



2025 Senior 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. The competition will take place on Saturday March 28, 2026 at **IU Indianapolis**. A tentative schedule is included in this mailing. Most recent updates will be posted under resources at <https://sefi.org/hoosier-science-engineering-fair/> Please read all of the information in this packet carefully and comply with all the guidelines to ensure a trouble-free event.

Enclosures with this letter include:

1. General Information about the day.
2. Display and Safety Guidelines
3. Waiver of liability for the event
4. Scholarship application instructions (This is for Grade 12 students only).

Your project submission closely follows the submission for your regional fair. You will be expected to have an e-portfolio submission on **sefireg.org site** and should have the following items already loaded into your account. If you are missing a required element, you may upload the missing item(s) prior to March 20.

- A project title, Category, Research Plan and project Abstract (250 words or less)
- ISEF forms completed with appropriate dates and signatures (SRC will review and advise if modifications are needed.)
- Additional ISEF forms If required for your project.
 - A copy of Form 1C if part of your ISEF paperwork set (see display guidelines for what must be at your booth
 - A Copy of Form 7 if your project is a continuation of prior years Additional/optional items may be on your account.
- 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 you research project. (pdf format only)
- A **Quad Chart** representing your project.
- Optional items to upload
 - A pdf of your finalized research report (ISEF requires a 12-page paper).
 - Copies/samples of your data book/ project log
 - A photo of you and team members (head and shoulder images only please)

Again, Congratulations on your good work.

A handwritten signature in black 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 Senior Division candidates (grades 9-12) are invited to exhibit. These students are the top high school winners at their Regional Science Fair. *The top winners competing in this division will make up the Indiana Delegation as Regeneron ISEF Finalists and will compete at the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in May in Phoenix, Arizona.*
To be considered for one of the Regeneron ISEF Finalist positions, Students must be in attendance at the entire event. This includes attending the post fair meeting. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE EVENT IN ITS ENTIRETY WILL RESULT IN A FORFEITURE OF TRAVEL AND HOUSING SUPPORT FROM THE FOUNDATION.
2. All students are required to sign a 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 in the area during the judging day.

Paperwork requirements and setup on site

The exhibit floor will be open for setting up exhibits at 8:00 A.M. on the day of the event. During set-up, all projects will be reviewed by the SRC and Display and Safety Committee for approval to compete. All student exhibitors must submit the ***waiver of liability, photo release waiver*** prior to competition. ***An IRS W-9 form may be required to receive some awards of significant value.***

Senior Division and Senior Team (Grades 9-12):

All student exhibitors MUST ELECTRONICALLY submit a project abstract and all the ISEF research forms required to conduct the research in the sefireg.org registration system. **Students MUST bring the original copy of signed ISEF forms with them to the HSEF for use by the event staff.**

- * All projects must be approved by the Hoosier Fair Scientific Review Committee prior to judging.
- * Student competitors should also bring notebooks containing data for their project. **We highly recommend that this be a copy of the notebooks and that the original notebooks be kept at home.**

Research Exhibit Forms for students in grades 9-12

All students in grades 9-12 are expected to have completed/submitted the paperwork and forms as part of the registration to compete in a regional fair. This submitted version of your paperwork will be used by the SRC to conduct prior and post review. To be eligible to be selected to attend the ISEF, students must have the original copies of the forms. Failure to comply with this will result in disqualification for eligibility to be selected for ISEF.

The website www.societyforscience.org/isef contains the International Rules Guidebook and the project forms which you will need.

e-portfolio requirements

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

- A **30 second** "elevator speech" audio or video about the project (YouTube Short)
- A **7-10 page** PowerPoint or Google Slide presentation of the most significant parts of your research project (saved as a pdf document).
- For high school projects a **Quad Chart** representing your project. (*This should also be on paper at your booth the day of the in-person competition*).

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

- A pdf of your finalized research report (ISEF expects/requires a 12-page paper).
- Copies/samples of your data book/ project log
- A photo of you and team members (head and shoulder images only please)

Awards and Scholarships

Placement awards will be given to the Best of Show Projects in the Senior Divisions. Numerous special awards will also be presented along with Foundation scholarships.

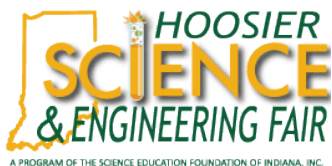
Scholarship applications are available for **12th grade presenters** selected to attend HSEF via download at the SEFI website or email gcook@sefi.org for a copy. **The scholarship applications will be due within 10 days of your regional fair date or prior to March 15, 2026 whichever date is earlier.** The scholarship selection committee will conduct interviews via an e-meeting in the week prior to the fair. Additional interviews may be conducted at HSEF. There are three \$1,000 SEFI scholarships offered at HSEF. Each scholarship is named for one of the Foundation's original founders and leaders. These scholarships will be held for the student to be used during the first year of a college or university enrollment at an Indiana institution. Additional information will be provided in the scholarship application form available to eligible participants.

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).
- iv **AWARDS: Please note the times for the Awards programs**
 - a. Awards begin at 4:30 p.m. with a few comments from the judging chairs. 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.*
- v **At the time of check in, all students must submit a waiver of liability, photo release form and a W-9 form on paper.**

WE ASK THAT YOU NOT UPLOAD THESE DOCUMENTS INTO THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.
- vi **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.**
- vii **SENIOR DIVISION PRESENTERS (GRADES 9-12)**
 - a. Do not forget to bring all your “official” signed ISEF paperwork and or University IACUC/IRB Approval Letters to be submitted to the SRC. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from competition. We will not have a fax machine available to receive any forgotten files. **Even if you have submitted a copy online, you must still bring the official paperwork.**
- viii **IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ANY AWARD, IT IS A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STUDENT BE PRESENT AT THE ENTIRE EVENT INCLUDING THE APPROPRIATE AWARDS PROGRAM.**
- ix **ISEF DELEGATION SELECTION**
 - a. If a Senior division presenter is selected to attend the Regeneron ISEF, the student must be present at the entire event and at the meeting following the ceremony. Parents will not be selected as part of the official delegation even if they served as mentors. If the parents of a selected student wish to attend, all arrangements and expenses for travel, housing and registration will be their own responsibility. All attendees at ISEF must be registered by the foundation in advance of attending ISEF, any parent wishing to attend, must make arrangements to pay for their registration by contacting us directly.

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 2025 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

_____ Signature (required)

_____ Date

HSEF - Display & Safety Guidelines – Grades 9-12

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): 108 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 ISEF will not exceed a height of 36 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 to be Visible and Vertically Displayed at the Project Booth FOR HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS

The placement of the required forms may include the front edge of the table, the display board, or in a free-standing acrylic frame placed on the table top or floor (if a table is not used).

- Form 1C for projects conducted at a university or registered research institution.
- Form 7 continuation

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
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 IC.
 - c. Any reference to patent status of the project.
 - d. 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.
2. Any awards or medals.
3. 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.
4. 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.