



THE NORTH CAROLINA REGION 4 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE

General Information

The 2012 North Carolina Region 4 Science & Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, February 11th, 2012 in the Auxiliary Gym, Jones Health and Physical Education Center, on the campus of UNC Pembroke. For directions, [click here](#). Students can begin setting up their displays at 7:30 am and the awards ceremony will conclude at 4:00 pm. For a complete schedule of events see the fair [website](#). Deadline for application materials is February 3rd, 2011.

The North Carolina State Science and Engineering Fair is affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for grades 9-12. A total of eight projects will be sent from the state level competition to participate in the 2012 ISEF in Pittsburgh, PA. In order for our students to be more competitive at the state science fair we will follow the rules set by ISEF.

There have been several changes for the 2011-12 fair season.

- **ALL** grade levels are to use the official ISEF forms (see links and discussion below). We are no longer making use of the one page Elementary and Middle School Research Plan and Approval Form.
- **NO Elementary Projects involving the culturing of Microorganisms are allowed.** Due to the risks and safety rules associated with culturing microorganisms, the NCSEF has decided to restrict these projects to the JUNIOR AND SENIOR LEVELS ONLY. Microorganisms include, but are not limited to: bacteria, fungi (including molds), viruses, viroids, prions, rickettsia, and parasites. ALL junior and senior level projects involving microorganisms must follow the ISEF Rules regarding culturing, handling and disposal. **Students at all levels may NOT grow microorganisms at home.**
- The Region IV Fair will be utilizing the same on-line application software as the NC Science and Engineering Fair. This is the “Science Fair in a Box” software which has been utilized by the state fair for the past several years. More details and tips can be found on our website.
- Although implemented last year we would like to remind teachers and students of the change from four to six categories. The new categories are: Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. [A description of these categories](#) can be found on the NC Science and Engineering Fair website. Since the number of categories in the Junior and

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Senior divisions has increased this has meant a greater number of projects accepted from local fairs AND a greater number of regional winners advance to the state level fair.

Application Information

(Note: Registration will open on January 1, 2012 and must be completed on-line by February 3, 2012)

Again this year the Region 4 fair will be using the “Science Fair in a Box” software. This is the same on-line registration process implemented last year and the same software that is used to register for the state level fair. **Please read and follow these directions carefully!** If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Step-by-step instructions can be found on our webpage (See the “Registration Instructions” link).

For teachers...the students must register individually. Teachers cannot, and do not need to, register their school. Also, each student will need a valid, unique email address. The email address is how the software tracks the participant. This means teachers cannot use their email address for multiple students and any email address can only be used once.

To begin the participant registration process, navigate to the region 4 registration site at <http://ncsefreg4.sfiab.com/>. On this page, select the “login/register” link from the menu on the left side of the homepage then select “I am a participant” at the top of the list. You will need to enter a valid email address. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN ENTERING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.** An automated email will be generated and sent to that email address with your registration number. If you do not receive the email within several minutes then you probably entered an incorrect email address. You will have to start over. Please keep your registration number as you will need to use it every time you log in to your account. Once you receive your registration number, return to the “login/register” link and now you can proceed. You do not have to complete the entire application in one session. It is permissible to log out and login in as needed to complete the process. Just make sure to save your work each time! Also note that in order to complete the registration process, there is a signature page and application fee that need to be mailed in and **must be received** by the fair committee at UNC Pembroke by February 8, 2012, so don’t wait until the last minute.

In addition to the on-line application students are required to complete the required ISEF paper forms as outlined below. **ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING THE COMPLETED PAPER APPLICATION MATERIALS WITH THEM TO THE FAIR.** Do NOT mail in these ISEF forms. Failure to bring completed forms on the day of the fair will prevent the student from advancing to the state level.

