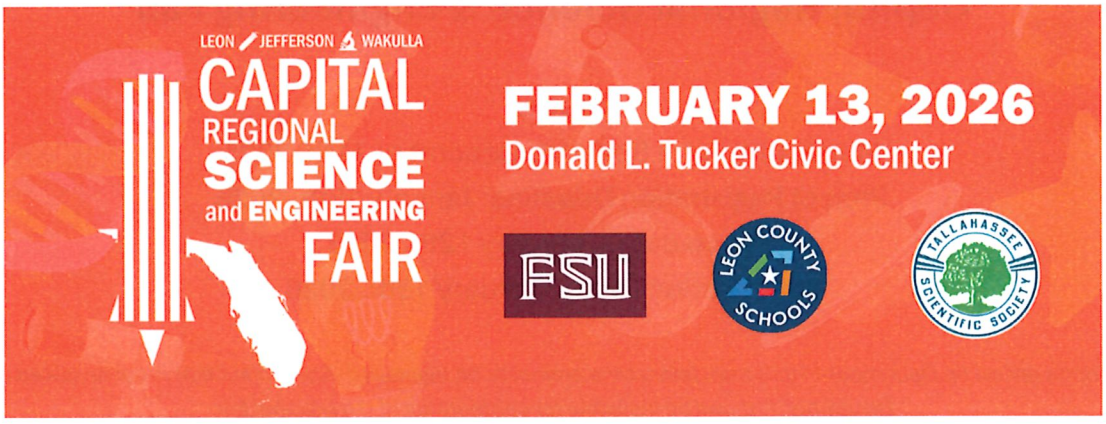
HAVE YOUR STUDENTS JOIN THE SCIENCE FAIR!



Join our Science Coordinator Meetings

Meeting dates are on 4:30 Thursdays on

September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11 (forms review)
January 8

at the Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee

Capital Regional Science & Engineering Fair

Dates:

Mandatory Form Review*: December 11th, 2025

Project Registration Deadline: January 16th, 2026

Set-up date: February 12th, 2026

Competition Date: February 13th, 2026

**Forms review on December 11th is mandatory for a project to be registered. Any project that is not reviewed on December 11th will be ineligible for competition at the regional fair.*

Location:

Donald L. Tucker Civic Center

505 W. Pensacola Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

State Science and Engineering Fair

Date:

March 31st, April 1st, April 2nd, 2026

Location:

Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida

701 West Lime Street

Lakeland, FL, 33815

www.thelakelandcenter.com

The 2026 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be held from **May 9-15** at the **Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.**

International Rules for Pre-Collegiate Research: Guideline for Science and Engineering Fairs

Additional Changes for 2025-2026

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBA) Rules (page 13-15)

Under Prohibited Studies, language was added to clarify the prion prohibition.

> 5. All studies involving the use of prions or purified prion-like proteins are prohibited. This includes studies working with amyloid-b (Ab), tau, a-synuclein, transactive response DNA-binding protein of 43 kDa, and amyloid fibrils.

Under Rules, #9 was added to clarify the prion rule.

> 9. Studies involving animals or animal tissues that have been bred to express prion-like proteins (such as C. elegans and Drosophila) are permissible if conducted in a BSL-2 laboratory setting at an RRI.

Tissues and Bodily Fluids Rules (page 16-17)

Page 16, under Rules

> 4. The culturing of samples from fresh/frozen tissues or body fluids or meat and meat by-products obtained from food stores, restaurants, or packing houses must be considered biosafety Level 1 studies and must be conducted in a BSL-1 laboratory or higher.
>
> 6. Human breast milk of unknown origin, unless certified free of HIV and Hepatitis C, and domestic unpasteurized animal milk are considered BSL-2. All other breast milk is considered BSL-1.

Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, or Devices Rules (page 18-19)

Under Rules, the following heading and text were added.

CHEMICALS

1. Projects using chemicals with a Globally Harmonized System (GHS)* safety rating of 1, in any of the classifications, must be conducted at an RRI.
2. Projects using chemicals for their intended purpose and with GHS safety ratings between 2 – 5 in any of the classifications, may be conducted in a home, school, or RRI setting.
3. All projects using chemicals NOT for their intended purpose and with GHS safety ratings between 2 – 5 in any of the classifications, must be conducted in a school or RRI laboratory setting. A chemical is NOT used for its intended purposes when it is mixed with other chemicals, changes temperature, larger volumes are used, etc.
4. All projects using chemicals in a school lab or home setting must be conducted under the following conditions:

a. Follow standard lab practices for chemical handling, safety, ventilation, and specific disposal procedures used as outlined in the Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

b. Discard or repurpose any cookware, utensils, and/or equipment used during the experimentation; they cannot be reused for regular household use.

c. Be conducted with a Direct Supervisor with proper training and knowledge of the chemicals being used.

*NOTE: Chemicals may also be rated on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) scale. This scale runs from 0-4, with 4 being the most hazardous. A GHS rating of 1 is equivalent to an NFPA of 4.

Finding your research question...

Keys to a good research question:

Focused
Testable
Interesting (to YOU!)
Feasible (with your resources)
Original

Step 1: Find your inspiration.

List all your interests: Hobbies, sports, games, food, animals, art, coding, gaming, etc.

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Step 2: Brainstorm Questions

Now, choose one area that interests you the most. Are there any problems or issues within that area? What are people talking about? What are people frustrated with? Happy with? Think of as many questions as you can and write them all down. Don't leave any out, don't "judge" any. Just keep writing.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Step 3: Start Narrowing your focus

Look through your list of questions.

Are there any that can't be answered by scientific research? Cross those out.

Are there any that are beyond the scope of your available resources? Cross those out.

Choose your top three of the remaining questions:

Write them here.

_____

_____

_____

Do a little research on each one of your top three questions. What are other researchers doing? What answers have they discovered?

Choose the question that interests you the most, and write it here.

_____

_____

Now, look closely at your question. Work with a mentor to revise your question until it is answerable with an experiment or engineering project that is within your capabilities, and has ONE independent variable.

