



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 SASEF.

High School (Grades 9-12): Senior Division

Any high school student may enter an exhibit in SASEF. Most high schools do not have school fairs, nor do they compete at the county fair. Therefore, the only requirement is 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 at SASEF.

Team Projects

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 the 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 individual projects.



SASEF Project Categories

The categories for 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 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.

ISEF Categories and Sub Categories

We follow the general guidelines of ISEF for project categories and descriptions, although our categories are not exactly the same as those for ISEF. [View all the ISEF categories here.](#)



Junior Division Entry Packet

All junior division students must register their project online. [Visit our online registration page](#) for full details. The required elements for junior division registration are:

- Check to see if pre-approval is required. Use the [ISEF Rules Wizard](#) if you are not sure. Any projects requiring any form other than 1, 1A, research plan, and 1B must file for pre-approval
- SASEF entry form (will be completed during registration online)
- Junior Division Research Plan - fill in with required information (download a research plan form: [PDF](#) / [Word Doc](#))
- Typed Research Plan - title, abstract, hypothesis, objectives, procedures, bibliography (generally 2-3 pages total)
- Pay the entry fee

Senior Division Entry Packet

All senior division students must register their project online. [Visit our online registration page](#) for full details. The required elements for senior division registration are:

- Check to see if pre-approval is required. Use the [ISEF Rules Wizard](#) if you are not sure. Any projects requiring any form other than 1, 1A, research plan, and 1B must file for pre-approval.
- SASEF entry form (will be completed during registration online)
- Senior Division Research Plan / Project Summary Form 1A (download research plan: [PDF](#))
- Typed Research Plan - title, abstract, hypothesis, objectives, procedures, bibliography (generally 2-3 pages total)
- Upload final ISEF forms to the online registration system (forms 1, 1A, Research Plan, 1B, and any additional forms required for pre-approval – see first bullet point above)
- Pay the entry fee



Rules & Guidelines

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 Regeneron 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.