



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT INC.

P.O. Box 158 • Farmington, Michigan 48332-0158

September, 2026

MEMO TO: Principal/Science Fair Coordinator

As you are starting the 2026-2027 school year, we thought that you should have a ‘heads-up’ regarding some of the changes occurring for the 70th Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit in 2027. The Fair will continue to be an **In-Person Fair**, with certain components that will be required to be submitted online (for Senior Division students). ALL students within our seven-county area (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe) in the 3rd-12th grades are invited to participate in the Fair! Projects may be done individually or in teams of from 2-10 students, depending on the Division.

NEW THIS YEAR: We are initiating the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy which all schools and participants will be asked to adhere to. The policy is fully explained in the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy document included in this packet.

The school affiliation fee is \$75/school this year. However, schools may affiliate for **only \$25/school** IF the affiliation is completed by December 1, 2026 AND the school commits to providing volunteers (parents or teachers) to help during the week of the Fair. Preliminary judging for professional awards will take place virtually for all projects, over several days, from March 1, 2027 through March 8, 2027. Project setup at Huntington Place in Detroit will be on Tuesday, March 16, 2027. Wednesday, March 17, 2027 will be the in-person round of judging. Please see the enclosed calendar for additional key dates.

A number of ‘color coded’ documents exist in this packet and are identified below. Additional copies are available on the web site under ‘Forms/Documents’ or by request. Hyperlinks are given for each of the documents (all on the website)

Color	Description	Action Requested
Yellow	This cover letter	Review and distribute appropriately.
Yellow-2	School Affiliation Information	Schools should affiliate by 12/1/2026.
Buff	What’s New for the 2027 Fair	Review and distribute appropriately.
Pink	SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy (NEW!)	Review and distribute appropriately.
Green	Calendar of events	One copy for you – important dates related to SF
Green-2	Helpful Hints for Project Display & Safety	One copy for you (on reverse side of Calendar)
White/ Color	SEFMD Newsletter – Numerous copies are included based on your past entries to the Science Fair.	One copy for you; please distribute the remaining copies to your science teachers.
Yellow	Facts about the 70th Science Fair	One copy for you
White	Science Fair Mentoring Event Flyer – Virtual workshops available during October/November	Please post. Students must pre-register to attend any of the online sessions. Topics vary each week.
Poster	Special 70th SEFMD poster	Large and small poster for school. Please post.
Color	Highlights of 2026 SEFMD	One copy for you to post
Postcard	SEFMD Postcard-General Info	One copy for you to post

All special forms that are required are available at the web site: <http://www.sefmd.org> → Forms

We hope you will encourage your students to participate in this year’s Science & Engineering Fair! If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at (248) 471-9900 or by email at sf2027@sefmd.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kitzmann and Tim Fino
2026-2027 Fair Co-Directors

WHAT's NEW and/or CONTINUING for 2027 SEFMD and MSEF (Rev 9/1/2026)

* We are instituting the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy. This will involve some additional tasks from senior division schools, teachers and students in evaluating and maintaining the integrity of all projects entered into the SEFMD and the MSEF. The policy is explained on the resources page of the website. Included in the policy is a form which can be used by students, teachers, or judges if there is a concern regarding the integrity of any project.

* Each Senior Division student will be required to submit online the following items by the entry form deadline on February 19, 2027:

(1) A .pdf presentation of the project (powerpoint slides). See the "Project Materials Guidelines" on the resources page of this website for the requirements for the presentation.

(2) Form (1) Checklist for Adult Sponsor

Form (1A) Student Checklist

Form (1B) Approval Form

Form (2A) Student Support Disclosure Form (1 form per Team)

* Each Senior Division student will be required to do a Peer Review of 1-2 other projects that will be assigned after the entry deadline. See the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy for more information. More details will be provided when the projects for review are assigned.

* Senior Division

students must individually cite and credit ALL images, graphs, etc as described here:

1. ALL graphics that are created by the Finalist MUST BE properly cited individually, include the program or software utilized to create the graphic, and include the year the graphic was created. Finalists are required to use statements such as "Photo taken by Finalist, Year," "Image created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; Graph created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; Chart created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; or "Data Table created by Finalist using . . . , Year".

2. ALL graphics not created by the finalist(s) MUST BE properly cited individually (APA format is preferred). If the graphic was obtained via the Internet, then a URL must be provided (digital object identifiers are acceptable in place of long URLs). This applies even if the license under which the graphic was obtained does not require credit or citation. For more information and examples please see our [D&S Graphic Credit Guidance](#).

* As was done for the 2026 Fair, we have migrated our database from our existing site to zFairs. Consequently, the process of affiliating a school, signing up teachers (and judges), and having students register has totally changed. See the link on the Resources page of the website for the directions.

* The entry fee will be \$25/project (individual or team) for ALL projects. The school affiliation fee will be \$75/school. This fee will be discounted to \$25/school IF:

(1) the school affiliates by December 1, 2026;

(2) the school applies the discount coupon which will appear on the invoice when you complete the affiliation; AND

(3) the school commits to providing volunteers during the week of the Fair. Volunteers are needed on Project Set-up Day (Tuesday, March 16, 2027), Judging Day (Wednesday, March 17, 2027), and Public Viewing/Project Removal Days (Thursday & Friday, March 18 and 19, 2027);

* The 2027 SEFMD and 2027 MSEF will be **in-person fairs**. Students will prepare a project display board that will be brought to Huntington Place (for the SEFMD) and used for the final round of judging as well as displayed for public viewing. (See “*What’s Due When*” for detailed information.)

* Students have the **option** of submitting additional materials online, as has been done for the past several years. This may include a video presentation, photographs, quad chart, etc. Middle school and elementary school students have the option of submitting a pdf presentation; this is required for senior division students, as stated above. Some professional award organizations will judge projects using only the uploaded material and will not judge projects in person. Any optional materials need to be submitted by the entry deadline specified on the calendar. (See “*What’s Due When*” for detailed information.)

* Categories have been modified for 2027. The complete list of the modified categories is available on the website under Entry Info → Category Descriptions.

* Projects will be checked for Display and Safety Violations, both **on line** and **in person**. All materials submitted on line by February 19, 2027 will be checked and if there are any problems (for example, student name is included or there are inappropriate photos), the student will receive an email and be allowed to correct the violation within 24 hours (before judging occurs). During the project set-up day (Tuesday, March 16, 2027) at Huntington Place, project display boards will be checked again for any possible display and safety violations.

2026-2027 SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy (Rev B)

BACKGROUND:

In 2026, Science Fairs nationwide noticed an increase in inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence. Locally the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit and the Michigan Science Fair had to disqualify five students due to fraud, forgery, inappropriate use of AI, and plagiarism. Two students were banned for life for their inappropriate actions. In addition, two schools were placed on probation with the Science Fair. The following policy has been implemented for the 2026-2027 Science Fair and consists of multiple actions.

SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS:

When a school affiliates with the Science Fair (or a fair affiliates with the Michigan Science Fair), the school must (1) agree to validate all student projects that list a project mentor, qualified scientist, or researcher by contacting the appropriate researcher to determine whether the student actually did the work they claimed to have done. (2) Teachers must review with their students the acceptable and unacceptable use of AI in the research (refer to attached). (3) Teachers must also validate the bibliography section of all high school projects. (4) Teachers must also train and educate students on 'peer reviews' which will be required for high school projects (see below).

PEER REVIEWS:

Peer reviews are a normal part of scientific research and will be required for all high school projects in 2026-2027. After the entry form deadline, HS Students will be assigned 1 or 2 high school student projects for peer review. A student must conduct the peer reviews, using a form (draft attached) for each of the projects, and submit the information not later than 7 days prior to judging. If a student fails to provide meaningful peer reviews, their project will be moved from the normal competition to the exhibition category and not eligible for professional awards or additional competition. Elementary and Middle School students are recommended to use the peer review worksheet on their project.

PROJECT CONCERNS:

If a teacher, student, or judge has a concern regarding the scientific integrity of a particular project, there will be a structured form that must be submitted. Project concerns may be submitted no later than 24 hours after judging results are announced and will be investigated by a separate ethics panel. Project concerns may not be submitted anonymously – full contact information of the reviewer must be provided.

In conclusion, doing a science fair project is a learning experience. The above changes are meant to further educate students as to what is acceptable and what is not. Teachers will have the primary role in this with their students. We are committed to working with all schools and teachers to ensure that the integrity of the Science Fair is maintained going forward.

There will be several workshops in October that deal with this issue and its implementation.