Write your final question here:

_____

_____

Independent variable (what are you changing?)_____

Dependent variable (what are you measuring?) _____

Experimental groups: _____

Will you have a control group? _____

Constants (controlled variables) _____

Overview of ISEF Forms and Dates

The ISEF forms constitute written documentation of what will occur, or in some cases, has already occurred, in a research project. They are designed to provide the information that is needed to review the project to ensure compliance with the ISEF rules and with laws and regulations that apply to the project. The forms should be filled out and signed before any research takes place. (Only Forms 1C, 5B, 7, and the abstract are done after the research.) The dates of the signatures reflect when the approval or consent is given. Use MM/DD/YY format for all dates.

Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)

The checklist is provided so that the adult sponsor can review what information (and therefore which forms) must be provided. The date signed is the date that the sponsor first reviews the project plan before the experiment begins.

Student Checklist (1A)

On this page, the student outlines what the project is about. Items that especially need to be clear are the following:

#6: Any project conducted in a similar area of research as previous projects should be considered a continuation. If the project is a continuation, explain on Form 7 as completely as possible how the project will differ from previous experimentation because ONLY a new and different research project is allowed. The current year project must demonstrate significant progress.

#7: Explain when the actual experimental procedure (not the background literature review) will begin and end because ONLY a 12-month project that occurred within the last 18 months before this ISEF is allowed.

#8: Explain where the experimental research will be done: research institution, school, field, home. Universities, research facilities, and industrial settings will require additional documentation on Form 1C to explain what was done at each facility. (Note: Pathogens may NOT be cultured at home.)

#10: Attach a Research Plan and Project Summary, as outlined in the Research Plan and Summary Instructions, which describes the project in detail and answers all applicable questions.

Approval Form (1B)

These statements attest that each of these people (or committees) approves or consents

to this project. The dates should be signed as described below and are before experimentation unless otherwise indicated:

a) Student	Date they attest that they understand the possible risks, that they have read and will follow the rules, and that they will abide by the ethics statement.
b)Parent/Guardian	Date they consent to their child doing this project.
c) SRC Approval **BEFORE**	Date that the committee reviews this project BEFORE the experiment begins. Projects that must be preapproved are research in these areas: human participants, vertebrate animals, and PHBA's (potentially hazardous biological agents) including microorganisms, recombinant DNA, a human or animal tissue.
d) SRC Approval **AFTER**	This applies only to projects that needed preapproval by the SRC but were done at a research institution and were preapproved by that institution instead of the affiliated fair SRC. The date signed indicates when the approval for this project happened after it was completed. All documentation from the research institution showing approval of the project must be attached.
e) Final SRC Approval	All projects must be reviewed by the SRC after the experimentation is complete and shortly BEFORE competition in the affiliated fair. The signed shows the date that SRC gives final approval to this project.

Regulated Research Institution (1C)

This form is completed by the supervising adult, explains what the student researcher actually did and is signed after the project is completed. This form is only needed if the research was done at a research institution (university lab, for example) or in an industrial setting, but is not completed for work done at a high school.

Qualified Scientist (2)

On this page, the scientist explains what will be done to oversee this project. The qualified scientist (QS) and, if needed, the designated supervisor (DS), will sign with the date that they approve this project (before experimentation takes place).

Risk Assessment Form (3)

Required for projects using hazardous chemicals, activities or devices, and some PHBA's including protists, composting, coliform test kits, decomposition of vertebrate organisms and microbial fuel cells and must be completed and signed by the DS or QS prior to student experimentation.

Human Participant Form (4)

This page, along with the research plan, is submitted by the student researcher to explain

to the IRB how the safety and well being of the test subjects and the confidentiality of results will be ensured. The IRB reviews the project, checks the risk level and determines if written documentation of assent/consent/permission is required. All questions must be answered and boxes checked. Each IRB member signs with the date they approve this project. This review and the date signed must be **BEFORE** any experimentation takes place.

When required by the IRB, a written informed assent/consent/parental permission form is used to explain to the research participant and their parent/guardian the risks and benefits associated with participation. (See Human Informed Consent Form.) Questionnaires, sample tests, etc. MUST be given to the IRB and to the parent/guardian. If the participant wishes to participate and when required, the parent/guardian also agrees, they each sign the Informed Consent Form with the date that they approve. (**Before** experimentation begins).

Vertebrate Animal Form (5A)

This form is filled out by the student researcher when the experiment is conducted in a Non-Regulated Research Site such as home or school and describes the housing and care for the animals. The SRC reviews this document and determines the level of supervision required for the study and signs and dates BEFORE experimentation begins. The bottom of the form is filled out by the veterinarian and/or designated supervisor and is signed and dated when they approve this project with these housing conditions.
(**Before** experimentation begins.)

If there was any illness, unexpected weight loss or death of an animal during the experimentation, the cause must be investigated and a letter from the Qualified Scientist, Designated Supervisor, or a veterinarian which documents the situation and the results of the investigation must be attached.

Vertebrate Animal Form (5B)

This form is filled out by the Qualified Scientist when the research is conducted at a Regulated Research Institution and describes the study. A copy of the IACUC approval (not a letter from the Qualified Scientist or Principal Investigator) must be attached.

If there was any weight loss or death of an animal during the experimentation, the cause must be investigated and a letter from the Qualified Scientist, Designated Supervisor, or a veterinarian which documents the situation and the results of the investigation must be attached.

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (6A)

This form is filled out by the student researcher and is required for all research involving microorganisms, rDNA and fresh/frozen tissue (including primary cell lines, human and

other primate established cell lines and tissue cultures), blood, blood products, and body fluids. SRC/IACUC/IBC/RAC approval required **BEFORE** experimentation. The qualified scientist will sign and date. The SRC will choose one or more statements that describe the approval process for the study and will add the date that approval occurred.

Human & Vertebrate Animal Tissue (6B)

This form is filled out by the student researcher and explains the source of the tissue. The Qualified Scientist or Designated Supervisor signs and dates to document the source and handling of this tissue (**before** experimentation).

Continuation Projects Form (7)

If the current project is in a similar area of research as any previous project of the student or any team member, it is considered a continuation. Explain as completely as possible how the project is different from previous experimentation because ONLY a new and different research project is allowed. The date signed is the date the student researcher is certifying that this information is correct.

