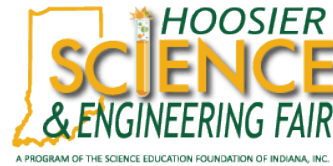




2025 Junior Division
Welcome Letter



December 29, 2025

Congratulations on being selected as a winner and having an outstanding project at your Regional Science Fair. We at the Science Education Foundation of Indiana are pleased to extend an invitation to you to participate in the **38th Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair that will be on March 28, 2026 in Indianapolis at IU Indianapolis**. Updates will be posted at <https://sefi.org/hoosier-science-engineering-fair/>

Please read all the information in this packet carefully and comply with all of the guidelines to ensure a trouble-free event.

Enclosures with this letter include:

1. General Information.
2. Display and Safety Guidelines
3. Waiver of liability

Your project submission closely follows the submission for your regional fair. You should have the following items already loaded into your **e-portfolio account**. If you are missing a required element, you should upload the missing item(s) as soon as possible.

- A project title, category and a Research Plan
- A project Abstract that is 250 words or less in length
- A **30 second** "elevator speech" audio or video about the project. (this must be a YouTube Short video submitted as a link)
- A **7-10 page** PowerPoint or Google Slide presentation of the most significant parts of your research project. (pdf format only, NO VIDEO OR AUDIO in the presentation).

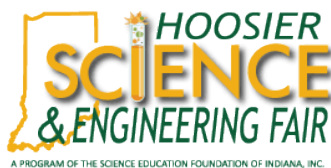
Additional/optional items may be on your e-portfolio.

- A pdf of your finalized project report if you did one.
- Copies/samples of your data book/ project log
- A photo of you and team members (head and shoulder images only please added to your PowerPoint)

Again, Congratulations on your good work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Glen M. Cook, Jr.'.

Glen M. Cook, Jr.
Executive Director, SEFI



INFORMATION SHEET – 2026 Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair

Please note this year's program is being held at IU Indianapolis and is a one-day event taking place on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

Registration to compete at the State Science Fair

- All student exhibitors will be identified by the Regional Fair director or their designee. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO SETUP AND COMPETE IF THEIR REGISTRATION WAS NOT SUBMITTED BY THE REGIONAL FAIR.**
- On-site check-in opens at 8:00 A.M. The schedule with other information about the State Fair is on the website <https://sefi.org/hoosier-science-engineering-fair/> . The Annual Program will be available for download on the website.

Student Participant Information

1. One hundred and twenty Junior Division candidates (grades 4-8) are invited to exhibit. These students are the top winners at their Regional Science Fair.
2. All students are required to sign the liability waiver form and submit a paper copy during registration.
3. **All students must be present at all the HSEF (judging and awards programs) to be eligible to receive any prize or award.**

Judging

Judging will be ongoing throughout the week before the fair by reviewing your submissions to your e-portfolio. On the day of the event, students will have scheduled interview periods with judges both before and after lunch. During “non-scheduled” interview periods, students need to remain at their projects so that judges from special awards organizations can interview the exhibitors. **During judging, only judges, student competitors and Event Staff will be permitted in the judging areas.**

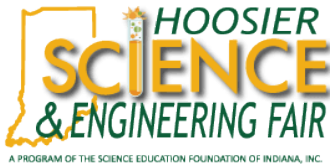
If students are approached by a judge or other event attendee for any information other than that related to conducting the research project, the student should contact a member of the event staff immediately.

NOTICE: Due to space constraints, Fire Marshall Occupancy standards, parents and teachers will not be permitted to remain in the project exhibit area during the judging day.

