

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT INC.

P.O. Box 158 • Farmington, Michigan 48332-0158 September, 2025

MEMO TO: Principal/Science Fair Coordinator

As you are starting the 2025-2026 school year, we thought that you should have a 'heads-up' regarding some of the changes occurring for the **69**th Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit in 2026. At this time, the plans are for the fair to be an **In-Person Fair**, with certain components that may be optionally submitted online. ALL students within our sevencounty 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.

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, 2025 AND the school commits to providing volunteers (parents or teachers) to help during the week of the Fair.

<u>Preliminary judging</u> for professional awards will take place virtually for all projects, over several days, from March 1, 2026 through March 8, 2026. Project setup at Huntington Place in Detroit will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. <u>Wednesday</u>, March 18, 2026 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.
White,	Personalized School Affiliation	Review, update online by 12/1/25 with reduced payment
2 sided	(documentation on affiliation located on	of \$25. Affiliation must occur before students can
	www.sefmd.org/resources)	register from your school.
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/	<u>SEFMD Newsletter</u> – Numerous copies are	One copy for you; please distribute the remaining
Color	included based on your past entries to the	copies to your science teachers.
	Science Fair.	
Blue	Facts about the 69 th Science Fair	One copy for you
Pink	Science Fair Mentoring Event Flyer – Virtual	Please post. Students must pre-register to attend any of
	workshops available during October/November	the online sessions. Topics vary each week.
Poster	Special 69 th SEFMD poster	Large and small poster for school. Please post.
Color	Highlights of 2025 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 sf2026@sefmd.org.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kitzmann and Tim Fino 2025-2026 Fair Co-Directors

2025-2026 Science Fair MAJOR EVENTS CALENDAR (as of 8/19/2025)

WIAJON EVENTS CALEINDAN (as 01 6/19/2023)					
September, 2025	Postcard mailed to all schools with information on how to obtain a complete school packet. Info also on web site.				
September 15, 2025	On-line registration OPENS.				
October & November, 2025 Thursdays, 7:30 PM	Special Science Fair Mentoring Sessions conducted on-line for students, parents, teachers. Preregistration required (on web site).				
October 1, 2025	Student registration opens (school must be affiliated first). Professional award self nominations open				
December 1, 2025	Deadline for schools to affiliate (and pay affiliation fee) with discount of 75%				
December 1, 2025	Scientific Review (Sr. Div)/Financial Committee Deadline. All required SRC paperwork must be submitted ONLINE by this date (SR division).				
Fri, Feb 20, 2026, 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, 2026	Teachers are emailed a notice of students' acceptance or disqualifications to the Science Fair.				
Fri., March 6, 2026	Start of Preliminary Judging				
Tue, Mar 17, 2026	Project Display Board Setup at Huntington Place, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM.				
Wed, March 18, 2026	SEFMD Judging, all day, starting at 8:00 AM;				
Thur, March 19, 2026	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM STEAM SLAM activities all day				
Fri, March 20, 2026	Public Viewing/School Visitation, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM STEAM SLAM activities all day Exhibit Removal, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM				
Sat, March 21, 2026	Exhibit Removal 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM				
Sat, April 11, 2026	Michigan Science & Engineering Fair, 8:00 AM – 5: 30 PM Lawrence Technological University, Southfield				
May, 2026	International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, AZ				

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PROJECT DISPLAY & SAFETY (revised 9/3/25)

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 www.student.societyforscience.org.

Some areas to consider...

Project Size

Senior Division.		Elementary & Junior Division		
Depth	30 in or 76 cm	Depth	24 in or 61 cm	
Width	48 in or 122 cm	Width	36 in or 91 cm	
Height	96 in or 244 cm	Height	96 in or 244 cm	

- 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.
- 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. Please be aware the Scientific Review Committee and the Display & Safety Committee reserve the right to question any display or display item they may consider an area of concern.

