

# Region 10 Science Fair 2026 Rules and General Information

- **The deadline to submit projects is Friday, January 30, 2026.**
- **Judging will take place Thursday, February 12, 2026.**
- **Results will be announced on Thursday, February 12, 2026.**
- Students will be informed by their regions if they are eligible to participate in the Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair.
- No student may participate in more than **ONE** regional fair to qualify for state. Those found in violation will not be approved for State.
- Due to the challenges for registration, processing, and SRC review, the deadline for registration and submission of all project paperwork is due within **10 days** of your fair conclusion or by **Friday, March 6, 2026, whichever comes first**. If your school fair is after this date, please email our office at [liz.mccurry@nicholls.edu](mailto:liz.mccurry@nicholls.edu) or [camps@nicholls.edu](mailto:camps@nicholls.edu) to ensure we can complete the review process prior to regional competition. After this date, we cannot guarantee approval in time for competition. Please note that all paperwork should be completed, properly dated, and include your LSEF/ISEF Region 10 Student.
- Any student who attends a public or private school in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and the southern half of St. Martin is eligible to enter. Due to space limitations, a maximum of thirty projects maybe entered from a school fair provided a parish fair is not held. Parishes that have a parish fair in addition to school fairs may enter a maximum of three (3) projects from each category to represent all the schools in the parish or system.

## **Categories:**

- The following are the 21 categories that are recognized by LSEF/ISEF. Here you will find full descriptions of each category -  
<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/categories-and-subcategories/>
  - Animal Sciences (ANIM)
  - Behavioral and Social Sciences (BEHA)
  - Biochemistry (BCHM)
  - Biomedical and Health Sciences (BMED)
  - Biomedical Engineering (ENBM)
  - Cellular and Molecular Biology (CELL)
  - Chemistry (CHEM)
  - Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (CBIO)
  - Earth and Environmental Sciences (EAEV)
  - Embedded Systems (EBED)
  - Energy: Sustainable Materials & Design (EGSD)
  - Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics (ETSD)
  - Environmental Engineering (ENEV)
  - Materials Science (MATS)
  - Mathematics (MATH)
  - Microbiology (MCRO)

- Physics and Astronomy (PHYS)
- Plant Sciences (PLNT)
- Robotics and Intelligent Machines (ROBO)
- Systems Software (SOFT)
- Translational Medical Science (TMED)

### **What to Submit:**

- A link to the list of forms can be found at <https://www.nicholls.edu/camps-and-special-programs/> under the Youth Programs title.
- Forms Necessary for **ALL** Projects:
  - 2026 Entry Form
  - Form 1: Checklist for Adult Sponsor/Safety Assessment Form
  - Form 1A: Student Checklist/Research Plan
  - Form 1B: Approval Form (Submit both online and hard copy with payment)
  - Form 3: Risk Assessment Form
  - Abstract Form with 21 Categories
- Unique Forms Based on Project Design
  - Form 1C: Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form
  - Form 2: Qualified Scientist Form
  - Form 4: Human Participants
  - Sample Informed Consent Statement
  - Form 5A: Vertebrate Animal Form (For research at school, home or field site)
  - Form 5B: Vertebrate Animal Form (For research at a Regulated Research Institution)
  - Form 6A Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Form
  - Form 6B: Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form
  - Form 7: Continuation Projects Form
- **Entry Forms** - All exhibits must be entered on the official entry forms and must be received on or before the date indicated in the schedule of events. Numbered spaces will be assigned and posted at the check-in and throughout the gym the day of the Science and Engineering Fair. Entry forms may be found on the website. Each school should print the required number of forms for student use. All items on entry forms must be filled in completely and signed. Incomplete forms will delay or invalidate the entry form.
- Double check all forms for completeness, accuracy, and appropriate signatures with dates. Special attention should be paid to each student's category. The category chosen at registration must match the category on the official abstract form.

### **Registration Information:**

- **We ask that payment be mailed to the address below or delivered to the Office of Camps and Special Programs in the Student Union/Auxiliary Services/Suite 6 (across from the post office) along with a hard copy of each project's 2026 Entry Form and all other required signed forms.**

## Important Note:

- The Intel ISEF guidelines indicate that school-level review groups pre-approve the following types of projects:
  - **Human Participants** – Projects involving human subjects require the prior approval of a school-level Institutional Review Board (IRB).
  - **Vertebrate Animals** – Projects involving vertebrate animals require the prior approval of a school-level Scientific Review Committee (SRC).
  - **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents** – Projects involving potentially hazardous biological agents require the prior approval of a school-level SRC.
  - **Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, and Devices** – Projects involving hazardous chemicals, activities, and devices require the approval of a Qualified Scientist.