Abstract

The abstract is a summary of the study and is written after experimentation. ISEF finalists must use the on-line system. Regional and local fairs may use this PDF version of the ISEF abstract.

Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)

This completed form is required for ALL projects.

To be completed by the Adult Sponsor in collaboration with the student researcher(s):

Student's Name(s): _____

Project Title: _____

1. ☐ I have reviewed the ISEF Rules and Guidelines, including the science fair ethics statement.

2. ☐ I have reviewed the student's completed Student Checklist (1A) and Research Plan/Project Summary.

3. ☐ I have worked with the student and we have discussed the possible risks involved in the project.

4. ☐ The project involves one or more of the following and requires prior approval by an SRC, IRB, IACUC or IBC:
   - ☐ Humans
   - ☐ Vertebrate Animals
   - ☐ Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents
     - ☐ Microorganisms ☐ rDNA ☐ Tissues

5. ☐ Items to be completed for **ALL PROJECTS**
   - ☐ Adult Sponsor Checklist (1)
   - ☐ Student Checklist (1A)
   - ☐ Research Plan/Project Summary
   - ☐ Approval Form (1B)
   - ☐ Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form (1C) (when applicable; after completed experiment)
   - ☐ Continuation/Research Progression Form (7) (when applicable)

Additional forms required if the project includes the use of one or more of the following (check all that apply):

☐ **Humans,** including student designed inventions/prototypes. (Requires prior approval by an Institutional Review Board (IRB); see full text of the rules.)
- ☐ Human Participants Form (4) or appropriate Institutional IRB documentation
- ☐ Sample of Informed Consent Form (when applicable and/or required by the IRB)
- ☐ Qualified Scientist Form (2) (when applicable and/or required by the IRB)

☐ **Vertebrate Animals** (Requires prior approval, see full text of the rules.)
- ☐ Vertebrate Animal Form (5A) - for projects conducted in a school/home/field research site (SRC prior approval required
- ☐ Vertebrate Animal Form (5B) - for projects conducted at a Regulated Research Institution. (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval required prior experimentation.)
- ☐ Qualified Scientist Form (2) (Required for all vertebrate animal projects at a regulated research site or when applicable)

☐ **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents** (Requires prior approval by SRC, IACUC or IBC, see full text of the rules.)
- ☐ Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment Form (6A)
- ☐ Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form (6B) - to be completed in addition to Form 6A when project involves the use of fresh or frozen tissue, primary cell cultures, blood, blood products and body fluids.
- ☐ Qualified Scientist Form (2) (when applicable)
- ☐ The following are exempt from prior review but require a Risk Assessment Form 3: projects involving protists, archae and similar microorganisms, for projects using manure for composting, fuel production or other non-culturing experiments, projects using color change coliform water test kits, microbial fuel cells, and projects involving decomposing vertebrate organisms.

☐ **Hazardous Chemicals, Activities and Devices** (No SRC prior approval required, see full text of the rules.)
- ☐ Risk Assessment Form (3)
- ☐ Qualified Scientist Form (2) (required for projects involving DEA-controlled substances or when applicable)

☐ **Other**
- ☐ Risk Assessment Form (3)

☐ **I attest to the information checked above and that I have read and agree to abide by the science fair ethics statement.**

Adult Sponsor's Printed Name	Signature	Date of Review (mm/dd/yy)
Phone	Email	

Student Checklist (1A)

This form is required for ALL projects.

1. a. Student/Team Leader: _____ Grade: _____

   Email: _____ Phone: _____

   b. Team Member: _____ c. Team Member: _____

2. Title of Project: _____

   _____

3. School: _____ School Phone: _____
   (if multiple schools, list of the team leader or list all schools).

   School Address: _____

   _____

4. Adult Sponsor: _____ Phone/Email: _____

5. Does this project need SRC/IRB/IACUC or other pre-approval? ☐ Yes ☐ No Tentative start date: _____

6. Is this a continuation/progression from a previous year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   a. If yes, attach the previous year's ☐ Abstract **and** ☐ Research Plan/Project Summary
   b. Explain how this project is new and different from previous years on
   ☐ Continuation/Research Progression Form (7); include forms for all previous years

7. This year's experimentation/data collection (include forms for all previous years):

   _____ _____

   Actual Start Date: (mm/dd/yy) End Date: (mm/dd/yy)

8. Where will you conduct your experimentation? (check all that apply)

   ☐ Research Institution ☐ School ☐ Field ☐ Home ☐ Other: _____

9. Source of Data:

   ☐ Collected self/mentor ☐ Other List all URL(s) in Research Plan: _____

10. List the name and address of all non-home and non-school work site(s), whether you worked there virtually or on-site:

Name _____ _____

Address: _____ _____

_____ _____

Phone/email _____ _____

11. **Complete a Research Plan/Project Summary following the Research Plan/Project Summary instructions and attach to this form.**

12. **An abstract is required for all projects after experimentation.**

Approval Form (1B)

A completed form is required for each student, including all team members.

1. To Be Completed by Student and Parent

a. Student Acknowledgment:

- I understand the risks and possible dangers to me of the proposed research plan.
- I have read the ISEF Rules and Guidelines and will adhere to all International Rules when conducting this research.
- I have read and agree to uphold all aspects of the student researcher ethics statement.

Student researchers are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. Such practices include but are not limited to plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own, and fabrication of data. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition in affiliated fairs and ISEF.

Student's Printed Name	Signature	Date Acknowledged (mm/dd/yy) (Must be prior to experimentation.)

b. Parent/Guardian Approval: I have read and understand the risks and possible dangers involved in the **Research Plan/Project Summary**. I consent to my child participating in this research.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name	Signature	Date Acknowledged (mm/dd/yy) (Must be prior to experimentation.)

2. To be completed by the local or affiliated Fair SRC

(Required for projects requiring prior SRC/IRB APPROVAL. Sign 2a or 2b as appropriate.)

a. Required for projects that need prior SRC/IRB approval BEFORE experimentation (humans, vertebrates or potentially hazardous biological agents).

