, if at Regulated research Institution, 5B)
> Form 7: Continuation Projects Form

Forms <u>must</u> be submitted with Registration by **February 21st.** Forms must be submitted through the Registration URL (in which case the Forms should be scanned/combined to a <u>single</u> PDF). Please consult Kara Bates with any questions.

Kara Bates, MRGS, Chair, Scientific Review Committee, krbates@shenandoah.k12.va.us

Cost

There will be a $18 (Senior Division) nonrefundable fee for each student (not each project), payable to James Madison University with "Science Fair" in the memo line. Please bring the check or cash to the Science Fair, or make arrangements with the Fair Director. JMU Accounting will have a representative available to receive the fee. No student will be kept from participating due to financial constraints; please contact the Director (Corey Cleland) as needed. We anticipate that schools or districts, not student families, will bear the cost.

Schedule – Day of the Far

The Shenandoah Valley Regional Science & Engineering Fair will be held Tuesday March 12, 2024, at James Madison University in Godwin Hall. Snow date is March 13. Autos and vans can park in the adjacent G, F, P and C5 lots without passes. Buses will be allowed to park in the adjacent bus parking area of Godwin. The best way to enter the JMU campus is from Port Republic Rd (I-81 exit 245). Link to a map is below:

https://www.jmu.edu/parking/_files/parkingmap.pdf

The exhibit hall doors will be open for Registration and setup at 8 am. Presentation lists will be posted and labels placed on the tables to indicate Project locations.

All Senior projects must be ready for Display and Safety Inspection by 8:30 and for judging by 9 am. Presentations must conform to ISEF Display and Safety Rules: https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules/

Category Judging is expected continue from 9am to 10:45 am. At about 11:15, projects advancing to Grand Prize Judging will be announced; others should leave. Grand Prize judging will continue from about 11:15 to about noon. Students must be with their posters to be eligible to compete for a Grand Prize.

We are tentatively planning a Public Session from 2:00-300 pm.

Awards will be made at 3:00 pm in the adjacent gym and will finish by 4:00pm. Please try to avoid walking on the Blue flooring if possible. Exhibits must be removed by 5:30 pm.

Awards – Scientific

First, second and third Places will be awarded in each *Judging group*. Judging groups typically correspond to scientific categories (see above), except small categories may be combined and large categories may be split into multiple judging groups. Consequently, it is possible that some scientific categories may not have winners or there may be more than one winner in a category. For students that progress to the State Fair or ISEF, they can change their categories. There will one First Place (gold) but potentially one or two 2nd and 3rd Place (silver, bronze) Awards. Teams will be judged equally to individual projects. Judging Group 1st Place winners will be eligible to compete at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair (Old Dominion University, Norfolk, April 2024).

We will award ONE Grand Prize to an individual or team of 2 students (teams of 3 are not eligible to attend ISEF due to funding constraints). The winning team will be eligible to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in May 11-17, 2024 in Los Angeles, CA. The school MUST send a chaperone, typically a teacher or administrator. The SVRSEF will cover the costs, subject JMU Rules and policies of attendance, for the one or two student Finalist(s) and one chaperone (teacher/administrator, but not parent) for one project.

Awards – Special

Special and organizational awards will also be awards. In some instances, the recipient will need to follow-up with organization by email or website to complete receipt of the award.

Disclaimer

Neither the Science Fair Committee, the cooperating groups and sponsors, nor James Madison University, assumes any responsibility for loss or damage of any personal property, exhibit or part thereof.

Further Information

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