Use of generative AI to support a research project		
Task	Could this be acceptable use?	Under what conditions?
Ask generative AI to identify or summarize key points in an article before you read it. Use this as a starting point for your literature review.	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation
Ask AI to summarize a book or article in your field. Reproduce that summary in your literature review without reading the book or article	No	Never acceptable, as there has been no engagement with the book or source itself.
Use an AI chatbot as a writing tool to help generate and develop ideas.	Yes	Acceptable, may require explicit citation depending on circumstances. Strongly encouraged to keep a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Use generative AI to initially write the research plan, abstract, paper or poster.	No	Never acceptable. This must be independent work of the student. Guidance or refinement after the initial document has been completed can be done with explicit citation and a log.
Use AI to write initial code for your project	Yes	Acceptable, only with explicit citation stating which portions of the code were AI generated and with a log of the prompts.
You write an abstract. Ask AI to sharpen the language but not modify, add to, or replace the main points	Yes	Acceptable use without explicit citation only if changes suggested by AI are limited to grammar and syntax.
Ask generative AI to produce a flowchart, graphic, or image for a paper or presentation	Yes	Image should be clearly marked as AI-generated and with explicit citation as to how the image was created.
Write your research paper. Ask AI to add additional points to your research paper.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to produce your conclusions, future steps, etc.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to help identify appropriate statistical tests or software tools. (Interpretation of data must be done by the student researcher)	Yes	Acceptable, requires a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Ask generative AI to produce a starter bibliography	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to collect data and write a research plan. Use AI to provide citations that back up your claims	No	Never acceptable
Ask generative AI to fix the structure or formatting of your bibliography	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation. You must review and verify all citations as valid

Table from “ISEF International Rules Companion Guide, 2026-2027”, layout modified by SEFMD

Peer Review Worksheet (Rev D)

As part of the 2026-2027 SEMFD, you must do a peer review of one SEFMD randomly assigned project. The peer review will not be seen by judges and will not be seen by the student, but will be reviewed by SEFMD staff. For this year, it is an educational tool for you so that you can reflect on the project you have turned in.

Your peer review must be completed by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 9. If you do not do this review, your project will be moved to exhibition

For the project you are assigned, please access their entry, which includes an abstract, a research plan, a presentation and other optional materials. Read carefully and answer these questions.

1. What is the title of the project? _____
2. Is the hypothesis clear? Yes/no
3. Is the research plan clear? Yes/no
4. Is there a conclusion? Yes/no
5. Is there a bibliography? Yes/no
 - a. Where you able to verify all items in the bibliography? Yes/no/not all
6. Is there data in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter take (measure) the data? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. If not, is it clear where the data is from? Yes/no
7. Are there illustrations in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter create the illustrations? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. How were the illustrations created? Can't tell / It was explained
 - c. If not, is it clear where illustrations are from? Yes/No/Can't tell
8. Are there graphs in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter create the graphs? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. What did they use? Can't tell / it was explained
 - c. If not, is it clear where graphs are from? Yes/No/Can't tell
9. Was Machine Learning or Modeling used in this project? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter use machine learning or an outside model to analyze data? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. Can you tell if they used an outside program/model with no changes? Yes/no/can't tell
 - c. Did they modify or edit an outside program/model's algorithms? Yes/no/can't tell

If you have any comments, please type them below, labelling your comments with the questions they came from. If there are academic integrity issues, please submit a 'Concerns about a Science Fair Project' (located in resources section of web site)

Concerns about a Science Fair Project (Rev D)

Submitted by (must be supplied, can not be anonymous):

Name:

School:

Grade:

eMail:

Cell Phone:

Project of concern information:

Project Title:

Project ID:

Project Category:

Student's Name:

Student's School (if known):

What are your concerns about this project? Check all that apply:

- ☐ Student did not do the work
- ☐ Excessive/inappropriate use of AI
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ Falsified Data
- ☐ Work previously done by others
- ☐ Content
- ☐ Other

Describe in detail your basis of the concern with explicit references. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

How did you become aware of this potential issue?

Supply supplementary information from google docs, YouTube, etc to substantiate your claim and provide the links below.

2026-2027 Science Fair

MAJOR EVENTS CALENDAR (as of 9/2/2026)

September, 2026	Postcard mailed to all schools with information on how to obtain a complete school packet. Info also on web site.
September 15, 2026	School affiliation/on-line registration OPENS
October & November, 2026 Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Special Science Fair Mentoring Sessions conducted on-line for students, parents, teachers. Preregistration required (on web site)
October 1, 2026	Student registration opens (school must be affiliated first). Professional award self nominations open
December 1, 2026	Deadline for schools to affiliate (and pay affiliation fee) with discount of 75%
December 1, 2026	Scientific Review (Sr. Div)/Financial Committee Deadline. All required SRC paperwork must be submitted ONLINE by this date (SR division).
Fri, Feb 19, 2027, 11:59 PM	Registration CLOSES. ALL information must be uploaded. NO information may be added or changed after this date. Professional Self Nominations close. Invoices are emailed to contact person of school.
Mon. Feb. 22, 2027	Teachers are emailed a notice of students' acceptance or disqualifications to the Science Fair.
Fri., March 6, 2027	Start of Preliminary Judging
Tue, March 9, 2027	Senior Division Peer Reviews due. Failure to comply will disqualify project.
Tue, March 16, 2027	Project Display Board Setup at Huntington Place, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
Wed, March 17, 2027	SEFMD Judging, all day, starting at 8:00 AM;
Thur, March 18, 2027	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM
Fri, March 19, 2027	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Exhibit Removal, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Sat, March 20, 2027	Exhibit Removal 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Sat, April 10, 2027	Michigan Science & Engineering Fair, 8:00 AM – 5: 30 PM Lawrence Technological University, Southfield
May, 2027	International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angles, CA

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PROJECT DISPLAY & SAFETY (Rev 9/2/2026)

Please read the following information regarding rules for the display and safety of your science fair project. This information is minimal. It is best to familiarize yourself with specific details located on our website www.sefmd.org. Also you may research details at the ISEF website [Display & Safety Rules - Society for Science](#)

Project Size-Depth x Width x Height (Assume table height is 36", Height is from floor to top of project)

Senior Division: 30" x 48" x 96"

Junior & Elementary Division: 24" x 36" x 96"

- All materials must fit within the dimensions on the display table.
- Project board must be self-standing and not supported by other means.

Display Content

- Display work must reflect only work completed by the finalist.
- Display board should summarize only the current year's work if the project is a continuation of previous year(s).
- Appropriate forms must be displayed if required.
- Multimedia or audio-visual presentations must be reviewed by the Display & Safety inspector before the project is approved for display.
- **SENIOR DIVISION:** All graphics MUST BE properly and individually cited. This includes student-created logos, background graphics, photographs and/or visual depictions of the finalist or photographs and/or visual depictions of others, or data-related graphics. Please reference the [D&S Graphic Credit Guidance](#) for examples.
- Photographs must be appropriate and not offensive; credit for photograph origin must be given; signed consent forms must be obtained for use of photographs that contain a person(s) other than the finalist.
- ONCE A PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR DISPLAY, ABSOLUTELY NO ADDITIONS OR CHANGES MAY BE MADE TO THE PROJECT DISPLAY.
- PERSONAL ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE STORED UNDER THE DISPLAY TABLE.

Safety Regulations: Read carefully and check the website for further clarifications.

Items/Materials not allowed for display

- Disks, CDs, business cards, printed materials, pins, key chains, etc.
- Awards, medals, Internet or email connections related to project topic.
- HANDOUTS to judges or the public are not allowed.
- Addresses, QR codes, phone numbers, etc.
- Name(s) may be placed on the back of the board but should not be displayed on the front (**Junior/Elem.**)
- Living organisms, plants, taxidermy items, preserved specimens, food, bodily fluids, chemicals.
- Hazardous/sharp items: weapons, poison, fire arms, ammunition, lasers, reloading devices, dry ice, 3-D printers, flammable materials, razors, needles, knives, pipettes, syringes, glass.

Electrical Regulations

- No electrical power will be available or permitted at SEFMD or MSEF.
- No exposed live circuits over 36 volts will be allowed.
- Electrical devices must be protectively enclosed; enclosure must be noncombustible; non-current carrying metal parts must be grounded.

Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit

September, 2026
70th Annual Science Fair
Volume 24, Issue 1

Kathy Kitzmann & Tim Fino,
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.