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.o
- Hazardous items: weapons, poison, fire arms, ammunition, lasers, reloading devices, dry ice, 3-D printers, flammable materials.
- Sharp items: 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.
- Check the website for more information.

Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit

September, 2025 69th Annual Science Fair Volume 23, Issue 1 Kathy Kitzmann & Tim Fino, Fair Co-Directors



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.

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 The concepts of creating an project. hypothesis, initial developing prove/disprove experiment to the hypothesis, keeping a 'log book', and formulating conclusions form 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!

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 69th 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 2026 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.

Major Events Calendar

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

Dec 1, 2025 - SRC deadline; school affiliation deadline

Feb 20, 2026- All entries due ON LINE; any optional materials must also be submitted

Feb 23 - Teachers emailed notices

Mar 6 - Preliminary judging occurs of professional awards

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

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

Mar 19-20 (9AM-7PM)
Public Viewing
"STEAM SLAM"
activities

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), and Approval Form (1B). 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 online entry/registration form by February 20, 2026. 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. These items will also need to be submitted by February 20, 2026.

- (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 17. 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 18. 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 usually posted by midnight of judging day on the website.

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 <u>before</u> beginning your project. In addition, the student **must enter online** before submitting the forms.

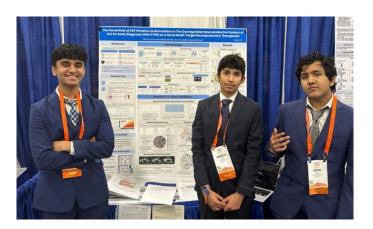
Senior Division students (grades 9-12) must submit these forms online by Dec. 1 in order to receive **pre-approval** from the Science Fair's SRC. Projects involving human subjects must first be approved by the school's IRB, followed by the fair SRC.

Junior Division students (Grades 6-8) should submit these completed forms online by February 20. 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.

MSEF & ISEF Grand Award winners -

Aryav Das, Samarth Dunakhe, & Arnav Sharma



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 2025 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 32nd Annual Michigan Science and The Engineering Fair (MSEF) will be held on April 11, 2026 at Lawrence Technological University. All Senior Division 1st place winners and some 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.

International Science Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be held in May, 2026, in Phoenix, AZ, and will be an in-person fair. Up to six individual Division Projects and one team project selected 2nd place and 3rd place winners will be selected at the Metro Detroit will be invited to participate in the Fair to compete at the ISEF. Over \$2 million in awards and scholarships will be presented.

Senior Grand Award Winners for 2025

The following students were Grand Award winners at the 2025 SEFMD and were able to participate in the inperson ISEF. (See the back page for ISEF results). We congratulate them for their success at the SEFMD!

Mara Hammoud and Lara Hammoud (grade 11), Detroit Country Day School, Cellular and Molecular Biology

Haodong (Ryan) Wei (grade 11). Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Robotics and Intelligent Machines

Joshveer Greewal (grade 12), Northville High School, Mathematics

Dean Jordan (grade 10), International Academy - West, Systems Software

Divya Nema (grade 10), Novi Senior High School, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Sunny Rong (grade 11), Greenhills

School, Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design

Ahyoung Song (grade 10), International Academy - East, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

The following students were Grand Award winners at the 2025 MSEF, held at Lawrence Tech University, and also participated in the ISEF.

Arnav Sharma, Aryav Das, and Samarth Dunakhe (grade 10), International Academy - East, Park Tudor School (Indiana), Arizona Prep High School (Arizona), Computational Biology and **Bioinformatics**

Nathan Ma and Samer Rahman (grade 11), Detroit Country Day School, **Embedded Systems**

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 preapprovals (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.

