

2023 STEM Fair Rules and Guidelines

Registration:

- Students can register within their grade level (K, 1, 2, 2Q, 3, 3Q, 4, 4Q, 5, or 5Q) under **one** of the following categories only. If needed, we can help you classify your project.
 - Science: Investigations in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, environmental science or combination themes
 - Technology: Demonstrations of coding, video games, or computerization
 - Engineering: Innovations with mechanical models, electrical circuits, or robots
 - Mathematics: Explanations of important Math concepts or student-designed games and puzzles illustrating those concepts
- Students may work on their projects individually or as a team of up to 3 kids. Team Project entries will be judged according to the higher-grade participant in the team.
- The deadline will be strictly enforced because the Committee needs time to plan the logistics of the event based on registrations.

Project Requirements and Restrictions:

- Project details must be presented on a tri-fold display board of size 36"x48" or smaller.
 - For Technology projects, an elaborate trifold is not required. A simple means to show the design/algorithm will suffice.
- Power outlets in the gym are extremely LIMITED. Although we will try to accommodate requirements as much as we can, we strongly recommend that you bring extension cords, power strips and charged laptops for convenience.
- Projects may NOT include:
 - Science or math kits from stores.
 - Expensive or non-replaceable personal property items.
 - Live animals, pets or insects.
 - Matches or open flame. NO FIRES OF ANY KIND!
 - Chemicals which are toxic, flammable or dangerous.
 - Electricity passing through an un-insulated wire.
 - Blood or gory animal or body parts.
 - Uncontained messes. (eg NO volcanoes)
 - Uncontained liquids of any kind.
 - Chemical reactions. NO CHEMICAL REACTIONS OF ANY KIND!
 - Explosions (even safe ones). NO EXPLOSIONS OF ANY KIND!
- Any project which must incorporate any of the above elements can be done at home. You can take a video or take pictures and display on a poster board.

Project Submissions:

- All students will need to bring in their trifolds and projects on the day and designated time of the fair. There will be no prior tri-fold collection conducted.
- Specific times for project set up will be assigned to each student/team after Registration closes.

Judging:

- Judging will occur between 4pm - 6pm and will precede the public display and hands-on demonstration event.
- Students in grades K-2 are strongly encouraged to be present during judging; students in grades 3-5Q will be required to be present during judging. This is intended to give the kids a chance to receive constructive feedback from judges and will also enable the judges to comprehend the projects better as well as evaluate the student's understanding of the subject.
- Specific times for project judging will be assigned to each student/team after Registration closes.
- The main attributes for judging at each level will be creativity, thoroughness, and clarity with an emphasis on student's independent work with minimal adult supervision. Detailed Judging Criteria are also provided.
- Judges will be field experts from local companies/educational institutions/parents outside the immediate Smith community or high school students from science and math honor societies.

Awards:

- Students will compete only against themselves to earn the most points out of a possible 25 points for each project. The following awards will be given in each category in each grade.
 - Excellence (20-25 points)
 - Achievement (10-20 points)
 - Participation (<10 points)
 - Dolphin Choice Award (popular vote by students)
- Awards will be awarded/displayed during the public part of the event from 6-8 pm.

Project Retrieval:

- At the end of the fair, all projects and/or trifolds must go home with participants. Any projects remaining at the end of the event will be discarded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Smith STEM Committee at amalthiya@gmail.com or Shivani.joshi@gmail.com. Thank you and Good Luck!