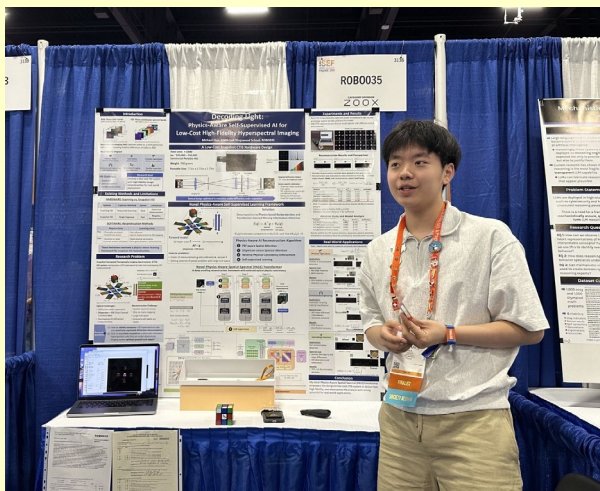
Senior Division students (grades 9-12) must submit these forms online by **Dec. 1** in order

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:

SEFMD
PO Box 158
Farmington, MI
48332-0158

Phone:
(248) 471-9900

Fax:
(248) 479-0383

E-mail:
SF2027@sefmd.org

Website
www.sefmd.org
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

“LEARNING TO THINK”

For seventy years, the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (SEFMD) has provided tens of thousands of young people an incentive to plan, prepare, and present science and engineering projects. The Fair process is lauded by educators as an important “learning to think” experience for the 25,000 to 30,000 third through twelfth grade students from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Lenawee, Livingston, and Monroe counties who participate in school competitions each year. Over 2,000 of these students then enter the regional fair, with 1,000+ chosen to bring their projects to the Metro Fair at Huntington Place (Detroit), where fairs centering on the physical and life sciences in multiple categories (e.g. chemistry, physics, biology, environmental science, engineering,...) are held under one roof. Throughout the years, 636 senior division students have won Grand Awards, enabling them to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair. Southeast Michigan students have distinguished themselves at the ISEF by winning major awards among their peers from 49 states and 63 nations. Many Fair participants have pursued careers in science and engineering and have distinguished themselves in their respective professions.

Another equally important benefit of the fairs is the increased interest of students in the Detroit Public Schools Community District in areas of science and engineering. This welcome renewal is strengthened by a strong commitment to the Fair from Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD), Detroit Public Schools Foundation, and DAPCEP (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program). Organizers and educators were thrilled to see more than 79% of the entries in 2025 coming from Detroit Public Schools.

The SEFMD should be a source of great pride for Southeast Michigan -- as it is for those who staff it and those who fund it. SEFMD remains one of the largest such Fairs in the country, and, judging by the results, one of the best!

HOW IT BEGAN

The Special Activities Committee of the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) proposed to the ESD Board of Directors in September 1956 that the society sponsor a Metro Science Fair to encourage and support education and the future of the related professions, in conjunction with the Detroit Board of Education and the Detroit Science Teachers Clubs. The Board granted approval, the cooperation of The Detroit News was obtained, and the first Fair was held in 1958. There were 2,550 entries which produced 1,097 exhibits in the fair held at the State Fair Grounds. A fund drive netted \$46,000, the fair cost \$35,000, and attendance was estimated at 45,000 people. To quote a report to the ESD Board, it was a “smashing” success. The Board agreed to continue sponsorship.

INCORPORATION

The Fair operated under the direct auspices of ESD until 1962 when it became evident it should become a separate entity to ensure non-profit status for tax purposes. The Metro Detroit Science Fair, Inc. was incorporated on October 23, 1962 to “stimulate an active interest among young people in the several fields of scientific study and to give recognition to talented science students.” In 1970 the name was changed to The Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc., to accurately reflect its educational scope. ESD and The Detroit News continued to cooperate in sponsorship of the Fairs through 2001. In September of 2001, the inauguration of the renovated and expanded Detroit Science Center and a refocus of the engineering society on other programs resulted in a new home at the spectacular museum and an independent stature for the Fairs. The Detroit Science Center and the Detroit News continued support of the Fair until 2003.

STAFFING

The SEFMD is:

- governed by a Board of Directors (made up of representatives from top corporations and educational institutions);
- operated by an Operating Council;

- judged by over 520 volunteers who are experts in their fields; and
- funded with monies raised by an Executive Council.

The Fair Directors serve as liaison between the Board and Operating Council and oversee day-to-day operations. All other functions are staffed by the nearly 700 volunteers who participate each year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In 1995, SEFMD launched the first Michigan Science Fair. The top forty to fifty students from the tri-county area compete annually with a similar number of students from other regional fairs throughout the state for additional recognition and awards. In May 2000 the preeminence of Detroit’s Fair was recognized when Detroit was chosen to host the International Science and Engineering Fair. Over 1,100 students and 1,500 teachers and mentors from 46 countries were in Detroit for the weeklong event. In excess of 1,000 judges, mostly Ph.D. or equivalent, were used to judge the entries. Over \$2,000,000 in awards and scholarships were distributed to the top winners of this prestigious competition. This event highlighted Detroit while showcasing the SEFMD to the global community as a world-class organization.

FUNDING

Funding for the Fair is provided by corporations, industries, utilities, technical societies, health and medical groups, financial institutions and individual contributions. SEFMD is recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is licensed to solicit Charitable Contributions from the State of Michigan – MICS 5290.

To date, SEFMD has a restricted endowment to ensure the long-term financial stability of the fair. The dividends and interest from this endowment provide an annual income of \$40,000 (at 5% interest) to support the annual \$181,000 operating budget. The balance is made up of individual, corporate, and foundation support.

THE 2026-2027 FAIR

The 2027 Fair will be an in-person Fair with optional online components that may be submitted. The complete calendar is available at the science fair website.

SEFMD regional fair	March 16-19, 2027
Huntington Place (lower level), Detroit	
Project setup	Tues., March 16
Judging (final round)	Wed., March 17
Public Viewing	Thur.-Fri., March 18, 19
Tear down	Fri., March 19 (5-7 PM)
	Sat., March 20 (9-11 AM)
Michigan Science Fair	Sat., April 10 (all day)
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield	
International Fair (ISEF)	May, 2027
Los Angeles, California	

Senior Division Grand Award winners will participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) where their projects will be evaluated, providing these students an opportunity to compete for additional awards, scholarships and increased recognition. Up to six individual awardees, plus a two or three-person team project, and two winners of the Michigan Science Fair will represent metro Detroit and the State of Michigan in the International Fair.

Each Grand Award Winner will be given preferential status on receiving a four-year paid merit scholarship from one of the following universities: Lawrence Technological University, Oakland University, and University of Detroit Mercy. The scholarship and amounts are subject to the rules of the individual universities. The Grand Award winners also compete for the Detroit Science Award, an all-expense paid study trip to the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel.

2021 FAIR HIGHLIGHT: Cranbrook Kingswood sophomore Michelle Hua won first place in Robotics (\$5000) and overall best project in the world at the 2021 Regeneron ISEF (\$75,000)! Congratulations, Michelle!

2025 FAIR HIGHLIGHT: SEFMD/MSEF sent the first three-member team from three different states to compete at the 2025 ISEF! Arnav Sharma (Michigan), Aryav Das (Indiana), and Samarth Dunakhe (Arizona)

won a 1st Award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

SEFMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	David Pieper Retired (WSU)
Vice President:	Scott Bowen Wayne State University
Secretary:	Michael Stewart Fishman Stewart PLLC
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Doug Allen	Retired
James Boileau	Ford Motor Co. (retired)
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SEFMD OFFICIAL ADDRESS

SEFMD, Inc
P.O. Box 158
Farmington, MI 48332-0158
(248) 471-9900 fax: (248) 479-0383
email: SF2027@SEFMD.org
web site: <http://www.sefmd.org>

The 2027 Fund Drive has a goal of \$300,000

Gifts are Tax Deductible- IRS 501 (c)(3) & MICS 5290
Checks may be made payable to:
Science Fair - SEFMD
P.O. Box 158 – Farmington, MI 48332-0158
Donations also accepted online at <http://www.sefmd.org>



Facts about the 70th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (SEFMD)



2026-2027

(Rev 9/2/26, blue)

SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS YOUR BEST WORK

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

(Check website for schedule/details. Registration is required to receive zoom link)



In March 2027, Detroit will host the 70th Annual Science and Engineering Fair at Huntington Place in Detroit, providing students of southeast Michigan in grades 3 to 12 an opportunity to exhibit science fair projects. This is one of the largest and longest running science fairs in the world. The 2027 Fair will be an in-person event and open to the public.

Members of the Operating Council, along with science fair judges, teachers, and past science fair participants will discuss how to execute ideas, develop science fair projects, and how to showcase them for judging. First session is Thursday, October 8, 2026, 7:30 PM (School affiliation), followed by Oct 15, 2026 (Getting project ideas).

This program is open to 3rd to 12th grade students, parents and teachers. Attendees will have the opportunities to win prizes provided they preregister.

For more information (including dates and topics of seminars), or to RSVP for this free seminar, go to: <http://www.SEFMD.org/Seminar> Alternatively, contact the Science Fair Office at: (248) 471-9900.