SUMMARY OF INSTRUCTIONS

- i **Project check-in begins at 8:00 am so please do not arrive before this time.**
- ii There will be no parking on the brick paved space in front of the building. Find a parking spot in the parking lot and carry in your display material. Plan ahead if you have heavy objects, bring a wheeled cart to move items in.
- iii Teachers and Parents – due to space constraints, parents and teachers will not be able to remain in the area during judging sessions. Parents and teachers will be permitted to visit and view projects during setup and prior to the first judging session at 9:00. Parents and teachers will be permitted to return to the building after the last judging period and just prior to the awards program (see schedule in official program on the website).
- iv **AWARDS: Please note the times for the Awards programs**
 - a. Awards begin at 4:30 p.m. Due to limited space. Each student may have only **2 guests** in attendance at the awards program. Students will be seated on the main level during the awards program. Parents and guests will be allowed to be seated after students are seated. We hope that any *overflow will be able to watch in an adjacent room via livestreaming.*
 - b. **At the time of check in, all students must submit a waiver of liability, and a photo release form**
WE ASK THAT YOU NOT UPLOAD THESE DOCUMENTS INTO THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.
- v **It is suggested that you also bring a spare copy of your abstract to submit as we may not have received an abstract from all participants.**
- vi **IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY AWARD, IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT BE PRESENT AT THE ENTIRE EVENT INCLUDING THE APPROPRIATE AWARDS PROGRAM.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT GLEN COOK gcook@sefi.org



Waiver of Liability & Release for Program
Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair
a program of
The Science Education Foundation of Indiana,
Inc.

As the parent or legally authorized guardian of a minor in the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair (PARENT) hosted by the Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc (SEFI). I understand and agree to the following terms set forth:

Consent and Waiver

In consideration for my child being permitted to participate in this program, I, on behalf of my child, and as the natural parent and/or as the legally authorized guardian or support person, do hereby for my child, myself, my family, heirs, personal representatives, and assigns, agree to, and hereby do, release, waive, discharge, hold harmless and indemnify, and forever defend the Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc., the members of its Board of Directors, individually and collectively, its officers, employees, servants, agents, representatives, directors, students, volunteers, and anyone acting on behalf of SEFI, from any and all liability, losses, claims, actions, suits, procedures, demands, rights, and causes of action of whatever nature, in law and equity, for any and all known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, bodily or personal injuries, death and permanent injury, illnesses, damage to property, or other losses, and any consequences thereof, including expenses, costs, and attorney's fees, as may be sustained by my child or me, or any person or entity acting on my or my child's behalf, arising out of, or in any way associated with my child's participation in the program.

In consideration of my child, the participant, being permitted to participate in the above program, I, and on behalf of my child, agree and understand that:

- My child will abide by all the rules, guidelines, regulations, code of conduct of the HSEF and any and all program requirements: Anyone failing to abide by this criterion may be dismissed from the program.
- Parents will not be permitted in the facility during judging. We will take all usual precautions to prevent any situation that may be construed to be inappropriate contact between the child and others.
- No person shall be permitted access to the child that is not in full view of all program participants.
- My child's participation in this program is voluntary.
- I recognize that my child's participation in the program carries with it possible risks, including types of activity/behaviors not authorized or supported by SEFI and its directors, event leaders, or the overall HSEF program that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care or precautions taken during the event (for example unauthorized entry into a Zoom or similar meeting).
 - Should parents feel the need to address any concerns, they should immediately contact the SEFI Executive Director (gcook@sefi.org).
- I have considered the risks involved in this program and I freely assume the risks and consent to my Child's participation.
- I further declare that my Child is capable of participating in the program.

Photo Release

I give SEFI, its agents, employees, servants, assigns, and successors, without expectation of value, permission to:

- Record my child's likeness and appearance on videotape, audiotape, film, photograph, or any other medium.
- Use my child's name, likeness, voice, and biographical material in connection with these recordings.
- Exhibit, copy or distribute such recording in whole or in part without restrictions or limitation for any educational or promotional purpose or advertisement campaigns which SEFI, and those acting pursuant to its authority, deem appropriate.