S cientific method **E** mpowering **Experience** A ccess for A ll R ecognition C reativity and C onfidence H ighest Integrity and Ethical **Behavior**



Our 'virtual' office is: SEFMD PO Box 158 Farmington, MI 48332-0158

Phone: (248) 471-9900

Fax: (248) 479-0383

E-mail: SF2026@sefmd.org

Website www.sefmd.org OR www.sciencefair.info

GRAND AWARD - Winning SCHOOLS (2022-2025)

A.L. Holmes Elementary/M.S. (2025) Allen Park High School (2022) Baker MS (2024) Bates Academy MS (2024) Boulan Park MS (2022, 2025) Canton High School (2024) Clague Middle School (2022) Clippert Academy M.S. (2022, 2024) Cranbrook Kingswood Upper (2022-2025) Dakota High School (2023) Davis Aerospace Technical H.S. (2022-2023) Dearborn Center for Math, Science, and Technology (2022) Detroit Country Day Upper School (2022-DPSCD Virtual School (2022) Foreign Language Immersion & Cultural School (2025)

Greenhills School (2024-2025) Huda School and Montessori (2023) Huron High School (2022-2024) Indus Center for Academic Excellence (2025)International Academy (2022-2023, 2025) Larson Middle School (2022-2025) Northville High School (2025) Novi Senior High School (2023, 2025) Oakland Christian M.S. (2025) Pasteur Middle School (2023) Pleasantview Elementary (2025) Plymouth Scholars M.S. (2022) Roeper Elementary School (2023, 2024) Star International Academy (2024) St. Patrick Elementary (2023) Tawheed Center School (2023) Troy High School (2022-2024)

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

Gompers Elementary/M.S. (2024)



The Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) was held in May, 2025, in Columbus, OH, 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.

Arnav Sharma, Aryav Das, & Samarth Dunakhe, 1st place (\$6000) category award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. Arnav, Aryav, and Samarth were the first three-person team from three different states to compete at both the MSEF and the ISEF!

Nathan Ma & Samer Rahman, 4^{th} place (\$600) category award in Embedded Systems.

Maya & Lara Hammoud, 3rd place (\$1200) category award in Cellular and Molecular Biology; \$1000 first place award from TUBITAK (the Scientific and Technological Research Institute of Turkiye).

Haodong (Ryan) Wei, 4th place (\$600) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines and the 2nd place (\$600) from the Patent and Trademark Office Society.

(The photo above includes the three students from the SW Michigan Science Fair in Kalamazoo: Suraj Dixit, Claire Tong, and Aanya Goel).

GRAND AWARD Winners - Elementary/Middle School

Gabrielle Clark, Candice Kassab, Adrianna Malone-Perkins, Mila Nguyen, Aaditya Singh, Varun Swamy and Brielle Turner were the students who won Grand Awards in the Elementary and Middle School Divisions at the 2025 SEFMD. Congratulations to all of these students! See you at the 2026 Fair!

"LEARNING TO THINK"

For over sixty 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, 628 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 2025-2026 FAIR

The 2026 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 17-20, 2026
Huntington Place (lower level), Detroit
Project setup Tues., March 17
Judging (final round) Wed., March 18
Public Viewing Thur.-Fri., March 19, 20
"STEAM SLAM" activities for 6th-8th graders
Tear down Fri., March 20 (5-7 PM)

Tear down Fri., March 20 (5-7 PM) Sat., March 21 (9-11 AM)

Michigan Science Fair Sat., April 11 (all day)
Lawrence Technological University, Southfield
International Fair May, 2026
Phoenix, Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona

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) .

Secretary: Tom MacFarlane

Clark Hill, PLC

Treasurer: Tim Fino

Mini/Micro Computer Applications

Co-Fair Director

Doug Allen Retired

James Boileau Ford Motor Co. (retired)
Scott Bowen Wayne State University
Kathy Kitzmann Retired (Detroit Mercy)

Co-Fair Director

Duncan Miller SpaceX

Mitchell Rohde
Bill Shelmon
Don Smolenski
Lori Stec
RohdeWay LLC
Toyota North Americas
Evonic Oil Additives
Beaumont Hospital

SEFMD OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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fax: (248) 479-0383

email: SF2026@SEFMD.org web site: http://www.sefmd.org

The 2026 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 69th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit, Inc. (SEFMD)



2025-2026

(Rev 8/21//2025, 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 2026, Detroit will host the 69th 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 2026 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 9, 2025, 7:30 PM (School affiliation), followed by Oct 16, 2025 (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.

