



Eastern Panhandle Science and Engineering Fair Elementary and Middle School Divisions

January 8, 2024

Dear County Science Fair Winner:

Congratulations on being chosen to represent your school and county at EPSEF '24, the Eastern Panhandle Science and Engineering Fair. The fair will be held on Friday, February 2, 2023 at the Ranson Civic Center in Ranson, West Virginia. Doors open for students at 9:30 AM. Student presentations and judging will begin immediately after the welcoming remarks at approximately 10:30 AM.

EPSEF '24 adheres to the same rules as the [WVSEF](#) (West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair) and the [Regeneron ISEF](#) (International Science and Engineering Fair), as applicable to elementary and middle school students. Most importantly, your project display must not include any prohibited items, such as living (or formerly living) organisms (animals, plants, bacteria, molds, etc.), chemicals of any type (including water), food, soil, or anything that may pose a hazard to others such as sharp objects, lasers, or exposed high voltage wiring. If your display includes any prohibited items, you should replace them with photographs of the items. (Empty food containers that have been thoroughly rinsed out are generally OK.) If any banned item is displayed with your project, it will be removed before judging. Learn more at wvde.us/wvsef/students/ and www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/.

Your teacher and county science fair coordinator will help register you for the regional science fair. Together with your parent or guardian, you are also required to complete the [EPSEF '24 online application](#) **OR** one-page [paper application](#). If your project needed electricity during your county fair, you will automatically be assigned to a location with electricity. If your project did not require electricity at your county fair but now you need electricity, notify your science teacher or county science fair coordinator ASAP. If you need electricity, you should bring along a power strip/extension cord as well.

You will be assigned a project number. Your project number tells everyone where to find your project. When judging begins, it is very important that you are able to listen and watch for your number to be called. When your project number is called, you are to report to your project right away for judging.

You will probably get hungry while you're at the fair. Although the Ranson Civic Center has a great concession stand with pizza slices, snacks, and drinks, it is not meant to be a substitute for a well-balanced meal. Therefore, you should **pack a lunch**. You may wish to bring a few dollars just in case you need a snack before or after lunch.

EPSEF '24 will host hundreds of students from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton counties, as well as students from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. You will have lots of opportunities to meet new friends and interact with others from the region. As an official representative of your school and county, you are expected to demonstrate **excellent behavior** at all times during the fair.

Complete the [EPSEF '24 Application form](http://www.epsef.org/em.html) online **or** one-page paper application and return it to your science teacher or county science fair coordinator ASAP. See the fair web page at www.epsef.org/em.html if you need an application form or more information about the fair.

Local press will be on site to report on the EPSEF '24. You should expect to be in group photos for your school or county, and more photos or news clips, especially if you are a winner.

In addition to judges, teacher chaperones, and fair workers, the public is invited to attend the fair after judging is completed. *Your parents are invited to attend as well.*

Make sure you take all of your belongings when you leave. Anything left behind after the fair will be "recycled."

More things to keep in mind:

- Practice your presentation and be prepared to answer questions. Judges can read your display board; they don't need you to read it to them. They would like you to tell them about your project in your own words. They will probably ask some follow-up questions as well.
- Get a good night's sleep before the fair. It will be a long day and you will need the energy to make a great impression.
- Charge your cell phone or personal electronic entertainment device. You probably won't have access to electrical outlets for charging. WiFi will NOT be available.
- Don't forget to pack your lunch and drink.
- Dress to impress! You are representing yourself, your school, and your county.
- It is your responsibility to promptly report to your project when your number is called.
- If you win 1st place in your category at the regional science fair, you will advance to WVSEF, the West Virginia Science and Engineering Fair. Middle School winners will also be invited to participate in the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators' Challenge, the premier science and engineering competition for middle school students.



EPSEF '24 (Elementary and Middle School Divisions) Quick Facts:

Fair Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 (Snow Date Friday, February 9, 2024)

Time: Doors open for project setup at 9:30 AM
Exhibit Hall open for public viewing at about 2:00 pm
Awards Ceremony begins at approximately 3:00 pm
Project takedown and removal immediately following the Awards Ceremony

Location: Ranson Civic Center, 432 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, West Virginia

Eligibility: Students in grades 3-8 who placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in county science fairs from Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton counties, including the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Registration: Students and parents [register online](#) **or** complete the 1-page application form and return it to the student's science teacher or county science fair coordinator.

Project Qualification/Disqualification:

Projects submitted to the regional fair are assumed to qualify for display and judging generally as described in the WVSEF Project Guide [Intel ISEF International Rules and Guidelines](#), especially in regards to ethics, display and safety requirements, and treatment of animals and/or human subjects.

Banned materials (biological materials, chemicals, food, hazardous or dangerous objects, etc.) will be removed from project displays prior to judging.

Blatantly plagiarized projects will be disqualified.

Project Category Placement Subject to Change:

Please note that project categories may be modified to aid in the organization and judging of projects. Projects may be placed in a category other than that requested for any of several reasons. Final placement of projects into categories is at the discretion of the Fair Director.

More Info: See the EPSEF website at: <https://www.epsef.org>.

Need Help? Ask Your Science Teacher **first**, then ask your County Science Fair Coordinator.

Teachers and County Coordinators please contact:

Mr. Shane Price, Regional Science Fair Coordinator, Email: d.price@k12.wv.us