

Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit

September, 2026
70th Annual Science Fair
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Fair Co-Directors



What is the SEFMD?

The Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit (SEFMD), established in September 1956, is a nonprofit organization established to give students in southeastern Michigan an opportunity to develop and exhibit science fair projects.

What is a science fair project?

A project is an investigation of a topic requiring a student or team of students to:

- design an experiment,
- analyze observations, and
- arrive at some new conclusion.

A finished project should consist of:

- a logbook,
- a report, and
- a visual display of the student's work.

The Science Fair competition reinforces the scientific method in completing a project. The concepts of creating an initial hypothesis, developing an experiment to prove/disprove the hypothesis, keeping a 'log book', and formulating conclusions form a framework for years to come, whether a student chooses a technical field or not. Students learn to develop the art of presenting a concept and 'selling' or explaining that concept to professionals in the field. Furthermore, they can earn the recognition and awards that go with completing a project successfully.

If your school does not participate in the Science Fair, maybe you should consider adding it -- for the students!

The **MISSION** of the SEFMD is to create student excitement for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), inspire interest in scientific subjects and research, develop respect for the scientific method, encourage personal growth, provide recognition for student research, and broaden career opportunities across Metropolitan Detroit and the region.

WHO may enter the science fair?

- The SEFMD competition is open to all 3rd-12th grade students who live in or attend school in the counties of Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

- Students may be from public, private, parochial, charter, or home schools.

- Competition is separated into three groups: Elementary Division (3rd-5th graders), Junior Division (6th-8th graders) and Senior Division (9th-12th graders).

- Students may enter as an individual or as part of a team (2-3 people; up to 10 people for Elementary).

- School Quota: For the 70th SEFMD, all schools may send up to 60 PROJECTS to the Science Fair. A school in the Junior Division may enter up to FOUR team projects, as part of its quota.

- A student may compete in a variety of categories, depending on their Division. The student should select his or her project category carefully. A complete description of the categories is available on the science fair website. (Entry Form Info → Category Descriptions)

- Students enter the competition through the schools they attend. Each school completes the affiliation process on the home page of the science fair website and pays the school affiliation fee of \$75. The fee is discounted to \$25 if paid before 12/1 AND if the school commits to contributing volunteers to help during the week of the Fair.

- After a school is affiliated, students will also register online. Watch for links on the home page of the science fair website. See additional information in the next article on "how to enter the science fair"!

- The 2027 Fair will be an In-Person fair. All students will be asked to prepare a display board for the in-person judging and will have the option of uploading additional items, such as pictures, a pdf of the presentation, video, etc. . See "What's Due When" on the home page of the website for details. Senior division students will need to submit a pdf of the presentation.

Major Events Calendar

October/November -
Mentoring Sessions via
Zoom; Students may
begin entering online

Dec 1, 2026 - SRC
deadline; school
affiliation deadline

Feb 19, 2027- All entries
and optional materials
due ON LINE

Feb 22 - Teachers
emailed notices

Mar 1-8 - Preliminary
judging occurs of
professional awards

Mar 9 - Student Peer
Reviews due (Sr. Div.)

Mar 17 (9AM-7PM)
Project Set-up

Mar 18 (8AM-5PM)
In-person Judging

Mar 19-20 (9AM-7PM)
Public Viewing

Mar 19 (5PM-7PM)
Project Removal

Mar 20 (9AM-11AM)
Project Removal

May, 2026
ISEF, Phoenix, AZ

HOW to enter and compete in the science fair

(1) The student (or team) develops a research plan (planned experiment). Senior division students complete a Research Plan, Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), Approval Form (1B) and Student Support Disclosure Form (2A). These forms can be found on the website under the Forms/Documents heading.

(2) The student (or team) completes additional required SRC (Scientific Review Committee) paperwork (if needed) by the deadline on the calendar.

(3) The school affiliates on-line. The cost is \$75/school (discounted to \$25 if paid by 12/1 and if the school commits to providing volunteers during the week of the Fair).

(4) The student (or team) completes the on-line entry/registration form by February 19, 2027. The cost is \$25/project, which is billed to the school. As part of the entry form the student must write an abstract, summarizing their project. See the website under General Info → How to write an abstract.

(5) Students have the option of submitting

additional online materials which may be used by professional award judges. Senior Division students submit a pdf presentation. These items will also need to be submitted by February 19, 2027.

(6) Students and teachers are notified if projects are accepted for competition.