Elementary, Middle and High School Competitions



Huntington Place Lower Level Detroit, MI March 17-20, 2026

Online Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 (11:59pm)

Setup: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (9am-7pm)

Judging: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (8am-5pm)

Public Viewing: Thur & Fri, March 19-20, 2026 (9am-5pm)

Project Removal: Friday, March 20, 2026 (5-7pm)

Michigan Science Fair: Saturday, April 11, 2026 (Lawrence Tech University)

International Science & Engineering Fair: May 2026, (Phoenix, AZ) Scientific Review Committee (SRC) forms due online by Dec. 1, 2025





The 2025-2026 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair, with optional online components.

Continuing this year: "STEAM SLAM"! Activities for 6th-8th graders. See the science fair website for details.

2025 Science Fair Highlights

The 68th Science and Engineering Fair of Metropolitan Detroit was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at Huntington Place in Detroit. There were 817 projects entered (654 individual and 163 team) from seven counties across southeastern Michigan. The 31st Michigan Science and Engineering Fair was hosted once again on Saturday, April 5, 2025, by Lawrence Technological University in Southfield and included 57 projects from across the state. During the week of May 11-17, 2025, the grand award winners from SEFMD and MSEF presented their projects at the 75th Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Columbus, OH, 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 2026:

SEFMD: March 16-20, 2026 (Judging day: Wed., 3/18/2026) at Huntington Place

MSEF: Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Lawrence Technological University



Regeneron ISEF Finalists from SEFMD, MSEF, and the Southwest Michigan Science & Engineering Fair

Top row: Suraj Dixit, Samarth Dunakhe, Ryan Wei, Arnav Sharma, Maya Hammoud, Aryav Das, Lara Hammoud

Middle Row: Samer Rahman, Nathan Ma, Claire Tong, Joshveer Grewal, Dean Jordan Bottom row: Aanya Goel, Janelle Yao, Ahyoung

Song, Divya Nema, Sunny Rong

(Suraj, Claire, Aanya, and Janelle were finalists from the Southwest Michigan Fair.)

MSEF Grand Award Winners

Arnav Sharma, Aryav Das, & Samarth Dunakhe (grade 10, International Academy – East, Park Tudor School (IN), and Arizona College Prep H.S.): "A Neuro-Spatial Discovery of ALS Biomarkers Using Graph Neural Networks with Applications to Multi-Target Drug Discovery." **ISEF Award**: 1st place (\$6,000) category award in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. Arnav, Aryav, and Samarth were the first three-person team **from three different states** to compete at both the MSEF and the ISEF!

Nathan Ma & Samer Rahman (grade 11, Detroit Country Day Upper School): "Using Per-Channel Energy Normalization to Enhance Accuracy in Machine Learning-Based Lung Sound Classification." **ISEF Award:** 4th place (\$600) category award in Embedded Systems.

SEFMD Senior Grand Award Winners

Maya Hammoud & Lara Hammoud (grade 11, Detroit Country Day Upper School): "Decoding ASXL3: A Novel Breakthrough in the Spectrum, Age of Onset, and Restorative Treatment of NDDs." ISEF Awards: 3rd place (\$1,200) category award in Cellular and Molecular Biology, and a \$1000 first place award from TUBITAK (the Scientific and Technological Research Institute of Turkiye).