- **For ALL divisions**, students are required to use the official ISEF form 1, form 1A, form 1B and the abstract, at a minimum. For the abstract please utilize the ISEF abstract form. Depending on the topic of the student’s project, additional forms may be required. The best way to determine what ISEF forms are required is to use the [“Rules Wizard”](#) link below. For a link to all forms and detailed instructions, please see the state level fair website at: <http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/forms>

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As part of the on-line application each entry will be required to submit a signature form that has been postmarked by **February 3, 2011 and received by February 8, 2012**. This is one of the requirements listed on the “Participant Home” page online. Please mail signature forms only (**NOT** any other entry forms) to: Ms. Carolyn Parsons, Region 4 Science Fair - Accounting, Department of Chemistry & Physics, UNC Pembroke, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372. The entry fee for the 2012 fair is **\$4.00 per project**.

Teachers, please ensure your students choose the proper category for their project! For guidance visit the following link: <http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/rules/categories>.

General Rules & Regulations

1. In ALL categories (Elementary, Junior, and Senior), no more than three students may enter a project together.
 - **Elementary:** The elementary division includes grades 3-5. In this division the projects are not divided into categories. Each elementary school may submit 3 projects in this division to the Region 4 Fair. These may include all from one grade, or any combination for a total of 3 projects. Eight projects from the elementary category will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition. **Because of the risks and safety rules associated with culturing bacteria, these projects are restricted to junior and senior divisions ONLY.**
 - **Junior:** The junior division includes grades 6-8. In the junior division the categories include Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. The first place winners in each division from local school fairs can be sent to the Region 4 fair. The first and second place projects from each junior division will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition.
 - **Senior:** The senior division includes grades 9-12. In the senior division the categories include Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. The first place winners in each division from local school fairs can be sent to the Region IV fair. The first and second place projects from each senior division will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition.
 - **Maximum number of entries per school:**
 - Elementary school: 3 entries
 - Middle school: 6 entries
 - High school: 6 entries

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County Science Fairs: *If the county has a county science fair*, the first, second, and third place winner from each category described above may be submitted for a total of 54 projects (18 from grades 3-5, 18 from grades 6-8, 18 from grades 9-12).

2. **Permissible items for display in the participants booth, in addition to the presentation board, are very limited.** A complete list of what can and cannot be displayed can be found in the [2012 Rules & Guidelines document](#), pages 20-21. Please make sure to consult this document in order that you are NOT disqualified from participating. No gas or running water can be supplied. Dangerous chemicals, open flame, and explosives will not be accepted in exhibits.

3. Experimental procedures with animals, which involve discomfort, pain or death, or diets deficient in essential nutrients, will be disqualified. No live animals should be brought to the fair.

4. Your project must be within the following limits when set up for evaluation and students must provide their own display board for presentation.

- 30 in. (76 cm) deep, front to back
- 48 in. (122 cm) wide, side to side
- 108 in. (274 cm) high, floor to top including the table -- table height is ~30"

Check Lists

All Divisions:

- ISEF Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)
- ISEF Student Checklist (1A)
- ISEF Approval Form (1B)
- Official Abstract
- Research Plan
- and any other required forms (use Rules Wizard link)
- Complete on line registration process
- Mail in signature form from on line registration process along with registration fee (one form for both)
- (All forms, other than the signature form, are to be completed and brought to fair with participant)

HELPFUL WEB SITES:

Categories: <http://www.ncsciencefair.org/students/categories.html>

Forms: <http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/forms>

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International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF): <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>
ISEF Rules & Guidelines: <http://www.societyforscience.org/page.aspx?pid=282>
NC State Science & Engineering Fair: <http://www.ncsciencefair.org/>
NC Region 4 Science Fair (UNCP): http://www.uncp.edu/chem_phy/science_fair/index.htm
NC Region 4 Science Fair online registration: <http://ncsefreg4.sfiab.com/>
Rules Wizard: <http://apps.societyforscience.org/isef/students/wizard/index.asp>
Science Buddies: <http://www.sciencebuddies.com/>
Science Fair Central: <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>
Society for Science & The Public (SSP): <http://www.societyforscience.org/>