(7) Students complete experimentation work and prepare their reports and project displays. Follow the Display and Safety Guidelines found on the website, under the Forms/Documents heading.

(8) Students bring their project displays to Huntington Place on Tuesday, March 16. All online presentations and display boards must be approved by the Display and Safety Committee.

(9) Projects will be judged in person on Judging Day, Wednesday, March 17. The top Senior Division projects will be interviewed by the judges and students must be present. (Junior teams may also have interviews.)

(10) Judging results are posted within 24 hours of judging completion.

Do You Need Additional Forms? Animals? Humans?

Projects that use vertebrate animals, human subjects, human or animal tissue, recombinant DNA, pathogenic agents or are continuation projects require additional forms. These forms may be obtained from the web site under the Forms/Documents heading.

All of these forms must be completed before beginning your project. In addition, the student **must enter online** before submitting the forms.

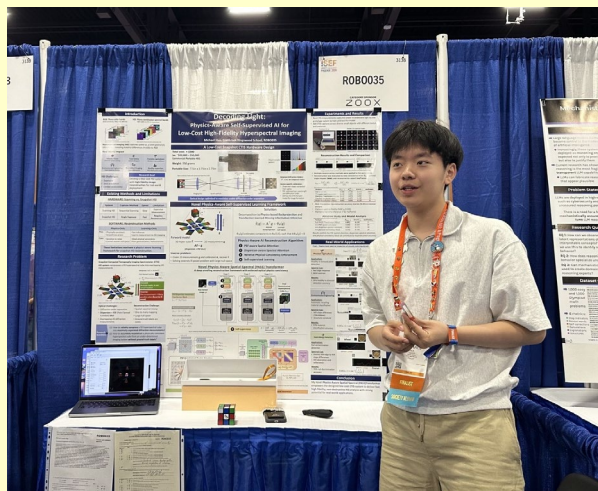
Senior Division students (grades 9-12) must submit these forms online by **Dec. 1** in order

to receive **pre-approval** from the Science Fair's SRC. Projects involving human subjects must first be approved by the school's IRB, followed by the fair SRC.

Junior Division students (Grades 6-8) should submit the E-Z Form for Middle School by **February 19**. SRC **pre-approval** is **not** needed. School IRB approval is required for work with human subjects.

Elementary Division students (Grades 3-5) should not plan to carry out projects that use vertebrates, humans, tissues, DNA, and pathogenic agents.

Michael Hua - SEFMD, MSEF, & ISEF Grand Award winner



TOP AWARDS

Elementary and Junior Divisions

Grand Award (top 6 students and top team) - medal, certificate

1st-3rd place (~20%) - certificate

Blue (outstanding) ~20%, certificates

Green/Red - all other participants

Senior Division

Grand Award (top 6 students and top team) - medal, certificate; participate in state science fair; may be sent to International science fair; scholarships; may compete for Weizmann award

1st-3rd place (~20%) - certificate, may be invited to participate in state

science fair

Various special awards are given at the Fair by technical societies, professional associations and institutions, governmental agencies, and businesses. These are in addition to the category awards given by the Fair itself.

At the 2026 SEFMD, the value of all awards given, including scholarships, was close to \$100,000. The particular awards are varied: plaques, books, certificates, company dinners and recognitions, cash awards and savings bonds. A four-week trip is awarded to attend the Weizmann Institute in Israel.

MSEF/ISEF

The 33rd Annual **Michigan Science and Engineering Fair (MSEF)** will be held on Sat., April 10, 2027 at Lawrence Technological University. All Senior Division 1st place winners and some selected 2nd place and 3rd place winners will be invited to participate in the State Fair. Students from other parts of the state may also participate in the state fair. State fair participants will be competing for state fair awards.

The **International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)** will be held in May, 2027, in Los Angeles, CA, and will be an in-person fair. Up to six individual Division Projects and one team project will be selected at the Metro Detroit Fair to compete at the ISEF. Two additional projects will be selected to participate from the MSEF. Over \$2 million in awards and scholarships will be presented.

Senior Grand Award Winners for 2026

The following students were Grand Award winners at the **2026 SEFMD** and were able to participate in the in-person ISEF. (See the back page for ISEF results). We congratulate them for their success at the SEFMD!