The SRC/IRB has carefully studied this project's **Research Plan/Project Summary** and all the required forms are included. My signature indicates approval of the **Research Plan/Project Summary** before the student begins experimentation.

SRC/IRB Chair's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy) (Must be prior to experimentation.)

OR

b. Required for research conducted at all Regulated Research Institutions with no prior fair SRC/IRB approval.

This project was conducted at a regulated research institution (**not home or high school, etc.**), was reviewed and approved by the proper institutional board before experimentation and complies with the ISEF Rules. **Attach (1C) and any required institutional approvals (e.g. IACUC, IRB).**

SRC Chair's Printed Name

Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yy) (May be after experimentation)

3. Final ISEF Affiliated Fair SRC Approval (Required for ALL Projects)

SRC Approval After Experimentation and Before Competition at Regional/State/National Fair

I certify that this project adheres to the approved **Research Plan/Project Summary** and complies with all ISEF Rules.

Regional SRC Chair's Printed Name	Signature	Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)
State/National SRC Chair's Printed Name *(where applicable)*	Signature	Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form (1C)

This form must be completed AFTER experimentation by the adult supervising the student research either virtually or on site, conducted in a regulated research institution, industrial setting or any work site other than home, school or field.

Student's Name(s) _____

Title of Project _____

To be completed by the Supervising Adult in the Setting (NOT the Student(s)) after experimentation:
(Responses must be on the form as it is required to be displayed at student's project booth; please do not print double-sided.)

Research was supported at my work site:

1. The student experience at your work site included:
   - Used equipment and/or received data ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Minimal interaction with our group ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Mentored by me or someone else from our group ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Worked as a sub-set of our ongoing research ☐ Yes ☐ No
   - Had an independent project from our group ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Please describe the independent and/or creative work done by the student in any phase of the project, but particularly in developing the hypotheses or engineering goals of the project

3. Detail the student's role in conducting the research (e.g. data collection, specific procedures performed). Differentiate what the student observed and the student actually did.

4. Provide details regarding data provided to the student:

5. Did the student(s) work on the project as part of a group? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   Were there other high school students present? If yes, please list the students names and describe how their work was related or different from the work of this projecct.

6. If this project is under a grant and needs to be acknolwedged, please list the grant statement here.

I attest that the student has conducted the work as indicated above and that any required review and approval by institutional regulatory board (IRB/IACUC/IBC) has been obtained. Copies are attached if applicable. I further acknowledge that the student will be presenting this work publicly in competition and I have communicated with the student research regarding any requirements for my review and/or restrictions of what is publicized.

Direct Supervisor's Printed Name	Signature	Title
Institution		Date Signed (must be after experimentation) (mm/dd/yy)
Education/Experience/Training		Email/Phone

Research Plan/Project Summary Instructions

A complete Research Plan/Project Summary is required for ALL projects and must accompany Student Checklist (1A).

1. The Research Plan is to be written prior to experimentation following the instructions below to detail the rationale, research question(s), methodology, and risk assessment of the proposed research.
2. If changes are made during the research prior to competing in an affiliated fair, such changes can be added to the original research plan as an addendum, recognizing that some changes may require returning to the IRB or SRC for appropriate review and approvals. If no additional approvals are required, this addendum serves as a project summary to explain research that was conducted.
3. If no changes are made from the original research plan, no project summary is required.
    - Some studies, such as an engineering design or mathematics projects, will be less detailed in the initial project plan and will change through the course of research. If such changes occur, a project summary that explains what was done is required and can be appended to the original research plan.
    - The Research Plan/Project Summary should include the following:
        a. **RATIONALE:** Include a brief synopsis of the background that supports your research problem and explain why this research is important and if applicable, explain any societal impact of your research.
        b. **RESEARCH QUESTION(S), HYPOTHESIS(ES), ENGINEERING GOAL(S), EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** How is this based on the rationale described above?
        c. Describe the following in detail:
            - **List of materials:**
            - **Procedures:** Detail all procedures and experimental design including list of materials, methods for data collection, and when applicable, the source of data used. Describe your project delineating what you will do and what will be done by your mentor.
            - **Risk and Safety:** Identify any potential risks and safety precautions needed.
            - **Data Analysis:** Describe the procedures you will use to analyze the data/results.
        d. **BIBLIOGRAPHY:** List major references (e.g. science journal articles, books, internet sites) from your literature review. If you plan to use vertebrate animals, one of these references must be an animal care reference.

Items 1–4 below are subject-specific guidelines for additional items to be included in your research plan/project summary as applicable.

1. Human participants research:

a. **Participants:** Describe age range, gender, racial/ethnic composition of participants. Identify vulnerable populations (minors, pregnant women, prisoners, mentally disabled or economically disadvantaged).

b. **Recruitment:** Where will you find your participants? How will they be invited to participate?

c. **Methods:** What will participants be asked to do? Will you use any surveys, questionnaires or tests? If yes and not your own, how did you obtain? Did it require permissions? If so, explain. What is the frequency and length of time involved for each subject?

d. **Risk Assessment:** What are the risks or potential discomforts (physical, psychological, time involved, social, legal, etc.) to participants? How will you minimize risks? List any benefits to society or participants.

e. **Protection of Privacy:** Will identifiable information (e.g., names, telephone numbers, birth dates, email addresses) be collected? Will data be confidential/anonymous? If anonymous, describe how the data will be collected. If not anonymous, what procedures are in place for safeguarding confidentiality? Where will data be stored? Who will have access to the data? What will you do with the data after the study?

f. **Informed Consent Process:** Describe how you will inform participants about the purpose of the study, what they will be asked to do, that their participation is voluntary and they have the right to stop at any time.

2. Vertebrate animal research:

a. Discuss potential ALTERNATIVES to vertebrate animal use and present justification for use of vertebrates.
b. Explain potential impact or contribution of this research.
c. Detail all procedures to be used, including methods used to minimize potential discomfort, distress, pain and injury to the animals and detailed chemical concentrations and drug dosages.
d. Detail animal numbers, species, strain, sex, age, source, etc., include justification of the numbers planned.
e. Describe housing and oversight of daily care.
f. Discuss disposition of the animals at the end of the study.