Haodong (Ryan) Wei (grade 11, Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School): "LLM-Powered Multi-Agent Collaboration for Hexapod-Drone Systems in Task Planning and Optimization." **ISEF Awards:** 4th place (\$600) category award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines, and 2nd place (\$600) from the Patent and Trademark Office Society.

Joshveer Greewal (grade 12, Northville High School): "Enhancing Symbolic Regression and Universal Physics-Informed Neural Networks with Dimensional Analysis." (Category: Mathematics)

Dean Jordan (grade 10, International Academy - West): "Adapter-Enabled Multimodal Spiking Encoder/Decoder Neural Subnetwork Ensembles for Large-Scale Logical Neuromorphic Accelerators." (Category: Systems Software)

Divya Nema (grade 10, Novi Senior H.S.): "Enhancing Wetland Classification: The Role of Seasonal and Annual Imagery in Remote Sensing." (Category: Earth and Environmental Sciences)

Sunny Rong (grade 11, Greenhills School): "Harnessing Ocean Waves: A Sustainable Approach to Desalination." (Category: Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design)

Ahyoung Song (grade 10, International Academy - East): "Biomarker Identification for RYGB Outcomes." (Category: Computational Biology and Bioinformatics)

SEFMD Junior & Elementary Grand Award Winners

Gabrielle Clark (grade 8, Foreign Language & Immersion Cultural School): "Compost Ecology." **Candice Kassab** (grade 7, Oakland Christian M.S.): "Harmonic Hens."

Adrianna Malone-Perkins (grade 7, A.L. Holmes Elementary-M.S.): "Project Soil."

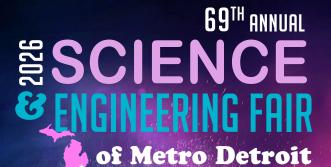
Mila Nguyen (grade 7, Boulan Park M.S.) "How Does the Exposure of Dry Ice Affect the Rate of Plant Growth?"

Aaditya Singh (grade 8, Larson M.S.): "How Effective are Mosquito Repellents on Mosquitoes?" **Varun Swamy** (grade 8, Indus Center for Academic Excellence) "Energi-Coin" **Brielle Turner** (grade 5, Pleasantview Elementary): "Colorful Plants."

THANK YOU to CODE313 and COMCAST for donating Dell Latitude Computers to all of the Grand Award winners and selected professional award winners at this year's SEFMD! In addition, CODE313 showcased a variety of interactive STEM activities for students during the public viewing days of the Fair.



Elementary, Middle and High School Competitions





Huntington Place Lower Level Detroit, MI March 17-20, 2026

Online Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 (11:59pm)

Setup: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (9am-7pm)

Judging: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (8am-5pm)

Public Viewing: Thur & Fri, March 19-20, 2026 (9am-5pm)

Project Removal: Friday, March 20, 2026 (5-7pm)

Michigan Science Fair: Saturday, April 11, 2026 (Lawrence Tech University)

International Science & Engineering Fair: May 2026, (Phoenix, AZ) <u>Scientific Review</u> Committee (SRC) forms due online by Dec. 1, 2025





The 2025-2026 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair, with optional online components.

Continuing this year: "STEAM SLAM"! Activities for 6th-8th graders. See the science fair website for details.



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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32ND ANNUAL Michigan 器 SCIENCE ENGINEERING FAIR



Lawrence Technological University Southfield, MI April 11, 2026 (all day)

Online Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 20, 2026* (11:59pm) International Science & Engineering Fair:

May 2026, Phoenix, AZ

*April 1, 2026 if entering via an affiliated regional fair





The 2026 MSEF will be an In-Person Fair, with optional online components.



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



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,

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69TH ANNUAL SE SCIENCE SENGINEERING FAIR

of Metro Detroit



Huntington Place Lower Level Detroit, MI March 17-20, 2026

- For the sixth 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 2025-2026 SEFMD will be an In-Person Fair, with optional online components.



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 | SF2026@sefmd.org Now Open to 3rd-5th 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.

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