



# GARSEF

GREATER AUSTIN REGIONAL  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

## Teacher Orientation: Elementary Division

### Leadership:

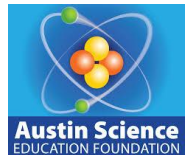
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[Elementary Division Handbook](#)

[www.AustinScience.org](http://www.AustinScience.org)

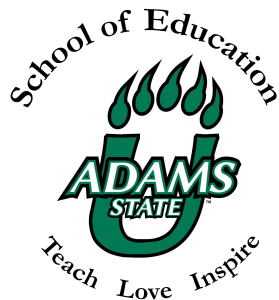


# GARSEF Teacher Orientations sponsored by

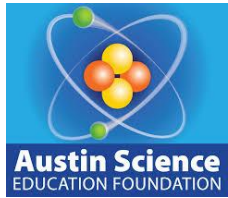
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# Austin Science Education Foundation

The Austin Science Education Foundation ([ASEF](#)) promotes students' knowledge of and involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math by preparing them and teachers for the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair, conducting the fair and supporting students selected to advance to subsequent competitions.

ASEF has two programs that support teachers and students in STEM research in middle and high schools.

- Student Mentor Program - Mentors work with students to assist with their science fair projects in middle and high schools new to the science fair (mainly Title I schools).
- Teacher Support Program - Former science teachers are paired with new teachers (middle and high schools) to support them throughout the science fair process.



[AustinScience.org/asef](https://AustinScience.org/asef)

# Elementary Fair Statistics

2022

## Elementary Division

- 98 Schools
- 941 Projects
- 1,080 Students

2023

## Elementary Division

- 131 Schools
- 1,236 Projects
- 1,537 Students

# What's New For 2024

- The 2024 Science Fair has changed its name.

## **Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair (GARSEF)**

- We have a new website: [AustinScience.org](https://AustinScience.org)
- All other aspects of the Elementary Division will be the same as the 2023 fair - last year.



[AustinScience.org](https://AustinScience.org)

# Maximum Project Entries

**Elementary Division** – Based on School’s Total Elementary Student Enrollment

Grades 3–6

0 – 499 Students	12 Projects Maximum per School
500 – 699 Students	14 Projects Maximum per School
700 – 899 Students	16 Projects Maximum per School
900 + Students	18 Projects Maximum per School

# Fees Information

## GARSEF

- Parking will be free of charge at the Palmer Events Center
- Registration fee will be \$25 per project
- Late registrations will not be accepted due to space limitations
- School sponsors will be able to download a Payment Invoice when online registration is complete



# Schedule Highlights

## School and Project Registration Opens

- December 1, 2023 at [AustinScience.org](https://www.austinscience.org)
- Please complete school registration by January 5, 2024

## Project Registration and Student Research Form Submission Deadline

- Thursday *January 25, 2024*

## Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair

- Check-in and Setup: Friday, February 23, 2024
- Judging and Awards: Saturday, February 24, 2024



[Schedule](#)



# Project Rules

Students may conduct a science project individually or in teams with up to three members.

**No Elementary Division student project can involve:**

- Firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- **Growing bacteria or mold of any type: NOT ALLOWED**
- Causing pain, suffering, sickness or death of an animal
- Breaking Local/State/Federal Law
- Production of ANY amount of consumable alcohol
- Any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student, other people or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials

# Display & Safety (Exhibit Hall Rules)

Project must fit on table top in a 48 inch wide x 16 inch deep space.

Project board should not be taller than 72 inches.

**The following will not be allowed to enter the Exhibit Hall:**

- No organic material, such as dirt, plants, animal parts, etc.
- No food, candy, fruit, vegetables, water or liquids
- No chemicals, crystals, etc.
- No sharp or dangerous objects

# Judging Criteria

Refer to sample [judging sheet](#).

Each project will receive a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ribbon.

The Elementary Fair is meant to encourage young students to become engaged in STEM; it is not competitive.

Students do not advance from GARSEF to another fair. Please make sure parents understand that students do not go on to TXSEF.

Score sheets will not be made available. Judges decisions are final.



[Judging Rubric](#)

# Registration Process Begins December 1<sup>st</sup>

## Registration Process Summary:

1. Register School with an estimated number of projects
2. Register Individual Projects on your school administration page
3. Submit an online Project Research Plan for each registered project
4. Make payment via the invoice on your school administration page

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Schools** are strongly encouraged to register their school and the estimated number of projects by Jan 5, 2024. *We can only guarantee spots for those schools who register by that date.*



[Sponsor Checklist](#)

# Registration Deadline

## By Thursday January 25, 2024

- Complete online registration at [www.austinscience.org](http://www.austinscience.org) for the school.
- Complete all individual online project registrations.
- Indicate which projects should be evaluated for special awards.
- Have students complete the online Project Research Form (NEW in 2023). This needs to be done for each project that is being submitted. We have a [template](#) on our website that you can use to help students prepare.
- Print out Invoice and follow instructions to pay.



[Sponsor Checklist](#)

# Registration Steps

- <https://austinscience.org/elementary/registration>