3. Potentially hazardous biological agents research:

a. Give source of the organism and describe BSL assessment process and BSL determination.

b. Detail safety precautions and discuss methods of disposal.

4. Hazardous chemicals, activities & devices:

a. Describe Risk Assessment process, supervision, safety precautions and specific methods of disposal.

b. Safety Data Sheets are not necessary to submit with paperwork.

Qualified Scientist Form (2)

May be required for research involving human participants, vertebrate animals, potentially hazardous biological agents, and hazardous substances and devices. Must be completed and signed before the start of student experimentation.

Student's Name(s) _____

Title of Project _____

To be completed by the Qualified Scientist:

Scientist Name: _____

Educational Background: _____ Degree(s): _____

Experience/Training as relates to the student's area of research:

_____ _____

Position/Institution: Email/Phone:

1. Have you reviewed the ISEF rules relevant to this project and the science fair ethics statement relevant to this project? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Will any of the following be used?
   a. Human participants ☐ Yes ☐ No
   b. Animals ☐ Yes ☐ No
   c. Potentially hazardous biological agents (microorganisms, rDNA and tissues, including blood and blood products) ☐ Yes ☐ No
   d. Hazardous substances and devices ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Will this study be a sub-set of a larger study? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Will you directly supervise the student? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Did you provide any data; if yes, please provide source or describe ☐ Yes ☐ No

To be completed by the Qualified Scientist:

I certify that I have reviewed and approved the Research Plan/Project Summary prior to the start of the experimentation. If the student or Direct Supervisor is not trained in the necessary procedures, I will ensure her/his training. I will provide advice and supervision during the research. I have a working knowledge of the techniques to be used by the student in the Research Plan/Project Summary.

_____
Qualified Scientist's Printed Name

_____ _____
Signature Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

To be completed by the Direct Supervisor when the Qualified Scientist cannot directly supervise.

I certify that I have reviewed the Research Plan/Project Summary and have been trained in the techniques to be used by this student, and I will provide direct supervision.

_____
Direct Supervisor's Printed Name

_____
Experience/Training of Designated Supervisor

_____ _____
Signature Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

_____ _____
Phone email

Risk Assessment Form (3)

Must be completed before experimentation; recommended for all projects. May be required for projects involving Human Participants, Hazardous Chemicals, Materials or Devices or Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents.

Student's Name(s) _____

Title of Project _____

_____

To be completed by the Student Researcher(s) in collaboration with Direct Supervisor/Qualified Scientist: (All questions must be answered; additional page(s) may be attached.)

1. Identify and assess the risks and hazards involved in this project.

2. a) List all hazardous chemicals, activities or devices to be used; b) identify and list all microorganisms to be used that are exempt from pre-approval (see Potentially Hazardous Biological Agent rules).

3. Describe the safety precautions and procedures that will be used to reduce the risks. If you conducted field work, include permits received and safety plans, as applicable.

4. Describe the specific disposal procedures that will be used (when applicable).

5. List the source(s) of safety information.

To be completed and signed by the Direct Supervisor (or Qualified Scientist, when applicable):
I agree with the risk assessment and safety precautions and procedures described above. I certify that I have reviewed the Research Plan/Project Summary and the International Rules, including the science fair ethics statement and will provide direct supervision.

Direct Supervisor's Printed Name	Signature	Date of Review (mm/dd/yy)

Experience/Training as relates to the student's area of research

Position/Institution	Phone or email contact information

Human Participants Form (4)

Required for all research involving human participants not at a Regulated Research Institution. If at a Regulated Research Institution, use institutional approval forms for documentation of prior review and approval. (IRB approval required before recruitment or data collection.)

Student's Name(s) _____ Title of Project _____

Adult Sponsor _____ Phone/Email _____

MUST BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT RESEARCHER(S) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADULT SPONSOR/DIRECT SUPERVISOR/QUALIFIED SCIENTIST:

1. ☐ I have submitted my Research Plan/Project Summary which addresses ALL areas indicated in the Human Participants Section of the Research Plan/Project Summary Instructions.
2. ☐ I have attached any surveys or questionnaires I will be using in my project or other documents provided to human participants.
   ☐ Any published instrument(s) used was /were legally obtained.
3. ☐ I have attached an informed consent that I would use if required by the IRB.
4. ☐ Yes ☐ No Are you working with a Qualified Scientist? If yes, attach the Qualified Scientist Form 2.

BELOW – IRB USE ONLY

MUST be completed by Institutional Review Board (IRB) after review of the research plan. All questions must be answered for the approval to be valid. (If not approved, return paperwork to the student with instructions for modifications.)

☐ Approved with Full Committee Review (3 signatures required) and the following conditions: **(All 6 must be answered)**

1. Risk Level (check one) : ☐ Minimal Risk ☐ More than Minimal Risk (a risk assessment form 3 is required).
2. Qualified Scientist (QS) Required (Form 2): ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Risk Assessment Required (Form 3): ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Written Minor Assent and written parental permission required for minor participants: ☐ Yes ☐ Not applicable (No minors in this study)
5. Written Informed Consent required for participants 18 years or older: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable (No participants 18 yrs or older in this study)
6. Facility for "protected groups" used, written approval has been obtained: ☐ Yes ☐ No

IRB SIGNATURES (All 3 signatures required) None of these individuals may be the adult sponsor, direct supervisor, qualified scientist or related to (e.g., mother, father of) the student (conflict of interest).

I attest that I have reviewed the student's project, that the checkboxes above have been completed to indicate the IRB determination and that I agree with the decisions above.

Medical or Mental Health Professional (a psychologist, medical doctor, licensed social worker, licensed clinical professional counselor, physician's assistant, doctor of pharmacy, or registered nurse) with expertise related to this project.

Print Name below	Degree/Professional License	
Signature	Date (prior to experimentation)	Email

Educator

Print Name below	Degree/Professional License	
Signature	Date (prior to experimentation)	Email

School Administrator

Print Name below	Degree/Professional License	
Signature	Date (prior to experimentation)	Email

Human Informed Consent Form

Instructions to the Student Researcher(s): An informed consent/assent/permission form should be developed in consultation with the Adult Sponsor, Direct Supervisor or Qualified Scientist.
This form is used to provide information to the research participant (or parent/guardian) and to document written informed consent, minor assent, and/or parental permission.