_____ Participant Name

_____ Parent/Guardian Name

_____ Parent Signature

_____ Date

HSEF - Display & Safety Guidelines – Grades 4-8

The HSEF Display & Safety inspection process can be initiated only when all items are present at the display. The Display & Safety Committee will offer guidance on Display & Safety issues for projects approved by the SRC to compete in HSEF. Occasionally, the HSEF Display & Safety Committee may require students to make revisions to conform to Display & Safety regulations. Persistent issues will be directed to a committee of individuals which may include SEFI personnel, Display & Safety (D&S) and/or Scientific Review Committee (SRC) executive committee members.

The following regulations must be adhered to when a student exhibits a project at HSEF. All projects must adhere to the Display & Safety requirements of the affiliated fair(s) in which they compete. Knowledge of these requirements is the responsibility of the Finalist, Adult Sponsor, and Fair Director.

DISPLAY REGULATIONS

Maximum Size of Project

Depth (front to back): 24 inches

Width (side to side): 48 inches

Height (floor to top): 86 inches

Please be aware when creating posters that the mechanism supporting the poster should conform to the maximum size limitations stated above.

- All project materials and support mechanisms must fit within the project dimensions (including table covers).
- Fair-provided tables at HSEF will not exceed a height of 30 inches (91 centimeters).
- If a table is used it becomes part of the project and must not exceed the allowed dimensions.
- Nothing can be attached to or leaning on the wall.
- All demonstrations must be done within the confines of the finalist's space. When not being demonstrated, all project components must be returned to the project display and must fit within allowable dimensions as defined above.
- Projects can be continued under the table BUT this area is not to be used for storage.

Position of Project

The fair provided table or freestanding display must be parallel to, and positioned at, the back of the project space.

Forms required at all projects:

1. An original **Official Abstract and Certification** as approved (stamped/embossed) by the HSEF Scientific Review Committee.
 - a. Upon SRC approval, the stamped/embossed Official Abstract and Certification will be provided to the student at their booth.
 - No other format or version of your approved Abstract & Certification will be allowed, NO Handouts to judges or to the public are permitted.
 - b. The term "abstract" may NOT be used as a title or reference for any information on a finalist's display or materials (including research papers) at the project except as part of displaying the official stamped/embossed abstract.

Forms NOT to be at the Project Display Booth or in the Exhibit Area

Completed informed consent/assent forms for a human participant study are NOT to be displayed and should NOT be present at the project display. The student may include a sample (incomplete) form in their logbook or research notebook but under NO CIRCUMSTANCE should the completed informed consent/assent forms for a human participant be in the Exhibit Hall.

Photograph/Image Display Requirements

1. Any photograph/visual image/chart/table and/or graph is allowed if:
 - a. It is not deemed offensive or inappropriate by the Scientific Review Committee, Display & Safety Committee or Society for Science (including, but not limited to images/photographs showing invertebrate or vertebrate animals/humans in surgical, necrotizing or dissection situations).
 - b. It has a credit line of origin (“Photograph taken by...” or “Image taken from...” or “Graph/Chart/Table taken from...”). If all images, etc. displayed were created by the finalist or are from the same source, one credit line prominently and vertically displayed on the backboard/ poster or tabletop is sufficient. All images MUST BE properly cited 2.
 - c. Finalists using any presentation or demonstration (physical or digital) outside of a project board must be prepared to show the entire presentation to the Display & Safety Inspectors before the project is approved. All aforementioned rules apply to this presentation and the presentation may not be altered in any way after the final Display & Safety inspection. Examples of presentations that require approval include, but are not limited to PowerPoint, Prezi, Keynote, software program/simulation and other images and/or graphics displayed on a computer screen or other non-print delivery method.

