



EPSEF '23

Eastern Panhandle Science and Engineering Fair Elementary and Middle School Divisions Bulletin for County Science Fair Coordinators

January 10, 2023

New for '23:

1. What's old is new again! With the Coronavirus pandemic in the rearview mirror, EPSEF '23 will once again be a "traditional" in-person science fair, where Judges evaluate project displays, student presentations, and interviews.
2. All projects will be evaluated in-person at the fair. There is no longer any requirement to submit a Quad Chart, high resolution photo, or other digital version of the project display. Students are encouraged to focus on the science project, project display board, approved ancillary items, and optional research notebook.
3. Elementary and Middle School categories (www.epsef.org/em.html) have been updated to reflect alignment with the revised WVSEF 2023 categories, which now more accurately reflect ISEF categories.
4. The Society for Science has announced a new title sponsor for the world's premiere middle school science competition. The previously named Broadcom MASTERS will now be called the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (JIC). Although it has a new name and title sponsor, the competition structure is the same. Just as before, EPSEF will nominate 1st place award winners in each category to enter the JIC. Nominees will complete an online application, the top 300 will be named and the 30 finalists will participate in a finals week competition in Washington, DC in October. There is no cost to the student at any step of the competition. The top prize will have a new name, but is still \$25,000.
5. Registration on the WVSEF online system is **NOT** necessary for students to compete in EPSEF '23. Students advancing from EPSEF to WVSEF will have the opportunity to register for WVSEF after EPSEF '23. (You may ignore emails from WVDE that contain information related to the operation of the Eastern Panhandle regional science fairs.)

EPSEF '23 - Elementary and Middle School Divisions

Fair Date: Friday, February 3, 2023

Snow Date: Friday, February 10, 2023

Time: Helpers may arrive as early as 7:00 AM
Doors open for project setup at 9:30 AM See www.epsef.org for detailed agenda.

Location: Ranson Civic Center, 431 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438

Eligibility: Eligible participants include students in grades 3 through 8 from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton counties, and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and who earned 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in any category at their county science fair.

Registration: Coordinators from each county science fair please register groups of students by emailing a spreadsheet (template attached) with participant info to d.price@k12.wv.us. (Be sure to have students and parents complete and sign the paper application so they know the rules.) Individual projects may also be registered online or paper application. (If you don't do the spreadsheet, you can scan and email the paper applications.)

It is not necessary to submit additional application paperwork (WVSEF Form 1, 1A, etc.) for EPSEF '23. However, counties are encouraged to have all participants complete the paperwork as part of the science fair experience.

Please double-check the spelling of student names and project titles.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration on the WVSEF online system is NOT necessary for students to compete in EPSEF '23. Students advancing from EPSEF to WVSEF will have the opportunity to register AFTER EPSEF '23. (You may ignore emails from WVDE that relate to the Eastern Panhandle regional fairs.)

Deadline: Please submit your final list of participants by Friday, January 20, 2023.

Science Fair Rules and Policy:

To qualify for participation in the regional fair, projects must comply with the WVSEF Rules and the [Regeneron ISEF International Rules and Guidelines](#) as applicable to elementary and middle school fairs.

Banned materials (biological materials, chemicals, food, hazardous or dangerous objects, etc.) will be removed from project displays prior to judging. Empty food containers are generally OK. Students should be encouraged to display photographs of anything they want to display that would otherwise be banned.

Blatantly plagiarized projects will be disqualified.

Project Category Placement:

The regional fair will use the WVSEF categories. Please use only these categories when registering your county's participating projects. If your county fair has more or different categories and you have more than 3 winning projects for a category, please contact the Fair Director.

Projects may be assigned to a different category at the discretion of the Director. Day of fair requests for category changes will not be honored.

Paperwork: To ensure students and parents understand the rules, they **MUST** complete and sign the attached Application for Entry **OR** complete the online application. You do **not** need to submit paperwork to EPSEF if you register using the spreadsheet.

Transportation and Parking:

You are responsible for arranging transportation of your students to and from the Ranson Civic Center. School buses and private vehicles may drop off students at the door and then park on-site or in an adjacent parking lot.

Adult Supervision Required:

You must arrange for adequate adult supervision of students from your county while at the fair. In addition to at least one chaperone for every 10 students, each county shall designate at least one "adult in charge" to respond to any issues involving student behavior, security, health, or other concerns.

Lunch: For proper nutrition, it is recommended that students pack their lunches. The concession stand will be open, serving snacks, drinks, and pizza slices. Numerous restaurants are a short drive from the Ranson Civic Center, but none are within walking distance, and none accommodate buses.

How you can support EPSEF:

With nearly 300 students to organize, judge, entertain, and supervise, the fair can always use extra help. Volunteers can sign up online. See the fair web page for the link.

EPSEF is actively seeking sponsors for prizes, special awards, and general expenses. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the fair, please contact Shane Price.

For more information, please visit www.epsef.org or contact:

Shane Price, Fair Director
Email: d.price@k12.wv.us
Cell/Text: 304-270-7769 after 3 PM