- When written documentation is required, the researcher keeps the original, signed form.
- Students may use this sample form or may copy ALL elements of it into a new document.

If the form is serving to document parental permission, a copy of any survey or questionnaire must be attached.

Student Researcher(s): _____

Title of Project: _____

I am asking for your voluntary participation in my science fair project. Please read the following information about the project. If you would like to participate, please sign in the appropriate area below.

Purpose of the project:

If you participate, you will be asked to:

Time required for participation:

Potential Risks of Study:

Benefits:

How confidentiality will be maintained:

If you have any questions about this study, feel free to contact:

Adult Sponsor/QS/DS: _____ Phone/email: _____

Voluntary Participation:

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide not to participate there will not be negative consequences. Please be aware that if you decide to participate, you may stop participating at any time and you may decide not to answer any specific question.

By signing this form I am attesting that I have read and understand the information above and I freely give my consent/assent to participate or permission for my child to participate.

Adult Informed Consent or Minor Assent

Date Reviewed & Signed: _____ (mm/dd/yy)

_____ _____

Research Participant Printed Name: Signature:

Parental/Guardian Permission (if applicable)

Date Reviewed & Signed: _____ (mm/dd/yy)

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: Signature:

Vertebrate Animal Form (5A)

Required for all research involving vertebrate animals that is conducted in a school/home/field research site. (SRC approval required before experimentation.)

Student's Name(s)_____

Title of Project_____

_____

To be completed by Student Researcher:

1. Common name (or Genus, species) and number of animals used.

2. Describe completely the housing and husbandry to be provided. Include the cage/pen size, number of animals per cage, environment, bedding, type of food, frequency of food and water, how often animal is observed, etc. Add an additional page as necessary.

3. What will happen to the animals after experimentation?

4. Attach a copy of wildlife licenses or approval forms, as applicable

5. The ISEF Vertebrate Animal Rules require that any death, illness or unexpected weight loss be investigated and documented by a letter from the qualified scientist, direct supervisor or a veterinarian. If applicable, attach this letter with this form when submitting your paperwork to the SRC prior to competition.

To be completed by Local or Affiliate Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) BEFORE experimentation.

Level of Supervision Required for agricultural, behavioral or nutritional studies (select one):

- ☐ Direct Supervisor REQUIRED. Please have applicable person sign below.
- ☐ Veterinarian and Direct Supervisor REQUIRED. Please have applicable persons sign below.
- ☐ Veterinarian, Direct Supervisor and Qualified Scientist REQUIRED. Please have applicable persons sign below and have the Qualified Scientist complete Form (2).

The SRC has carefully reviewed this study and finds it is an appropriate study that may be conducted in a non-regulated research site.
Local or Affiliate Fair SRC Pre-Approval Signature:

SRC Chair Printed Name	Signature	Date of Approval (must be prior to experimentation) (mm/dd/yy)

To be completed by Veterinarian:

- ☐ I have reviewed this research and animal husbandry with the student before the start of experimentation.
- ☐ I have approved the use and dosages of prescription drugs and/or nutritional supplements.
- ☐ I will provide veterinary medical and nursing care in case of illness or emergency. (Fees may apply.)

Printed Name	Email/Phone

Signature	Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

To be completed by Direct Supervisor or Qualified Scientist when applicable:

- ☐ I have reviewed this research and animal husbandry with the student before the start of experimentation and I accept primary responsibility for the care and handling of the animals in this project.
- ☐ I will directly supervise the experiment.

Printed Name	Email/Phone

Signature	Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy)

Vertebrate Animal Form (5B)

Required for all research involving vertebrate animals that is conducted in at a Regulated Research Institution. (IACUC approval required before experimentation. Form must be completed and signed after experimentation.)

Student's Name(s) _____

Title of Project _____

Title and Protocol Number of IACUC Approved Project _____

To be completed by Qualified Scientist or Principal Investigator:

1. Species of animals used: _____ Number of animals used: _____

2. Describe, in detail, the role of the student in this project: animal procedures and related equipment that were involved, oversight provided and safety precautions employed. (Attach extra pages if necessary.)

3. Was there any weight loss or death of any animal? If yes, attach a letter obtained from the qualified scientist, direct supervisor or a veterinarian documenting the situation and the results of the investigation.

4. Did the student's project also involve the use of tissues?
   - ☐ No
   - ☐ Yes; complete Forms 6A and 6B

5. What laboratory training, including dates, was provided to the student?

6. Attach a copy of the Regulated Research Institution IACUC Approval. A letter from the Qualified Scientist or Principal Investigator is not sufficient**.**

Qualified Scientist/Principal Investigator	
Printed Name	
Signature	Date (mm/dd/yy)

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment Form (6A)

Required for research involving microorganisms, rDNA, fresh/frozen tissue (including primary cell lines, human and other primate established cell lines and tissue cultures), blood, blood products and body fluids. SRC/IACUC/IBC approval required before experimentation.

Student's Name(s)_____

Title of Project_____

To be completed by the QUALIFIED SCIENTIST/DIRECT SUPERVISOR in collaboration with the student researcher(s). All questions are applicable and must be answered; additional page(s) may be attached.

SECTION 1: PROJECT ASSESSMENT

1. Identify potentially hazardous biological agents to be used in this experiment. Include the strain, source, quantity and the biosafety level risk group of each microorganism.

2. Describe the biosafety level of the experimentation site.

3. Describe the procedures that will be used to minimize risk (personal protective equipment, safety cabinet type, etc.).

4. Describe the method of disposal of all cultured materials and other potentially hazardous biological agents. If BSL-2 laboratory, not at an RRI, include the **BSL-2 checklist**

SECTION 2: TRAINING

1. What training will the student receive for this project?

2. Experience/training of Direct Supervisor as it relates to the student's area of research (if applicable).

SECTION 3: For ALL CELL LINES, MICROORGANISMS AND TISSUES – To be completed by the QUALIFIED SCIENTIST or Direct Supervisor - Check the appropriate box(es) below:

☐ Experimentation on the microorganisms/cell lines/tissues to be used in this study will NOT be conducted at a Regulated Research Institution, but will be conducted at a (check one) ☐BSL-1 or ☐BSL-2 laboratory (include a copy of the **checklist for BSL-2**. [This study has been reviewed by the local SRC and the procedures have been approved prior to experimentation.]