## Display and Safety:

- EXHIBITS MAY NOT EXCEED SPACE LIMITS SET BY THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR. Front to back, max of 76 cm (30 inches); side to side, 122 cm (48 inches); and floor to top of project, 274 cm (108 inches). The height includes a table of 76 cm (30 inches).
- Please be aware when purchasing posters that the mechanism that supports the poster should conform to the maximum size limitations stated above. Maximum project sizes include all project materials, supports, and demonstrations for public and judges.
- A student may enter only one project. Team projects may involve two or three students. Repetition of previous work is not permitted unless considerable alteration, approach, elaboration, or testing is evident. All exhibits must be constructed and assembled by the students themselves. The sponsor or other technically trained persons may give advice, but may not otherwise assist.
- **ELECTRICAL POWER.** Exhibitors must request electrical power on the entry form. Electrical power will be limited to 300 watts; 110-120 volts AC. Exhibitor must provide their own UL approved extension cord.
- Reasonable safety precautions should be observed in constructing an exhibit which could be hazardous to public display. See Display and Safety Regulations sheet for possible violations (at <http://www.sciserv.org/isef>) all equipment and tools necessary for installation must be provided by the exhibitor. A UL approved extension cord must be provided for apparatus needing electricity. Running water and gas cannot be supplies.
- **Responsibility** - Neither the Science Fair Committee nor the sponsoring institution, Nicholls State University, assume any responsibility for the loss or damage to property of the exhibitor (or other visitors), although reasonable care will be exercised toward protecting each exhibit and to insure the safety of the exhibitor and other visitors.
- **Regulations** – The Louisiana Region 10 Science and Engineering Fair is required to follow local, state, and federal regulations concerning experimentation and public displays.
- Anything which might be considered hazardous to public display is prohibited. This includes live disease-causing organisms, microbial cultures, flammable materials,

dangerous chemicals, combustible solids, fluids, or gases, drugs listed under Drug Abuse control, or the operation of a Class III or IV Laser.

- Rules for research involving humans, vertebrate animals, pathogenic agents, controlled substances, recombinant DNA, human & animal tissues, and hazardous substances or devices are quite specific. Before beginning a project of this type, the research plan must be formulated. There must be evidence of a literature search, and the type and amount of supervision must be established. When human subjects are used each participant must sign an INFORMED CONSENT CERTIFICATE. This applies to both adults and minors.
- The project exhibitor must be present during judging. Team projects must have one spokes-person to present the project, but all participants should be present for the judging process. The exhibitor/spokes-person will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to present the merits of the project (or longer, at the discretion of judge/s), plus additional time to answer questions, if any.

### **Payment:**

- **We ask that payment be delivered to the Office of Camps and Special Programs in the Student Union/Auxiliary Services/Suite 6 (across from the post office) or mailed to the following address along with a hard copy of forms for each project to:**  
**Nicholls State University**  
**Camps & Special Programs**  
**Region 10 Science Fair**  
**P.O. Box 2119**  
**Thibodaux, LA 70310**
- If we do not receive all necessary signed forms, we will not submit any information for the judging process.

### **Reminders:**

- All graphs, charts, backgrounds, and pictures must be properly credited. Photos of those other than the participant must have signed release with copy at competition. If under 18, parent must also sign.
- No acknowledgements allowed on boards such as those thanking schools, teachers, or anyone else. No school grade level to be listed on board.
- Official abstract form must be displayed on table, but the term abstract cannot be used on the board nor the abstract itself.
- Continuation projects – Title must include duration of research and minimal reference to previous years' work may be shown without any specific date being displayed.
- Please note that boxes checked on abstract referring to forms must be checked and forms displayed (Form 1C, Form 7).
- Additional forms required at their project, but not displayed are Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), and Research Plan and Approval Form (1B).

- **NOTE:** All students or a teacher present at competition should have their own original forms. LSEF is not responsible for make copies of forms on file.
- Students will no longer be allowed computer display only. Project must now accompany with a board. No project can be set up and clear D&S without a display board and must adhere to D&S rules.
- All participants awarded slots to Intel ISEF should have their boards approved by their regional director before shipment to ensure issues are cleared (for ISEF affiliated fairs).
- Any project with a component that will be demonstrated by the participant must be demonstrated only within the confines of the participant's booth. When not being demonstrated, the component plus the project must not exceed the maximum size dimensions for a project.
- Camps and Special Programs email address: [camps@nicholls.edu](mailto:camps@nicholls.edu) or [liz.mccurry@nicholls.edu](mailto:liz.mccurry@nicholls.edu)

## Awards

CATEGORY AWARDS. All First, Second, and Third place winners will be awarded an appropriate Regional Science Fair award.

## General Information

- An area for unloading projects will be available at the back the Student Union. However, be prepared to park your car some distance from the Student Union.
- Those involved in the Fair are invited to have lunch in the cafeteria or the Student Union.
- Participants must remove their projects from the Union no later than the close of the awards presentation.
- All entries should be submitted by the school at one time – please review rules concerning forms that are required to be submitted with entries.
- The designation of a discipline is the student and sponsor's decision and will not be changed the day of the fair.
- All entry forms must be reviewed by the sponsoring teacher prior to submission by the school to the regional fair.
- All rules and regulations must be followed. Please note details, (e.g. exact project size, time limits, presentation, written papers, discipline entered.)
- **All LSEF/ISEF rules and regulations must be followed for all projects.**