Ali Alnaib (grade 11), Salem High School, Engineering Technology

Judy Bai (grade 12), Greenhills School, Biomedical and Health Sciences

Saikrish Balaji (grade 11), Troy Athens High School, Engineering Technology

Yashvini Goddla (grade 11), Detroit Country Day School, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Dean Jordan (grade 11), International Academy - West, Biomedical Engineering

Shruthika Pallapothu (grade 12), Troy High School, Biomedical Engineering

Arnav Sharma and Ahyoung Song (grade 11), International Academy - East, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

The following students were Grand Award winners at the **2026 MSEF**, held at Lawrence Tech University, and also participated in the ISEF.

Michael Hua (grade 11), Cranbrook Kingswood Academy, Robotics and Intelligent Machines

Nina Shaye (grade 10), Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, Translational Medicine

CONGRATULATIONS to all of these students!!

Judging - 3 Phases

1-Entry Form

- is received on time
- is completed correctly
- is a project-not a book report
- complies with SRC/IRB pre-approvals (if necessary)

2-Judging - Preliminary Round & Prof. Awards

- Online for all divisions

3-Judging - Final Rounds

- Interviews (Sr)
- Possible Interviews (top Jr. Teams) - TBD
- Stand alone (Jr/Elem)
- Selection of ISEF Finalists (Sr)
- Selection of Jr Grand Awards

Scoring/Judging

- 10%-Research Question
- 15%-Design/Methodology
- 20%-Execution
- 20%-Creativity
- 35%-Presentation
 - 10%-Board
 - 25%-Interview

SEFMD VALUES - S.E.A.R.C.H.

Scientific method
Empowering
 Experience
Access for **A**ll
Recognition
Creativity and
 Confidence
Highest Integrity
 and Ethical
 Behavior



GRAND AWARD - Winning SCHOOLS (2023-2026)

Our 'virtual' office is:

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OR
www.sciencefair.info

A.L. Holmes Elementary/M.S. (2025)
Baker MS (2024, 2026)
Bates Academy MS (2024)
Boulan Park MS (2025)
Canton High School (2024)
Clippert Academy M.S. (2024)
Cranbrook Kingswood Upper (2023-2026)
Dakota High School (2023)
Davis Aerospace Technical H.S. (2023)
Detroit Country Day Middle School (2026)
Detroit Country Day Upper School (2023-2026)
Foreign Language Immersion & Cultural School (2025)
Gompers Elementary/M.S. (2024)
Greenhills School (2024-2026)
Huda School and Montessori (2023)
Huron High School (2023-2024)

Indus Center for Academic Excellence (2025-2026)
International Academy (2023, 2025-2026)
Larson Middle School (2023-2026)
Northville High School (2025)
Novi Senior High School (2023, 2025)
Oakland Christian M.S. (2025)
Pasteur Middle School (2023)
Pleasantview Elementary (2025)
Roeper Elementary School (2023, 2024)
Salem High School (2026)
Star International Academy (2024)
St. Patrick Elementary (2023)
St. Patrick Whitelake (2026)
Tawheed Center School (2023)
Troy Athens High School (2026)
Troy High School (2023-2024, 2026)
Universal Learning Academy (2026)
Wass Elementary School (2026)

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS



The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) was held in May, 2026, in Phoenix, AZ, and the senior grand award winners from SEFMD and MSEF (whose names are given on the previous page) participated in ISEF. The awards received at the ISEF were as follows.

Michael Hua, 1st place (\$6000) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines; 4th place (\$400) from the Association for Computing Machinery; Midjourney Special Award (\$2500)

Dean Jordan, 2nd place (\$2400) category award in Biomedical Engineering.

Ahyoung Song & Arnav Sharma, 2nd place (\$2400) category award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

Ali Alnaib, 3rd place (\$1200) category award in Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design.

Yashvini Goddla, 4th place (\$600) category award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

(The photo above includes the five students from the SW Michigan Science Fair in Kalamazoo: Nina Shaye, Claire Tong, Aanya Goel, Janelle Yao, and Yuvan Muppireddy.)

GRAND AWARD Winners - Elementary/Middle School

Neelanshi Sharma, Lakshitha Addala, Meher Cuchelkar, Hamsaridhan Hariharasudhan, Harshi Jariwala, Lana Moussa, and Cooper Smith were the students who won Grand Awards in the Elementary and Middle School Divisions at the 2026 SEFMD. Congratulations to all of these students! See you at the 2027 Fair!

"What we know is a drop, what we don't know is an ocean." Sir Isaac Newton