HUNTINGTON PLACE
LOWER LEVEL
DETROIT, MI
MARCH 16-19, 2027

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

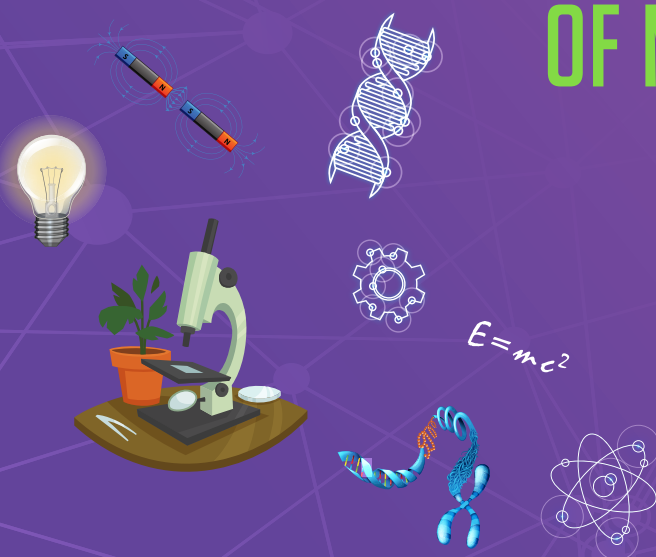
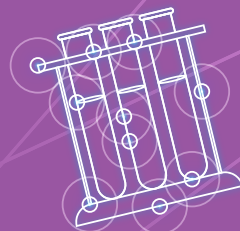
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2027

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT

Elementary,
Middle and
High School
Competitions



Online Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 19, 2027 (11:59pm)

Setup: Tuesday, March 16, 2027 (9am-7pm)

Judging: Wednesday, March 17, 2027 (8am-5pm)

Public Viewing: Thur & Fri, March 18-19, 2027 (9am-5pm)

Project Removal: Friday, March 19, 2027 (5-7pm)

Michigan Science Fair: Saturday, April 10, 2027

(Lawrence Tech University)

International Science & Engineering Fair: May 2027, (Los Angeles, CA)

Scientific Review Committee (SRC) forms due online by Dec. 1, 2026



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

2026 Science Fair Highlights

The **69th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit** was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Huntington Place in Detroit. There were 776 projects (631 individuals and 145 teams) entered from seven counties across southeastern Michigan. The **32nd Michigan Science and Engineering Fair** was hosted once again on Saturday, April 11, 2026, by Lawrence Technological University in Southfield and included 55 projects from across the state. During the week of May 10-15, 2026, the grand award winners from SEFMD and MSEF presented their projects at the **76th Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair** in Phoenix, AZ, competing against over 1600 students from around the world!

All of the stages of science fair competition (from the local school fairs to the International Fair) would not be possible without the numerous volunteers (judges, mentors, display and safety team), teachers, parents, board members, operating council members, and donors! **Thank you to all!**

Save these dates for 2027:

SEFMD: March 15-19, 2027 (Judging day: Wed., 3/17/2027) at Huntington Place

MSEF: Saturday, April 10, 2027 at Lawrence Technological University



Regeneron ISEF Finalists from

SEFMD, MSEF, and the Southwest

Michigan Science & Engineering Fair

Top row: Arnav Sharma, Michael Hua, Ali Alnaib, Yuvan Muppireddy

Middle Row: Yashvini Goddla, Dean Jordan, Nina Shaye, Shruthika Pallapothu

Bottom row: Claire Tong, Aanya Goel, Ahyoung Song, Janelle Yao, Judy Bai, Saikrish Balaji

(Nina, Claire, Aanya, Janelle, and Yuvan are finalists from the Southwest Michigan Fair.)

MSEF Grand Award Winners

Michael Hua (grade 11, Cranbrook Kingswood Academy): “Decoding Light: Physics-aware Self-Supervised AI for Low-Cost Hyperspectral Imaging.” **ISEF Awards:** 1st place (\$6,000) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines, 4th place award (\$400) from the Association for Computing Machinery, and Midjourney Special Award (\$2500).

Nina Shaye (grade 10, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center): “Transforming Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Using a Novel CNN-ViT AI Model.” (category: Translational Medical Sciences)

SEFMD Senior Grand Award Winners

Dean Jordan (grade 11, International Academy - West): "Towards Completing and Annotating the Human Connectome with CGNN: Connectome Generation Neural Network." **ISEF Award:** 2nd place (\$2,400) category award in Biomedical Engineering.

Ahyoung Song & Arnav Sharma (grade 11, International Academy - East): "Expanding the Druggable Human Proteome Five-Fold." **ISEF Award:** 2nd place (\$2,400) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

Ali Alnaib (grade 11, Salem H.S.): "Structural Optimization of Wireless Power Transfer Using 3D-Printed Metamaterials." **ISEF Award:** 3rd place (\$1,200) in Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design.

Yashvini Goddla (grade 11, Detroit Country Day School): "ReinforCell: A Reinforcement Learning Solution to Engineer Robust CAR-T Cells for Cancer Patients." **ISEF Award:** 4th place (\$600) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

Judy Bai (grade 12, Greenhills School): "Identifying Psychiatric Gene Modules with scRNAseq". (category: Biomedical and Health Sciences)

Saikrish Balaji (grade 11, Troy Athens H.S.): "Investigating the Effects of Heating on DSLIM Efficiency: A Novel Approach to Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion." (category: Engineering Technology)

Shruthika Pallapothu (grade 12, Troy H.S.): "AI-Guided Autonomous Nanobot for Artery Blockage Detection and Plaque Removal." (category: Biomedical Engineering)

SEFMD Junior & Elementary Grand Award Winners

Lakshitha Addala (grade 8, Baker M.S.): "PulseAI Responder" (category: Medicine & Health)

Meher Cuchelkar (grade 7, Detroit Country Day M.S.): "Winter Blues: A Study of Student and Teacher Wellness in a Middle School in Southeast Michigan" (category: Behavioral & Social Science)

Hamsaridhan Hariharasudhan (grade 8, Larson M.S.): "Microbe Massacre" (category: Biology)

Harshi Jariwala (grade 7, Indus Center for Academic Excellence): "Smart Pothole Detection and Reporting Using AI" (category: Technology)

Lana Moussa (grade 8, Universal Learning Academy – Middle): "Thermal Shield: Engineering Walls to Reduce Heat Loss" (category: Engineering)

Neelanshi Sharma (grade 5, Wass Elementary): "Is it possible to make a tool that can detect skin cancer?" (category: Life Science)

Cooper Smith (grade 7, St. Patrick Catholic Whitelake): "Blocking the Burn: How SPF and Sunscreen Type Affect UV Protection" (category: Chemistry)

Paula Golden & Maria Wronski from Broadcom Foundation (a major SEFMD sponsor) present the Broadcom Coding with Commitment award to Aditi Rateesh (grade 6, Plymouth Scholars M.S.) for her project/invention: "Dry Smart."



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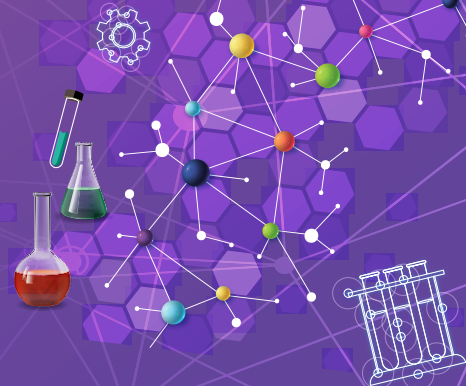
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2027

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Elementary,
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International Science & Engineering Fair: May 2027, (Los Angeles, CA)
Scientific Review Committee (SRC) forms due online by Dec. 1, 2026



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Continuing this year: "STEAM SLAM"! Activities for 6th-8th graders.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT



Anyone in grades 3-12 (private, public, home schools) in the Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties can enter a project in the SEFMD. Schools must affiliate with SEFMD before a student may enter online.

The time to start the process is now!

Go to www.sefmd.org to begin the registration process. SRC pre-approval requires uploading of special forms, available on the website. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, newsletters, facts, and essential information.

Sincerely,

Tim Fino and Kathy Kitzmann
SEFMD Fair Co-Directors
248.471.9900 | SF2026@sefmd.org

Now
Open to
3rd-12th
Grades!

On Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm during October and November, special science fair mentoring sessions will be conducted on-line for parents, teachers, and students. See the website for the detailed schedule. Pre-registration required.

SEFMD MISSION 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.



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LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SOUTHFIELD, MI
APRIL 10, 2027 (ALL DAY)

33rd ANNUAL
2027

MICHIGAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

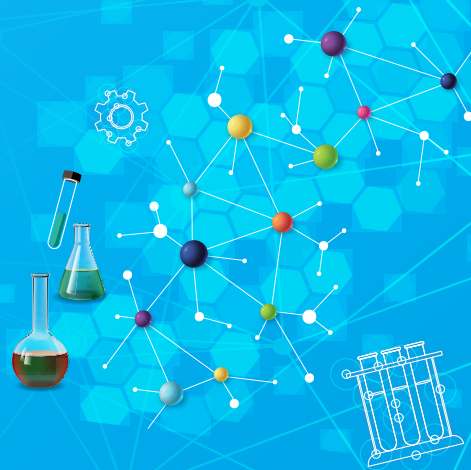
Online Registration Deadline:

Friday, Feb. 19, 2027* (11:59pm)

International Science & Engineering Fair:

May 2027, Los Angeles, CA

*April 1, 2027 if entering via an affiliated regional fair



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Open to ALL 9th-12th grade students in the State of Michigan.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

33rd ANNUAL MICHIGAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR



Anyone in grades 9-12 (private, public, home schools) in the state of Michigan (excluding students covered by Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit – top students will automatically advance).