Items/Materials Not Allowed on Display or at Project Booth

- 1) Any information on the project display or items that are self-promotions or external endorsements are not allowed in the project booth.
- 2) The use of commercial logos including known brands, institutional crests or trademarks, flags unless integral to the project and approved by the SRC via inclusion in the Official Abstract and Certification.
 - a) Any reference to an institution or mentor that supported the finalist’s research except as provided in an acknowledgement section of the poster and within official ISEF paperwork, most notably Form 1C.
 - b) Any reference to patent status of the project.
 - c) Any items intended for distribution such as disks, CDs, flash drives, brochures, booklets, endorsements, give-away items, business cards, printed materials or food items designed to be distributed to judges or the public.
- 3) Any awards or medals.
- 4) Postal addresses, World Wide Web, email and/or social media addresses, QR codes, telephone and/or fax numbers of a project or finalist. Note: The only personal information that is permissible to include on the display is information that is also included on the Official Abstract and Certification (Finalist Name, School, City, State, Country). Information regarding finalist’s age and grade are not permitted.
- 5) Active Internet or email connections as part of displaying or operating the project at ISEF. Exceptions must be requested in email to displayandsafety@societyforscience.org and approved in advance by the Display & Safety Committee.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

Not Allowed at Project or Booth

Note: In the case in which a Student’s Project includes an item that is prohibited from display, please consider taking photographs and/or documenting the significance of the prohibited item through video.

1. Living organisms, including plants
2. Glass
3. Soil, sand, rock, cement and/or waste samples, even if permanently encased in a slab of acrylic
4. Taxidermy specimens or parts
5. Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
6. Human or animal food

7. Human/animal parts or body fluids (for example, blood, urine)
8. Plant materials (living, dead, or preserved) that are in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state
9. All chemicals including water. Absolutely no liquids can be utilized in the Project Display
10. All hazardous substances or devices (Example: poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, grease/oil and sublimating solids such as dry ice)
11. Items that may have contained or been in contact with hazardous chemicals (Exception: Item may be permitted if professionally cleaned and documentation for such cleaning is available). Filters (including microbial) may not be displayed unless the Display & Safety Committee can reasonably determine that the device was cleaned or was never used (please include receipts in your notebooks and/or logbooks)
12. Sharp items (for example, syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
13. Flames and highly flammable materials
14. Batteries with open-top cells or wet cells; no battery may be left in the exhibit hall overnight
15. Drones or any flight-capable apparatus unless the propulsion power source removed
16. 3D Printers unless the power source is removed
17. Inadequately insulated apparatus capable of producing dangerous temperatures are not permitted
18. Any apparatus with belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points that are not appropriately shielded
19. Any display items that are deemed distracting (i.e. sounds, lights, odors, etc.)
20. Personal items or packing materials stored underneath the table or in the booth overnight
21. Any apparatus or project material deemed unsafe by the Scientific Review Committee, the Display & Safety Committee, or the Society

Electrical Regulations

1. Electrical power supplied to the project is 120 Volt, AC, single phase, 60 Hz. No multi-phase will be available or shall be used. Maximum circuit amperage/wattage available is determined by the electrical circuit capacities of the exhibit area .
2. Electrical devices must be protectively enclosed. Any enclosure must be non-combustible. All external non-current carrying metal parts must be grounded.
3. Energized wiring, switches, and metal parts must have adequate insulation and over-current safety devices (such as fuses) and must be inaccessible to anyone other than the finalist. Exposed electrical equipment or metal that may be energized must be shielded with a non-conducting material or with a grounded metal box to prevent accidental contact.
4. Decorative lighting or illumination is not permitted
5. An insulating grommet is required at the point where any wire or cable enters any enclosure.
6. No exposed live circuits over 36 volts are allowed.
7. There must be an accessible, clearly visible on/off switch or other means of quickly disconnecting from the 120 or 220 Volt power source.

Laser/Laser Pointer Regulations

Any Class 1, Class 2, Class 3A, or Class 3R lasers are allowed to be used responsibly. No other lasers may be used or displayed.

1. Laser beams may not pass-through magnifying optics such as microscopes and telescopes.
2. Lasers must be labeled by the manufacturer so that power output can be inspected. Lasers without labels will NOT be permitted.
3. Handheld lasers are NOT permitted.
4. Lasers will be confiscated with no warning if not used in a safe manner.