

SETX HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR RULES

We truly want student's projects prepared from their desire to learn and to convey what they have discovered about God's creation through their investigations and research.

We are **NOT** looking for the student who can dazzle the judges with pizzazz, or the best computer generated or "boardroom ready" exhibit. We **ARE** looking for learning and knowledge gained through truly applying oneself, and for students that have done their best handiwork, and projects with the appearance that a student prepared them.

Our goal is for each student to truly gain new insight into God's creation.

1. Each project must be related to an area of science. Unacceptable example: Surveying neighbors' choices of laundry detergent. No science is involved. Acceptable experiment project: "*Which laundry detergent removes grease best?*"
2. Each project will be classified by grade level and then into one of the following categories:
 - ◆ **Collection** - Collections examples: rocks, shells, or butterflies. The collection must be scientifically oriented, contain a sufficient number, and show what you have learned through the process of collecting and categorizing.
 - ◆ **Model** – A representation of what something is realistically like. Such as a model of an ear, rocket, or life cycle.
 - ◆ **Demonstration** – A *working* model of things such as volcanoes, robots, or electrical devices.
 - ◆ **Experiment: Physical Science** - Experiments in areas such as astronomy, chemistry, geology, or earth science.
 - ◆ **Biological Science** - Experiments in areas such as botany, bacteriology, anatomy, or genetics.
3. An exhibitor must be a **home school student**. (2-member teams, see rule #12.) Teachers and parents may advise, but must not build any part of the exhibit or write *any* of the report*. K - 3rd *may* require a parent to write or type captions on their display boards, but the student should help in the wording. Please use discretion. K - 3rd must perform all other work on the display board themselves, as well as the exhibit.
4. Projects must be freestanding and not more than 30 inches deep (76cm), 48 inches wide (122cm), and 78 inches high (198cm) from the tabletop. (May be built or 3-sided prefab boards used. Title header boards are allowed.)
5. Electrical power strips and cords needed for exhibits *must be approved* by SETXHSF. Once approved, the exhibitor will be responsible for bringing all necessary equipment, and for safety will be required to use duct tape to secure it.
6. **The following are prohibited: dangerous chemicals or cultures, open flames, explosives, or animal projects involving starvation or any form of cruelty.** SETXHSF reserves the right to refuse display of an exhibit that is deemed inappropriate.
7. **Call us for details on approval for animal experimentation.** Live animals must be kept in clean cages, fed, and watered. **NO DANGEROUS ANIMALS! Pre-Approval to bring animals & they must return home with the exhibitor.**
8. SETXHSF, LHS, STEP and BCM, its representatives and sponsors, and the fair location, its representatives and affiliates, assume no responsibility for loss or damage to any person, exhibit, or any part thereof.
9. All exhibitors must submit an exhibit (board and display of work done), a written report*, and a journal*. (2-member teams in 5th ↑ must submit 1 Exhibit, 2 Reports, and 2 Journals. 4th ↓ Refer to "*" below. See rules #10, #11, & #12.)
****The title & main section headings may be typed, handwritten created by hand, or stenciled.** Labeling, captions, and explanations may be typed or handwritten. **Journals must be handwritten.** (The journal is a *log* of a student's progress from start to finish on his/her project.) Use a journal or composition book. Team individuals are to keep their own journals, unless uppermost grade is in K-3rd or in 4th & opting out of report.) Reports* written by 8th ↑ must be typed, but 3rd and below may choose to type or hand write it. Typed material should use fonts that are easily read. **No Clip Art within body of text.**
10. **Report*** must contain: 1. Title Page; 2. Table of contents; 3. Introduction (including why picked, research, & hypothesis or what hope to learn); 4. Project Details (includes how being done, what happened, & final outcome of experiment, model, demon, or collection); 5. Discussion (vocabulary page if needed, followed by discussion of the results – tie research & what done); 6. Conclusion (what learned); 7. Acknowledgments; 8. References. (Each member of a team must write their own report, unless the uppermost grade is in K-3rd or in 4th & opting out of report. See rules #9, #10, & #12.)
NOTE: The High School Grade Group will be required to include a 1-page abstract following their table of contents.
11. **Special Note:** Teams are limited to 2 and are evaluated on a higher score basis. If exhibitors are in different grades, the project will be judged at the higher-grade level. *Each* team member will be interviewed. One registration form per member with reference to teammate on each form. 1 Exhibit, 2 Reports, 2 Journals (See rules # 9, #10, & #11.)
12. **ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.**
13. Failure to follow these rules will result in point deductions and possible disqualification.
14. SETXHSF reserves the right to amend these rules or make additional binding rulings as events warrant.
*** A report & a journal (a daily progress diary of project) are required for 5th ↑, and are optional for 4th.**

**For entries in TSRF, title may not be typed. Students wishing to enter the TSRF may need to modify headings.