Cost of entering is \$75

The time to start the process is now! Registration is done online at <http://MSEF.ScienceFair.INFO>

SRC pre-approval requires uploading of special forms, available on the website. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, newsletters, facts, and essential information.

Sincerely,

Tim Fino and Kathy Kitzmann
MSEF Fair Co-Directors
248.471.9900 | SF2027@sefmd.org

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CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

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2027

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT

Open
to 3rd-5th
Grades!

- For the seventh year, students in 3rd-5th grades may enter projects
- Projects may be done individually or in groups of 2-10 students
 - Complete calendar is available online
- Rules and categories are simplified for elementary students
- More information is available at www.sefmd.org



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT



SEFMD is excited to include projects from students in the 3rd-5th grades in this year's science fair! Schools must affiliate with SEFMD before any students may enter online.

The rules and categories for 3rd-5th grade students are available on our website at www.sefmd.org. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, a newsletter, and other essential information.

Sincerely,

Tim Fino and Kathy Kitzmann
SEFMD Fair Co-Directors
248.471.9900 | SF2027@sefmd.org

Open to
3rd-12th
Grades!

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WHAT's NEW and/or CONTINUING for 2027 SEFMD and MSEF (Rev 9/1/2026)

* We are instituting the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy. This will involve some additional tasks from senior division schools, teachers and students in evaluating and maintaining the integrity of all projects entered into the SEFMD and the MSEF. The policy is explained on the resources page of the website. Included in the policy is a form which can be used by students, teachers, or judges if there is a concern regarding the integrity of any project.

* Each Senior Division student will be required to submit online the following items by the entry form deadline on February 19, 2027:

(1) A .pdf presentation of the project (powerpoint slides). See the "Project Materials Guidelines" on the resources page of this website for the requirements for the presentation.

(2) Form (1) Checklist for Adult Sponsor

Form (1A) Student Checklist

Form (1B) Approval Form

Form (2A) Student Support Disclosure Form (1 form per Team)

* Each Senior Division student will be required to do a Peer Review of 1-2 other projects that will be assigned after the entry deadline. See the SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy for more information. More details will be provided when the projects for review are assigned.

* Senior Division

students must individually cite and credit ALL images, graphs, etc as described here:

1. ALL graphics that are created by the Finalist MUST BE properly cited individually, include the program or software utilized to create the graphic, and include the year the graphic was created. Finalists are required to use statements such as "Photo taken by Finalist, Year," "Image created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; Graph created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; Chart created by Finalist using . . . , Year"; or "Data Table created by Finalist using . . . , Year".

2. ALL graphics not created by the finalist(s) MUST BE properly cited individually (APA format is preferred). If the graphic was obtained via the Internet, then a URL must be provided (digital object identifiers are acceptable in place of long URLs). This applies even if the license under which the graphic was obtained does not require credit or citation. For more information and examples please see our [D&S Graphic Credit Guidance](#).

* As was done for the 2026 Fair, we have migrated our database from our existing site to zFairs. Consequently, the process of affiliating a school, signing up teachers (and judges), and having students register has totally changed. See the link on the Resources page of the website for the directions.

* The entry fee will be \$25/project (individual or team) for ALL projects. The school affiliation fee will be \$75/school. This fee will be discounted to \$25/school IF:

(1) the school affiliates by December 1, 2026;

(2) the school applies the discount coupon which will appear on the invoice when you complete the affiliation; AND

(3) the school commits to providing volunteers during the week of the Fair. Volunteers are needed on Project Set-up Day (Tuesday, March 16, 2027), Judging Day (Wednesday, March 17, 2027), and Public Viewing/Project Removal Days (Thursday & Friday, March 18 and 19, 2027);

* The 2027 SEFMD and 2027 MSEF will be **in-person fairs**. Students will prepare a project display board that will be brought to Huntington Place (for the SEFMD) and used for the final round of judging as well as displayed for public viewing. (See “*What’s Due When*” for detailed information.)

* Students have the **option** of submitting additional materials online, as has been done for the past several years. This may include a video presentation, photographs, quad chart, etc. Middle school and elementary school students have the option of submitting a pdf presentation; this is required for senior division students, as stated above. Some professional award organizations will judge projects using only the uploaded material and will not judge projects in person. Any optional materials need to be submitted by the entry deadline specified on the calendar. (See “*What’s Due When*” for detailed information.)

* Categories have been modified for 2027. The complete list of the modified categories is available on the website under Entry Info → Category Descriptions.

* Projects will be checked for Display and Safety Violations, both **on line** and **in person**. All materials submitted on line by February 19, 2027 will be checked and if there are any problems (for example, student name is included or there are inappropriate photos), the student will receive an email and be allowed to correct the violation within 24 hours (before judging occurs). During the project set-up day (Tuesday, March 16, 2027) at Huntington Place, project display boards will be checked again for any possible display and safety violations.

2026-2027 SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy (Rev B)

BACKGROUND:

In 2026, Science Fairs nationwide noticed an increase in inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence. Locally the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit and the Michigan Science Fair had to disqualify five students due to fraud, forgery, inappropriate use of AI, and plagiarism. Two students were banned for life for their inappropriate actions. In addition, two schools were placed on probation with the Science Fair. The following policy has been implemented for the 2026-2027 Science Fair and consists of multiple actions.

SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS:

When a school affiliates with the Science Fair (or a fair affiliates with the Michigan Science Fair), the school must (1) agree to validate all student projects that list a project mentor, qualified scientist, or researcher by contacting the appropriate researcher to determine whether the student actually did the work they claimed to have done. (2) Teachers must review with their students the acceptable and unacceptable use of AI in the research (refer to attached). (3) Teachers must also validate the bibliography section of all high school projects. (4) Teachers must also train and educate students on 'peer reviews' which will be required for high school projects (see below).

PEER REVIEWS:

Peer reviews are a normal part of scientific research and will be required for all high school projects in 2026-2027. After the entry form deadline, HS Students will be assigned 1 or 2 high school student projects for peer review. A student must conduct the peer reviews, using a form (draft attached) for each of the projects, and submit the information not later than 7 days prior to judging. If a student fails to provide meaningful peer reviews, their project will be moved from the normal competition to the exhibition category and not eligible for professional awards or additional competition. Elementary and Middle School students are recommended to use the peer review worksheet on their project.

PROJECT CONCERNS:

If a teacher, student, or judge has a concern regarding the scientific integrity of a particular project, there will be a structured form that must be submitted. Project concerns may be submitted no later than 24 hours after judging results are announced and will be investigated by a separate ethics panel. Project concerns may not be submitted anonymously – full contact information of the reviewer must be provided.

In conclusion, doing a science fair project is a learning experience. The above changes are meant to further educate students as to what is acceptable and what is not. Teachers will have the primary role in this with their students. We are committed to working with all schools and teachers to ensure that the integrity of the Science Fair is maintained going forward.

There will be several workshops in October that deal with this issue and its implementation.

Use of generative AI to support a research project		
Task	Could this be acceptable use?	Under what conditions?
Ask generative AI to identify or summarize key points in an article before you read it. Use this as a starting point for your literature review.	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation
Ask AI to summarize a book or article in your field. Reproduce that summary in your literature review without reading the book or article	No	Never acceptable, as there has been no engagement with the book or source itself.
Use an AI chatbot as a writing tool to help generate and develop ideas.	Yes	Acceptable, may require explicit citation depending on circumstances. Strongly encouraged to keep a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Use generative AI to initially write the research plan, abstract, paper or poster.	No	Never acceptable. This must be independent work of the student. Guidance or refinement after the initial document has been completed can be done with explicit citation and a log.
Use AI to write initial code for your project	Yes	Acceptable, only with explicit citation stating which portions of the code were AI generated and with a log of the prompts.
You write an abstract. Ask AI to sharpen the language but not modify, add to, or replace the main points	Yes	Acceptable use without explicit citation only if changes suggested by AI are limited to grammar and syntax.
Ask generative AI to produce a flowchart, graphic, or image for a paper or presentation	Yes	Image should be clearly marked as AI-generated and with explicit citation as to how the image was created.
Write your research paper. Ask AI to add additional points to your research paper.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to produce your conclusions, future steps, etc.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to help identify appropriate statistical tests or software tools. (Interpretation of data must be done by the student researcher)	Yes	Acceptable, requires a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Ask generative AI to produce a starter bibliography	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to collect data and write a research plan. Use AI to provide citations that back up your claims	No	Never acceptable
Ask generative AI to fix the structure or formatting of your bibliography	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation. You must review and verify all citations as valid

Table from “ISEF International Rules Companion Guide, 2026-2027”, layout modified by SEFMD

Peer Review Worksheet (Rev D)

As part of the 2026-2027 SEMFD, you must do a peer review of one SEFMD randomly assigned project. The peer review will not be seen by judges and will not be seen by the student, but will be reviewed by SEFMD staff. For this year, it is an educational tool for you so that you can reflect on the project you have turned in.