☐ This project involves the culturing of Multi Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs). It has been conducted in a BSL-2 or higher lab at a Regulated Research Institution and the required IBC pre-approval is attached.
Date of IBC approval _____

☐ Experimentation on the microorganisms/cell lines/tissues to be used in this study will be conducted at a Regulated Research Institution and was approved by the appropriate institutional board prior to experimentation; institutional approval forms are attached.
Origin of cell lines:_____ Date of IBC/IACUC approval _____

☐ Experimentation on the microorganisms/cell lines/tissues to be used will be conducted at a Regulated Research Institution, which does not require IACUC or IBC approval for this type of study.

CERTIFICATION – To be SIGNED by the QUALIFIED SCIENTIST or Direct Supervisor

The QS/DS has seen this project's research plan and supporting documentation and acknowledges the accuracy of the information provided above. This study has been approved as a (check one) ☐BSL-1/ ☐BSL-2 study, and will be conducted in an appropriate laboratory.

QS/DS Printed Name Signature Date of review (mm/dd/yy)

Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form (6B)

Required for research involving fresh/frozen tissue (including primary cell lines, human and other primate established cell lines and tissue cultures), blood, blood products and body fluids. If the research involves living organisms please ensure that the proper human or animal forms are completed. All projects using any tissue listed above must also complete Form 6A.

Student's Name(s) _____

Title of Project _____

To be completed by Student Researcher(s):

1. What vertebrate animal tissue will be used in this study? Check all that apply.
   - ☐ Fresh or frozen tissue sample
   - ☐ Fresh organ or other body part
   - ☐ Blood
   - ☐ Body fluids
   - ☐ Primary cell/tissue cultures
   - ☐ Human or other primate established cell lines

2. Where will the above tissue(s) be obtained? If using an established cell line include source and catalog number.

3. If the tissue will be obtained from a vertebrate animal study conducted at a research institution attach a copy of the IACUC certification with the name of the research institution, the title of the study, the IACUC approval number and a copy of IACUC approval. If human tissues were used, attach a copy of IRB approval.

To be completed by the Qualified Scientist or Direct Supervisor:

☐ I verify that the student will work solely with de-identified organs, tissues, cultures or cells that will be supplied to him/her by myself or qualified personnel from the laboratory; and that if vertebrate animals were euthanized they were euthanized for a purpose other than the student's research.

AND/OR

☐ I certify that the blood, blood products, tissues or body fluids in this project will be handled in accordance with the standards and guidance set forth in U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29CFR, Subpart Z, 1910.1030 - Blood Borne Pathogens.

Printed Name	Signature	Date of Approval (mm/dd/yy) (Must be prior to experimentation.)

Title	Phone/Email

Institution

Continuation/Research Progression Projects Form (7)

Required for projects that are a continuation/progression in the same field of study as a previous project. This form must be accompanied by the previous year's abstract and Research Plan/Project Summary.

Student's Name(s) _____

To be completed by Student Researcher: List all components of the current project that make it new and different from previous research.

Components	Current Research Project	Previous Research Project: Year: _____
1. Title		
2. Change in goal/ purpose/objective		
3. Changes in methodology		
4. Variable studied		
5. Additional changes		

Attached are:

☐ Previous year's Abstract and Research Plan/Project Summary, Year _____

☐ Previous Form 7s, if applicable.

I hereby certify that the above information is correct and that the current year Abstract & Certification and project display board properly reflect work done only in the current year.

Student's Printed Name(s)	Signature	Date of Signature (mm/dd/yy)

INSTRUCTIONS
SSEF of Florida Abstract & Certification

After finishing research and experimentation, you are required to write a (maximum) 250 word abstract. This should be written on the Official Abstract and Certification Form as provided by the State Science and Engineering of Florida.

The top box of the Abstract should include:

- Complete **TITLE OF THE PROJECT** – must match the Title on the Entry Form and Display
- **Student Name(s)** – *all members of a Team must be listed.*
- **School, City, State**

Select the Category – these are the **Categories for the SSEF of Florida.**

Completing the Abstract:
Abstracts are limited to a maximum 250 words and must fit within the predefined area.
The abstract should include the following:

a) Purpose of the research
b) Procedure
c) Data
d) Conclusions

It may also include any possible applications. Only minimal reference to previous work may be included. An abstract **must <u>not</u> include the following:**

a) Acknowledgements (including naming the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working) or self-promotions and external endorsements
b) Any work or procedures done by the mentor

Completing the CERTIFICATION:
At the bottom of the Abstract & Certification form there are 7 questions. Read each carefully and answer appropriately. The Scientific Review Committee (SRC) will review and approve the abstract and answers to these questions.

The abstract will be CERTIFIED by the SRC and you will receive the certified copy before setting up your project. Allow space on or in front of your project to Display the CERTIFIED ABSTRACT.

Continued

TIPS ON WRITING THE ABSTRACT

A project abstract is a brief paragraph or two (limited to 250 words or 1800 characters) highlighting and/or summarizing the major points or most important ideas about your project. An abstract allows judges to quickly determine the nature and scope of the project.

- Emphasize these aspects: purpose/goals, methods (procedures used), data summary or analysis, and conclusions.
- Focus only on the current year's research.
- Omit details and discussions.
- Use the **past tense** when describing what was done. However, where appropriate use active verbs rather than passive verbs.
- Use short sentences but vary the sentence structure.
- Use complete sentences. Don't abbreviate by omitting articles or small words in order to save space.
- Avoid jargon and use appropriate scientific language.
- Use concise syntax, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

AVOID A REWRITE

- Focus on what you did, not on the work of your mentor or the laboratory in which you did your work.
- Do NOT include acknowledgements, self-promotion or external endorsements. Do NOT name the research institution and/or mentor with which you were working and avoid mentioning awards or honors (including achieving a patent) in the body of the abstract.
- Be sure to emphasize the current year's research. A continuation project should only make a brief mention of previous years' research (no more than a sentence or two).

