



31st ANNUAL
IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCIENCE FAIR RULES
FEBRUARY 29, 2012

1. All entries to the District Science Fair must come from sixth-twelfth grade students attending a school in the Irvine Unified School District. Entries must follow all Science Fair rules.
2. Each local school will select a specific number of projects to enter the District Science Fair.
3. Each entry for grade 6 must come from one individual student; there are no group entries at grade 6. **For grades 7-12, individual projects or group projects are allowed.** Group projects are accepted for groups of 2 to 4 students. Any group project requires that each student in the group must be responsible for significant contributions to the project. Group projects for middle school students may be from students in grades 7 and/or 8. For high school, the students in the groups may be either all from a single grade, or from any combination of students in grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12.
4. The work on the project should be done by the student. If any outside help or assistance is given, it must be described in the project notebook (example: advice from a local scientist, parental typing of the project notebook, help with building or setting up equipment, etc).
5. Only one space will be provided for each exhibit. Exhibits must have outside measurements **no greater than 3 feet wide by 2½ feet deep and 4 feet high.**
6. Exhibits must be free-standing and constructed of durable material such as peg-board or heavy cardboard. If electrical hook-ups are needed, arrangements must be made at least one week before the Science Fair.
7. Exhibits must include a project notebook. It should be neat, well-organized and displayed within the exhibit.
8. No live animals may be displayed. Consider using photographs or drawings instead. If live animals are used in experiments, humane practices must be observed. A Certification of Humane Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animals is required.
9. Dangerous chemicals, drugs, machinery, or highly flammable materials or open flames may not be displayed at the Science Fair. All electrical equipment must conform to standard electrical safety laws. The district reserves the right to reject projects which are unsafe or unsuitable for display.

10. Students entering projects in the District Fair should be aware that although care will be taken, damage could possibly occur to projects during the time they are on display. The district will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.
11. Projects may be entered in one of two categories:

Biological Sciences: Botany, agriculture, forestry, hydroponics, algae, plant genetics, photosynthesis. Zoology, animal genetics, animal ecology, physiology, animal physiology, anatomy, studies of invertebrates, birds, snakes, bacteriology, health, psychology, etc.

Physical Sciences: Physics, electronics, mathematics, computers, lasers, communications, optics, solid state. Chemistry, physical, organic, inorganic, materials, plastics, fuel, soil chemistry. Earth Science, space science, geology, geophysics, oceanography, geography, astronomy, astrophysics, etc.
12. Projects will be judged separately by grade level and by category; for example, 6th Grade Physical Science, 11th Grade Biological Science, etc. **Group projects will be judged in two separate categories: Grade 7-8 and Grades 9-12.**
13. Students will be responsible for the set up and take down of their projects at **University High School** as follows: set up - Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 3:00 – 6:30 PM; take down - Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 7:30 - 7:45 PM (after the Awards Ceremony).
14. Judging will take place on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Each student must be present for an oral interview with the judges – there are no assigned interview times! **Each student involved in a group project must also be present for the judging.**
15. No one may be in attendance during the judging except the student entering the project and the judges.
16. All decisions of the judges will be final. Entries will be judged in the following areas: knowledge of exhibit and related areas; accuracy displayed by the student; evidence of problem-solving through experimentation; and neatness and attractiveness of exhibit. **At the high school level the judges will give special attention to determining the degree of student involvement in projects performed as part of ongoing sponsored research in University or other laboratories.**
17. District Science Fair winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony scheduled for February 29, 2012, at 6:45 PM at the University High School gym.
18. Orange County Science and Engineering Fair Information:

All 6th through 8th grade Division Award Winners (Blue Ribbon) ONLY may register for OCSEF. All 9th through 12th grade students who participated in the IUSD Science Fair, whether they won a ribbon or not, may register for OCSEF. Both individual and group projects may be submitted for all grades. **Your science teacher must approve your entry to the Orange County Science & Engineering Fair.** Registration takes place on-line. For details and deadlines, please visit their website at: www.ocsef.org.