Your peer review must be completed by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 9. If you do not do this review, your project will be moved to exhibition

For the project you are assigned, please access their entry, which includes an abstract, a research plan, a presentation and other optional materials. Read carefully and answer these questions.

1. What is the title of the project? _____
2. Is the hypothesis clear? Yes/no
3. Is the research plan clear? Yes/no
4. Is there a conclusion? Yes/no
5. Is there a bibliography? Yes/no
 - a. Where you able to verify all items in the bibliography? Yes/no/not all
6. Is there data in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter take (measure) the data? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. If not, is it clear where the data is from? Yes/no
7. Are there illustrations in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter create the illustrations? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. How were the illustrations created? Can't tell / It was explained
 - c. If not, is it clear where illustrations are from? Yes/No/Can't tell
8. Are there graphs in the presentation? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter create the graphs? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. What did they use? Can't tell / it was explained
 - c. If not, is it clear where graphs are from? Yes/No/Can't tell
9. Was Machine Learning or Modeling used in this project? Yes/no
 - a. Did the experimenter use machine learning or an outside model to analyze data? Yes/no/can't tell
 - b. Can you tell if they used an outside program/model with no changes? Yes/no/can't tell
 - c. Did they modify or edit an outside program/model's algorithms? Yes/no/can't tell

If you have any comments, please type them below, labelling your comments with the questions they came from. If there are academic integrity issues, please submit a 'Concerns about a Science Fair Project' (located in resources section of web site)

Concerns about a Science Fair Project (Rev E)

Please submit your concern by clicking on the hyperlink on zFairs.sefmd.org (link is at the top). This worksheet has been superseded by the online submission via the web site

Submitted by (must be supplied, can not be anonymous):

Name:

School:

Grade:

eMail:

Cell Phone:

Project of concern information:

Project Title:

Project ID:

Project Category:

Student's Name:

Student's School (if known):

What are your concerns about this project? Check all that apply:

- ☐ Student did not do the work
- ☐ Excessive/inappropriate use of AI
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ Falsified Data
- ☐ Work previously done by others
- ☐ Content
- ☐ Other

Describe in detail your basis of the concern with explicit references. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

How did you become aware of this potential issue?

Supply supplementary information from google docs, YouTube, etc to substantiate your claim and provide the links below.

2026-2027 Science Fair

MAJOR EVENTS CALENDAR (as of 9/2/2026)

September, 2026	Postcard mailed to all schools with information on how to obtain a complete school packet. Info also on web site.
September 15, 2026	School affiliation/on-line registration OPENS
October & November, 2026 Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Special Science Fair Mentoring Sessions conducted on-line for students, parents, teachers. Preregistration required (on web site)
October 1, 2026	Student registration opens (school must be affiliated first). Professional award self nominations open
December 1, 2026	Deadline for schools to affiliate (and pay affiliation fee) with discount of 75%
December 1, 2026	Scientific Review (Sr. Div)/Financial Committee Deadline. All required SRC paperwork must be submitted ONLINE by this date (SR division).
Fri, Feb 19, 2027, 11:59 PM	Registration CLOSES. ALL information must be uploaded. NO information may be added or changed after this date. Professional Self Nominations close. Invoices are emailed to contact person of school.
Mon. Feb. 22, 2027	Teachers are emailed a notice of students' acceptance or disqualifications to the Science Fair.
Fri., March 6, 2027	Start of Preliminary Judging
Tue, March 9, 2027	Senior Division Peer Reviews due. Failure to comply will disqualify project.
Tue, March 16, 2027	Project Display Board Setup at Huntington Place, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
Wed, March 17, 2027	SEFMD Judging, all day, starting at 8:00 AM;
Thur, March 18, 2027	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM
Fri, March 19, 2027	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Exhibit Removal, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Sat, March 20, 2027	Exhibit Removal 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Sat, April 10, 2027	Michigan Science & Engineering Fair, 8:00 AM – 5: 30 PM Lawrence Technological University, Southfield
May, 2027	International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angles, CA

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PROJECT DISPLAY & SAFETY (Rev 9/2/2026)

Please read the following information regarding rules for the display and safety of your science fair project. This information is minimal. It is best to familiarize yourself with specific details located on our website www.sefmd.org. Also you may research details at the ISEF website [Display & Safety Rules - Society for Science](#)

Project Size-Depth x Width x Height (Assume table height is 36", Height is from floor to top of project)

Senior Division: 30" x 48" x 96"

Junior & Elementary Division: 24" x 36" x 96"

- All materials must fit within the dimensions on the display table.
- Project board must be self-standing and not supported by other means.

Display Content

- Display work must reflect only work completed by the finalist.
- Display board should summarize only the current year's work if the project is a continuation of previous year(s).
- Appropriate forms must be displayed if required.
- Multimedia or audio-visual presentations must be reviewed by the Display & Safety inspector before the project is approved for display.
- **SENIOR DIVISION:** All graphics MUST BE properly and individually cited. This includes student-created logos, background graphics, photographs and/or visual depictions of the finalist or photographs and/or visual depictions of others, or data-related graphics. Please reference the [D&S Graphic Credit Guidance](#) for examples.
- Photographs must be appropriate and not offensive; credit for photograph origin must be given; signed consent forms must be obtained for use of photographs that contain a person(s) other than the finalist.
- ONCE A PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR DISPLAY, ABSOLUTELY NO ADDITIONS OR CHANGES MAY BE MADE TO THE PROJECT DISPLAY.
- PERSONAL ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE STORED UNDER THE DISPLAY TABLE.

Safety Regulations: Read carefully and check the website for further clarifications.

Items/Materials not allowed for display

- Disks, CDs, business cards, printed materials, pins, key chains, etc.
- Awards, medals, Internet or email connections related to project topic.
- HANDOUTS to judges or the public are not allowed.
- Addresses, QR codes, phone numbers, etc.
- Name(s) may be placed on the back of the board but should not be displayed on the front (**Junior/Elem.**)
- Living organisms, plants, taxidermy items, preserved specimens, food, bodily fluids, chemicals.
- Hazardous/sharp items: weapons, poison, fire arms, ammunition, lasers, reloading devices, dry ice, 3-D printers, flammable materials, razors, needles, knives, pipettes, syringes, glass.

Electrical Regulations

- No electrical power will be available or permitted at SEFMD or MSEF.
- No exposed live circuits over 36 volts will be allowed.
- Electrical devices must be protectively enclosed; enclosure must be noncombustible; non-current carrying metal parts must be grounded.

Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit

September, 2026
70th Annual Science Fair
Volume 24, Issue 1

Kathy Kitzmann & Tim Fino,
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.

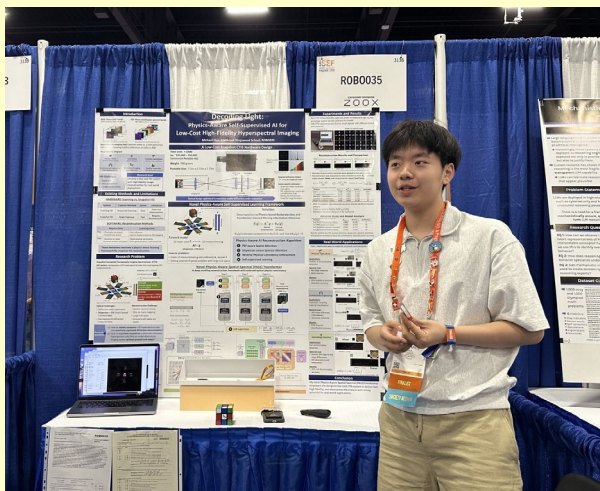
Senior Division students (grades 9-12) must submit these forms online by **Dec. 1** in order

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)

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(248) 471-9900

Fax:
(248) 479-0383

E-mail:
SF2027@sefmd.org

Website
www.sefmd.org
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

“LEARNING TO THINK”

For seventy years, the Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (SEFMD) has provided tens of thousands of young people an incentive to plan, prepare, and present science and engineering projects. The Fair process is lauded by educators as an important “learning to think” experience for the 25,000 to 30,000 third through twelfth grade students from Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Lenawee, Livingston, and Monroe counties who participate in school competitions each year. Over 2,000 of these students then enter the regional fair, with 1,000+ chosen to bring their projects to the Metro Fair at Huntington Place (Detroit), where fairs centering on the physical and life sciences in multiple categories (e.g. chemistry, physics, biology, environmental science, engineering,...) are held under one roof. Throughout the years, 636 senior division students have won Grand Awards, enabling them to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair. Southeast Michigan students have distinguished themselves at the ISEF by winning major awards among their peers from 49 states and 63 nations. Many Fair participants have pursued careers in science and engineering and have distinguished themselves in their respective professions.