71st State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida
OFFICIAL ABSTRACT AND CERTIFICATION

71st State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida

March 31-April 2, 2026 RP Funding Center, Lakeland, FL

Project Title:	
Student Name(s):	
School, City, State:	**Team Project:** ☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**

CATEGORY:
Mark the best-fitting category for your project below.

Animal Sciences	
Behavioral & Social Sciences	
Biomedical & Health Sciences	
Cellular/Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	
Chemistry	
Earth & Environmental Sciences	
Engineering	
Environmental Engineering	
Intelligent Machines, Robotics & Systems Software	
Mathematics & Computational Sciences	
Microbiology	
Physics & Astronomy	
Plant Sciences	

1. As a part of this research project, the student directly handled, manipulated or interacted with (check ALL that apply):
☐ human subjects ☐ potentially hazardous biological agents (PHBA) ☐ vertebrate animals

2. This abstract describes only procedures performed by me/us, reflects my/our own independent research, and one year's work only.
☐ Yes ☐ No

3. I/we worked or used equipment in a regulated research institute or industrial setting. ☐ Yes ☐ No *If "Yes", Form 1C is required.*

4. This project is a continuation of previous research. ☐ Yes ☐ No *If "Yes", Form 7 is required.*

5. The display board includes non-published photographs/visual depiction of humans (other than myself). ☐ Yes ☐ No *If "No", written permission from the photographed individuals is required.*

6. All photos/visual images/graphs/charts/data tables are individually and completely cited.
☐ Yes *See ISEF rulebook pg. 25 for citation guidance.*

I/We hereby certify that the above statements are correct and the information provided in the Abstract is the result of one year's research. I/We also attest that the above properly reflects my/our own work.

Finalist or Team Leader Signature **Date**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida
2026 Project Set-Up & Approval

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS:

1. Set up your project.
2. Follow the directions on the orange sheet to get your project inspected.
3. DO NOT leave the exhibit hall before you receive approval signatures below.

		Not approved: notes
1	Project size does not exceed limits (30 in deep, 48 in wide, 66 in tall from the table) **NO FLOOR PROJECTS** Fair-provided tables will be 30 in.	
2	Models or prototypes fit within allotted space. There is nothing under or in front of the table.	
3	Official, embossed SSEF Abstract is vertically displayed - the word "Abstract" can only apply to the official Abstract.	
4	Continuation Projects Form 7, if applicable, is displayed vertically.	
5	Research Institution Form 1C, if applicable, is displayed vertically.	
6	Non-paper presentation (computer, video, audio-visual slides) is acceptable type of presentation.	
7	All photos/visual images/graphs/charts/data tables are individually and completely cited, including URLs where appropriate.	
8	Acknowledgements are in text format only, and are limited to ONE area of the display that is labeled "Acknowledgements"	
9	Prohibited items are not displayed (see pp 24-27 of ISEF Rules) such as: Living organisms, soil, sand, rock, waste, taxidermy specimens or parts, preserved animals, human or animal food, human/animal parts or body fluids, plant materials, all chemicals including water, empty chemical containers, hazardous substances or devices, dry ice, sharp items, flames or highly flammable materials, batteries with open-top cells, glass, large vacuum tubes, empty tanks that previously contained combustible liquids, awards, recognitions, embellishments, advertisement, reference to patent status, and commercial logos (student-produced logo for a student creation my be displayed once). **NOTE:** 3D printers will not be allowed to operate at any time.	
11	Electrical regulations have been followed (see p 27 ISEF rules)	
12	Laser Guidelines have been followed (see p 27 ISEF rules) All lasers must be checked by a D & S Chairperson. No laser pointers.	
13	Project adheres to all other rules (see pp 24-27 ISEF rules)	
14	Packing materials and personal items have been removed from underneath the table.	

Display and Safety Infraction:

Issued By _____ (D&S Committee Member)

I/We understand that the initial Display and Safety inspection has been completed, but that additional reviews occur and I/we may be called back. I/We further understand that returning items that have been removed by the D&S or adding items that are not permitted after final clearance are grounds for failing to qualify for competition and/or forfeiture of all awards received. I know I may not hook up to electricity at this fair. If I do so, or add any items that are in violation of any clause on this card or in the rules I will be disqualified.

_____ (Student Signature)

Display and Safety Approval:

Approved By _____ (D&S Committee Member)

LEON JEFFERSON WAKULLA

CAPITAL REGIONAL SCIENCE and ENGINEERING FAIR

Rules Addendum

Projects competing at the CRSEF adhere to all rules from ISEF and Florida SSEF, but also require the following rules to qualify:

- No projects involving human/vertebrate taste testing or oral (or otherwise) ingestion of objects (which includes medication, supplements, etc)
- No projects involving firearms
- No projects involving consumer testing of products
- No middle school projects involving:
    - Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (even ISEF exemptions)
    - Humans
    - Vertebrate animals

LEON JEFFERSON WAKULLA
CAPITAL REGIONAL SCIENCE and ENGINEERING FAIR

The **Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair (CRSEF)**, an affiliate of the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), invites your school to participate in this year's Capital Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Students from across the Big Bend region will showcase their projects at CRSEF, with opportunities to advance to the Florida and International Science Fairs.

Hosted by FSU, Leon County Schools, and the Tallahassee Scientific Society, CRSEF celebrates student innovation and the educators who guide them. To support teachers, we're offering:

- **Training Workshops**: The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory will host free, in-person workshops at your school for teachers interested in mentoring science fair projects. To schedule, contact Carlos Villa at villa@magnet.fsu.edu.
- **Volunteer Support**: The Tallahassee Scientific Society offers assistance to first-time science fair teachers. To request support, contact Ilya Litvak at neighborhoodcampfair@tallysci.org.

We hope to see your students at this exciting event!

An initial meeting for Science Fair Coordinators will be held on **September 11 at 4:30pm at the Challenger Learning Center of Tallahassee.** Whether you're ready to participate or just want to learn more, you're welcome to attend.