Entry Guidelines

In this packet you will find the information needed to successfully participate in SASEF. Included are SASEF's divisions, project categories, what you will need to submit for your entry packet, and SASEF rules for participation.

Divisions

Middle School (Grades 6-8): Junior Division

For middle school students to qualify for the Junior Division competition, exhibits must have been evaluated at the school or county level and have placed in the top 10-20% of all exhibits. Please contact us for possible exceptions. If your middle school fair winners compete in a county-wide fair, it is essential that you follow up and encourage the county winners from your school to enter the SASEF.

High School (Grades 9-12): Senior Division

Any high school student may enter an exhibit in the SASEF. Most high schools do not have school fairs, nor do they compete at the county fair. Therefore, the only requirement in that the student have a teacher, parent, or outside scientist serve as project mentor. In addition, all students participating in a Research Methods class in any high school is eligible to compete in SASEF.

Team Projects

Team projects compete in their categories. Team projects can include research in any scientific category. Junior Division Teams may have up to three members. **SENIOR DIVISION TEAMS MAY ONLY HAVE TWO MEMBERS**.

Note: Teams may not have more than maximum allowed number of members at a local fair and then eliminate members to qualify for the SASEF. A Team Project cannot be converted to an individual project. A new member may not be added to a continuing Team Project, but two original team members may continue their research if the third member no longer participates.

Each team should appoint a team leader to coordinate the work and act as spokesperson. However, each member of the team should be able to serve as spokesperson, be fully involved with the project, and be familiar with all aspects of the project. The final work should reflect the coordinated efforts of all team members and will be evaluated using the same rules and similar judging criteria as the categories.

Project Categories

The categories for the SASEF are:

- Animal Sciences (AS)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (BE)
- Biochemistry (BI)
- Cellular and Molecular Biology (CB)
- Chemistry (CH)
- Computer Science (CS)
- Earth and Planetary Science (EA)
- Engineering: Electrical and Mechanical (EE)
- Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering (EN)
- Energy and Transportation (ET)
- Environmental Management (EM)
- Environmental Sciences (EV)
- Mathematical Sciences (MA)
- Medicine and Health Sciences (ME)
- Microbiology (MI)
- Physics and Astronomy (PH)
- Plant Sciences (PS)

We follow the general guidelines of the ISEF for project categories and descriptions, although our categories are not exactly the same as those for ISEF.

ISEF Categories and Sub Categories

We ask that the student choose a category on the SASEF entry form. However, if we determine that the category selected is not the best choice, we will contact the student or the teacher about a possible change of category.

Junior Division Entry Packet

- SASEF Entry form (online registration) – work with teacher mentor to complete the online entry forms available at: https://www.online-registration-system.com/tn/sasef/
- Junior Division project plan - fill in with required information.
- Typed Research Plan - title, abstract, hypothesis, objectives, procedures, bibliography (generally 2-3 pages total)
- Entry fee (cash or check made to SASEF) per student (not per team if team project); before Feb 15 $10, Feb 15-28 $20, Feb 28-Mar 8 $30

Senior Division Entry Packet

Senior Division participants are required to complete **additional ISEF forms**. These are located under the forms tab on SASEF's website. Please complete and submit with the SASEF forms and participation fee.

- SASEF Entry form - fill in with required information. work with teacher mentor to complete the online entry forms available at: https://www.online-registration-system.com/tn/sasef/
- ISEF Forms will be available on the online registration. Required ISEF forms must be submitted on the online portal.
- * Student may also use the official ISEF abstract form, but it is not required
- ***If the project requires SRC (Scientific Review Committee - for hazardous substances or vertebrate studies) or IRB (Internal Review Board - for human subjects) review, the high school must organize a review committee - either one of each (IRB, SRC) or a single, combined IRB/SRC board. Most high schools have such a board because of other activities. However, the middle or home school does not need to form its own committees. The SASEF has a regional-level SRC/IRB, and this group will review your research plan for you. The **deadline for submitting your research paperwork to SASEF for SRC/IRB approval is in December**. It is best to submit your plan well before this deadline, though, in case it needs revision before it can be approved.
- Entry fee (cash or check made to SASEF) per student (not per team if team project); before Feb 15 $10, Feb 15-28 $20, Feb 28-Mar 8 $30

Rules:

Rules for scientific experimentation are necessary to protect both the student researcher and their human or animal subjects. To satisfy the requirements of an affiliated fair, SASEF must abide by the rules and guidelines of the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), sponsored by the Society for Science and the Public.

In general, we highly recommend that middle school students do not conduct experiments with either human or vertebrate subjects, and that there be few if any hazardous substances involved. This helps to avoid additional paperwork to enter the SASEF. Middle Schools are not expected to have an Internal Scientific Review Board or Scientific Review Committee. The SASEF has a board that can be used for approvals of middle school projects, if required.

High Schools that participate in the SASEF are required to have an Internal Scientific Review Board or Scientific Review Committee (contact us if you need help setting one up). This is a standard committee that every high school should have. Projects must have all approved paperwork submitted at the time of entry.