Another equally important benefit of the fairs is the increased interest of students in the Detroit Public Schools Community District in areas of science and engineering. This welcome renewal is strengthened by a strong commitment to the Fair from Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD), Detroit Public Schools Foundation, and DAPCEP (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program). Organizers and educators were thrilled to see more than 79% of the entries in 2025 coming from Detroit Public Schools.

The SEFMD should be a source of great pride for Southeast Michigan -- as it is for those who staff it and those who fund it. SEFMD remains one of the largest such Fairs in the country, and, judging by the results, one of the best!

HOW IT BEGAN

The Special Activities Committee of the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) proposed to the ESD Board of Directors in September 1956 that the society sponsor a Metro Science Fair to encourage and support education and the future of the related professions, in conjunction with the Detroit Board of Education and the Detroit Science Teachers Clubs. The Board granted approval, the cooperation of The Detroit News was obtained, and the first Fair was held in 1958. There were 2,550 entries which produced 1,097 exhibits in the fair held at the State Fair Grounds. A fund drive netted \$46,000, the fair cost \$35,000, and attendance was estimated at 45,000 people. To quote a report to the ESD Board, it was a “smashing” success. The Board agreed to continue sponsorship.

INCORPORATION

The Fair operated under the direct auspices of ESD until 1962 when it became evident it should become a separate entity to ensure non-profit status for tax purposes. The Metro Detroit Science Fair, Inc. was incorporated on October 23, 1962 to “stimulate an active interest among young people in the several fields of scientific study and to give recognition to talented science students.” In 1970 the name was changed to The Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc., to accurately reflect its educational scope. ESD and The Detroit News continued to cooperate in sponsorship of the Fairs through 2001. In September of 2001, the inauguration of the renovated and expanded Detroit Science Center and a refocus of the engineering society on other programs resulted in a new home at the spectacular museum and an independent stature for the Fairs. The Detroit Science Center and the Detroit News continued support of the Fair until 2003.

STAFFING

The SEFMD is:

- governed by a Board of Directors (made up of representatives from top corporations and educational institutions);
- operated by an Operating Council;

- judged by over 520 volunteers who are experts in their fields; and
- funded with monies raised by an Executive Council.

The Fair Directors serve as liaison between the Board and Operating Council and oversee day-to-day operations. All other functions are staffed by the nearly 700 volunteers who participate each year.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In 1995, SEFMD launched the first Michigan Science Fair. The top forty to fifty students from the tri-county area compete annually with a similar number of students from other regional fairs throughout the state for additional recognition and awards. In May 2000 the preeminence of Detroit’s Fair was recognized when Detroit was chosen to host the International Science and Engineering Fair. Over 1,100 students and 1,500 teachers and mentors from 46 countries were in Detroit for the weeklong event. In excess of 1,000 judges, mostly Ph.D. or equivalent, were used to judge the entries. Over \$2,000,000 in awards and scholarships were distributed to the top winners of this prestigious competition. This event highlighted Detroit while showcasing the SEFMD to the global community as a world-class organization.

FUNDING

Funding for the Fair is provided by corporations, industries, utilities, technical societies, health and medical groups, financial institutions and individual contributions. SEFMD is recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is licensed to solicit Charitable Contributions from the State of Michigan – MICS 5290.

To date, SEFMD has a restricted endowment to ensure the long-term financial stability of the fair. The dividends and interest from this endowment provide an annual income of \$40,000 (at 5% interest) to support the annual \$181,000 operating budget. The balance is made up of individual, corporate, and foundation support.

THE 2026-2027 FAIR

The 2027 Fair will be an in-person Fair with optional online components that may be submitted. The complete calendar is available at the science fair website.

SEFMD regional fair	March 16-19, 2027
Huntington Place (lower level), Detroit	
Project setup	Tues., March 16
Judging (final round)	Wed., March 17
Public Viewing	Thur.-Fri., March 18, 19
Tear down	Fri., March 19 (5-7 PM)
	Sat., March 20 (9-11 AM)
Michigan Science Fair	Sat., April 10 (all day)
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield	
International Fair (ISEF)	May, 2027
Los Angeles, California	

Senior Division Grand Award winners will participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) where their projects will be evaluated, providing these students an opportunity to compete for additional awards, scholarships and increased recognition. Up to six individual awardees, plus a two or three-person team project, and two winners of the Michigan Science Fair will represent metro Detroit and the State of Michigan in the International Fair.

Each Grand Award Winner will be given preferential status on receiving a four-year paid merit scholarship from one of the following universities: Lawrence Technological University, Oakland University, and University of Detroit Mercy. The scholarship and amounts are subject to the rules of the individual universities. The Grand Award winners also compete for the Detroit Science Award, an all-expense paid study trip to the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel.

2021 FAIR HIGHLIGHT: Cranbrook Kingswood sophomore Michelle Hua won first place in Robotics (\$5000) and overall best project in the world at the 2021 Regeneron ISEF (\$75,000)! Congratulations, Michelle!

2025 FAIR HIGHLIGHT: SEFMD/MSEF sent the first three-member team from three different states to compete at the 2025 ISEF! Arnav Sharma (Michigan), Aryav Das (Indiana), and Samarth Dunakhe (Arizona)

won a 1st Award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

SEFMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	David Pieper Retired (WSU)
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SEFMD OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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P.O. Box 158
Farmington, MI 48332-0158
(248) 471-9900 fax: (248) 479-0383
email: SF2027@SEFMD.org
web site: <http://www.sefmd.org>

The 2027 Fund Drive has a goal of \$300,000

Gifts are Tax Deductible- IRS 501 (c)(3) & MICS 5290
Checks may be made payable to:
Science Fair - SEFMD
P.O. Box 158 – Farmington, MI 48332-0158
Donations also accepted online at <http://www.sefmd.org>



Facts about the 70th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (SEFMD)



2026-2027

(Rev 9/2/26, blue)

SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS YOUR BEST WORK

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

(Check website for schedule/details. Registration is required to receive zoom link)



In March 2027, Detroit will host the 70th Annual Science and Engineering Fair at Huntington Place in Detroit, providing students of southeast Michigan in grades 3 to 12 an opportunity to exhibit science fair projects. This is one of the largest and longest running science fairs in the world. The 2027 Fair will be an in-person event and open to the public.

Members of the Operating Council, along with science fair judges, teachers, and past science fair participants will discuss how to execute ideas, develop science fair projects, and how to showcase them for judging. First session is Thursday, October 1, 2026, 7:30 PM (School affiliation), followed by October 8, 2027 (New SEFMD Scientific Integrity Policy).

This program is open to 3rd to 12th grade students, parents and teachers. Attendees will have the opportunities to win prizes provided they preregister.

For more information (including dates and topics of seminars), or to RSVP for this free seminar, go to: <http://www.SEFMD.org/Seminar>
Alternatively, contact the Science Fair Office at: (248) 471-9900.

HUNTINGTON PLACE
LOWER LEVEL
DETROIT, MI
MARCH 16-19, 2027

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

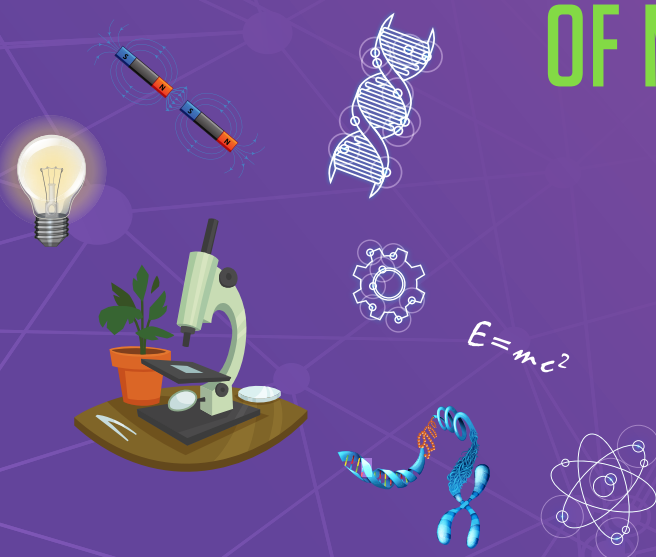
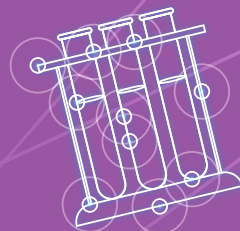
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2027

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT

Elementary,
Middle and
High School
Competitions



Online Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 19, 2027 (11:59pm)

Setup: Tuesday, March 16, 2027 (9am-7pm)

Judging: Wednesday, March 17, 2027 (8am-5pm)

Public Viewing: Thur & Fri, March 18-19, 2027 (9am-5pm)

Project Removal: Friday, March 19, 2027 (5-7pm)

Michigan Science Fair: Saturday, April 10, 2027

(Lawrence Tech University)

International Science & Engineering Fair: May 2027, (Los Angeles, CA)

Scientific Review Committee (SRC) forms due online by Dec. 1, 2026



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

2026 Science Fair Highlights

The **69th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit** was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Huntington Place in Detroit. There were 776 projects (631 individuals and 145 teams) entered from seven counties across southeastern Michigan. The **32nd Michigan Science and Engineering Fair** was hosted once again on Saturday, April 11, 2026, by Lawrence Technological University in Southfield and included 55 projects from across the state. During the week of May 10-15, 2026, the grand award winners from SEFMD and MSEF presented their projects at the **76th Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair** in Phoenix, AZ, competing against over 1600 students from around the world!

All of the stages of science fair competition (from the local school fairs to the International Fair) would not be possible without the numerous volunteers (judges, mentors, display and safety team), teachers, parents, board members, operating council members, and donors! **Thank you to all!**

Save these dates for 2027:

SEFMD: March 15-19, 2027 (Judging day: Wed., 3/17/2027) at Huntington Place

MSEF: Saturday, April 10, 2027 at Lawrence Technological University



Regeneron ISEF Finalists from

SEFMD, MSEF, and the Southwest

Michigan Science & Engineering Fair

Top row: Arnav Sharma, Michael Hua, Ali Alnaib, Yuvan Muppireddy

Middle Row: Yashvini Goddla, Dean Jordan, Nina Shaye, Shruthika Pallapothu

Bottom row: Claire Tong, Aanya Goel, Ahyoung Song, Janelle Yao, Judy Bai, Saikrish Balaji

(Nina, Claire, Aanya, Janelle, and Yuvan are finalists from the Southwest Michigan Fair.)

MSEF Grand Award Winners

Michael Hua (grade 11, Cranbrook Kingswood Academy): “Decoding Light: Physics-aware Self-Supervised AI for Low-Cost Hyperspectral Imaging.” **ISEF Awards:** 1st place (\$6,000) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines, 4th place award (\$400) from the Association for Computing Machinery, and Midjourney Special Award (\$2500).

Nina Shaye (grade 10, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center): “Transforming Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Using a Novel CNN-ViT AI Model.” (category: Translational Medical Sciences)

SEFMD Senior Grand Award Winners

Dean Jordan (grade 11, International Academy - West): "Towards Completing and Annotating the Human Connectome with CGNN: Connectome Generation Neural Network." **ISEF Award:** 2nd place (\$2,400) category award in Biomedical Engineering.

Ahyoung Song & Arnav Sharma (grade 11, International Academy - East): "Expanding the Druggable Human Proteome Five-Fold." **ISEF Award:** 2nd place (\$2,400) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

Ali Alnaib (grade 11, Salem H.S.): "Structural Optimization of Wireless Power Transfer Using 3D-Printed Metamaterials." **ISEF Award:** 3rd place (\$1,200) in Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design.

Yashvini Goddla (grade 11, Detroit Country Day School): "ReinforCell: A Reinforcement Learning Solution to Engineer Robust CAR-T Cells for Cancer Patients." **ISEF Award:** 4th place (\$600) in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics.

Judy Bai (grade 12, Greenhills School): "Identifying Psychiatric Gene Modules with scRNAseq". (category: Biomedical and Health Sciences)

Saikrish Balaji (grade 11, Troy Athens H.S.): "Investigating the Effects of Heating on DSLIM Efficiency: A Novel Approach to Undersea Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion." (category: Engineering Technology)

Shruthika Pallapothu (grade 12, Troy H.S.): "AI-Guided Autonomous Nanobot for Artery Blockage Detection and Plaque Removal." (category: Biomedical Engineering)

SEFMD Junior & Elementary Grand Award Winners

Lakshitha Addala (grade 8, Baker M.S.): "PulseAI Responder" (category: Medicine & Health)

Meher Cuchelkar (grade 7, Detroit Country Day M.S.): "Winter Blues: A Study of Student and Teacher Wellness in a Middle School in Southeast Michigan" (category: Behavioral & Social Science)

Hamsaridhan Hariharasudhan (grade 8, Larson M.S.): "Microbe Massacre" (category: Biology)

Harshi Jariwala (grade 7, Indus Center for Academic Excellence): "Smart Pothole Detection and Reporting Using AI" (category: Technology)

Lana Moussa (grade 8, Universal Learning Academy – Middle): "Thermal Shield: Engineering Walls to Reduce Heat Loss" (category: Engineering)

Neelanshi Sharma (grade 5, Wass Elementary): "Is it possible to make a tool that can detect skin cancer?" (category: Life Science)

Cooper Smith (grade 7, St. Patrick Catholic Whitelake): "Blocking the Burn: How SPF and Sunscreen Type Affect UV Protection" (category: Chemistry)

Paula Golden & Maria Wronski from Broadcom Foundation (a major SEFMD sponsor) present the Broadcom Coding with Commitment award to Aditi Rateesh (grade 6, Plymouth Scholars M.S.) for her project/invention: "Dry Smart."



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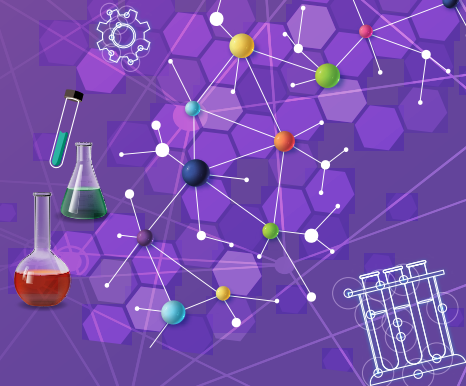
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The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Continuing this year: "STEAM SLAM"! Activities for 6th-8th graders.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT

70
2027

Anyone in grades 3-12 (private, public, home schools) in the Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties can enter a project in the SEFMD. Schools must affiliate with SEFMD before a student may enter online.

The time to start the process is now!

Go to www.sefmd.org to begin the registration process. SRC pre-approval requires uploading of special forms, available on the website. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, newsletters, facts, and essential information.

Sincerely,

Tim Fino and Kathy Kitzmann
SEFMD Fair Co-Directors
248.471.9900 | SF2026@sefmd.org

Now
Open to
3rd-12th
Grades!

On Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm during October and November, special science fair mentoring sessions will be conducted on-line for parents, teachers, and students. See the website for the detailed schedule. Pre-registration required.

SEFMD MISSION 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.



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LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SOUTHFIELD, MI
APRIL 10, 2027 (ALL DAY)

33rd ANNUAL
2027

MICHIGAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

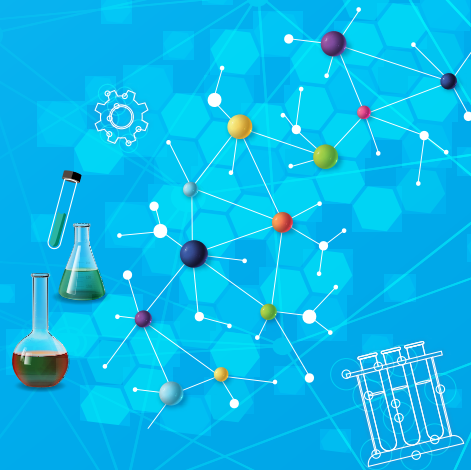
Online Registration Deadline:

Friday, Feb. 19, 2027* (11:59pm)

International Science & Engineering Fair:

May 2027, Los Angeles, CA

*April 1, 2027 if entering via an affiliated regional fair



The 2026-2027 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair.

Open to ALL 9th-12th grade students in the State of Michigan.

Register online at: www.sefmd.org For more information, e-mail: SF2027@sefmd.org or call 248.471.9900

33rd ANNUAL MICHIGAN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR



Anyone in grades 9-12 (private, public, home schools) in the state of Michigan (excluding students covered by Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit – top students will automatically advance).

Cost of entering is \$75

The time to start the process is now! Registration is done online at <http://MSEF.ScienceFair.INFO>

SRC pre-approval requires uploading of special forms, available on the website. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, newsletters, facts, and essential information.

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2027

Open
to 3rd-5th
Grades!

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT

- For the seventh year, students in 3rd-5th grades may enter projects
- Projects may be done individually or in groups of 2-10 students
 - Complete calendar is available online
- Rules and categories are simplified for elementary students
- More information is available at www.sefmd.org



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SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR OF METRO DETROIT



SEFMD is excited to include projects from students in the 3rd-5th grades in this year's science fair! Schools must affiliate with SEFMD before any students may enter online.

The rules and categories for 3rd-5th grade students are available on our website at www.sefmd.org. Please let us know if you would like additional Science Fair postcards to distribute to others or if you need a complete school information packet which includes full size posters, a newsletter, and other essential information.

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