* **District Science Fair date – February 1, 2014**
  + UTEP’s Memorial Gym 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
  + Registration and Project Set-up – January 31, 2014 – 4:00 to 7:00 PM
  + Grades 6 through 12
  + Campus science fairs must be completed two weeks prior to the District Science Fair date.
  + No early judging on Friday.
* **Guidelines**
  + All students must complete the International Science and Engineering Forms. (1, 1A and 1B)
  + Signatures must be completed before, during and end of their projects.
  + References – minimum 5 major resources – websites must be a documented website – blogs are not acceptable – students can use only 2 website resources out of the 5 (International/State Rules)
  + All photos attached to the backboard must state: **“Photos taken by student researcher and parent”.**
  + **No 3-dimensional objects can be attached to the board.** They will be removed at the District Science Fair. This includes baggies, plastic models, boxes, etc.
  + Abstracts must be completed and placed vertically on the board or in a picture frame. Students are required to complete the abstract using the on-line form. <http://emtsef.utsa.edu/resources/project_forms/>
  + Students will need to follow all International Science Fair rules and guidelines.
  + There is no early judging on Friday during registration and set-up.
  + Students who cannot make the Saturday judging must see Margaret Johnson, Science Facilitator to schedule the following week an after school judging.
* **TEAM Projects**
  + Only 2 students per team in District Science Fair
  + Both students must be present for judging
  + TEAM projects are not allowed to separate if eligible to enter Sun Country and State Science Fair – **STUDENTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
* **Students must complete the following forms:**
  + Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)
  + Student Checklist (1A)
  + Approval Form (1B)
  + Research Plan – all students prior to their experimentation will need to submit a research plan in ISEF format on what they are planning to do.
  + Abstract – completed after experimentation and research.
  + The project/experiment will determine if the other forms will need to be completed by the student. <http://emtsef.utsa.edu/resources/project_forms/>
* **SUN COUNTRY SCIENCE FAIR – Saturday, February 22nd**
  + Grades 6 – 12
  + District Sweepstakes winners only will be eligible to participate in Sun Country
  + Sun Country uses the International Science Fair forms – all forms should have been completed before entering the District Science Fair Forms
  + Registration and set-up: Friday, February 21st from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at UTEP’s Memorial Gym
    - **NO REGISTRATION ON SATURDAY**
  + No multimedia (PowerPoint) projects are allowed – all students must have a backboard
  + **NO EARLY JUDGING ON FRIDAY**
* **Adult Sponsor**
* The adult sponsor may be a parent, teacher, university professor, or scientist in whose lab the student has worked. This person must have a strong science or engineering background and have worked closely on the student's project. The adult sponsor is responsible for working with the student to ensure all ISEF rules and regulations are followed and that the research is conducted safely in accordance with all local, state, and federal guidelines.
* **Qualified Scientist**
* The qualified scientist is a person with an advanced degree in the area of the student researcher's project. This person must be familiar with the rules and regulations regarding that area of study.
* **Designated Supervisor**
* The designated supervisor is a person who directly oversees the student's experimentation.
* **Why the Science Fair?**
* The Fair plays an important role in the lives and careers of many young students. Participants are not locked into careers in science and engineering. Through the Fair process, they learn critical thinking skills that will enable them to thrive in any career field.
* The science fair is more than creating a science project. It is a complete educational process through which students learn:
  + To follow directions and complete the scientific process
  + How to gain knowledge outside a classroom setting
  + To work with mentors and peers
  + To hone their presentation skills
  + About competing honestly and fairly

**2 Categories and 17 Subcategories**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Life Science** | **Physical Sciences** |
| Animal Sciences | Chemistry |
| Behavioral & Social Sciences | Computer Science |
| Biochemistry | Earth & Planetary Science |
| Cellular and Molecular Biology | Energy & Transportation |
| Environmental Management | Engineering: Electrical & Mechanical |
| Environmental Sciences | Engineering: Materials & Bioengineering |
| Medicine & Health Sciences | Mathematical Sciences |
| Microbiology | Physics and Astronomy |
| Plant Sciences |  |

**Research Plan**

Must be completed prior to the experiment and to include the following:

* 1. question or problem being addressed
  2. goals/expected outcomes/hypothesis
  3. description in detail of the procedures and how you will analyze the data/results from your research question
  4. bibliography

**For Human participants and Vertebrate animal research plus Hazardous Biological and Chemical experiments, please see the International Rules for what needs to be included in the research plan.**

**Abstract requirements**

After finishing research and experimentation, complete a 250 word, one-page abstract

* + Should include the following:
    1. purpose of the experiment
    2. procedure
    3. data
    4. conclusion
  + Should not include:
    1. Acknowledgments to parents, teachers, or scientists)
    2. Work or procedures done by the parents, teachers, or scientists)

**Science Fair Resources**

* [Internet Public Library **–** Science Fair Project Guide](http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide/) - A resource guide providing a variety of excellent web resources.
* [Mosaic](http://www.mosaicsciencemagazine.org/index.php) - An online archive of articles published in the The National Science Foundation's flagship magazine from 1970 to 1992. A background resource for students, teachers, and others in need of a reliable reference for current research.
* [Science Buddies](http://www.sciencebuddies.com/) - A non-profit organization providing science fair ideas, resources, answers, and tools. Including a [Science Fair Project Guide](http://sciencebuddies.com/science-fair-projects/project_guide_index.shtml?From=body)  and an [Ask an Expert](http://www.sciencebuddies.com/science-fair-projects/ask_an_expert_intro.shtml) online bulletin board, staffed by volunteer scientists and top high school students.
* Education.com has assembled a vast collection of science fair project ideas written by science teachers, professional scientists, and educational consultants on popular science fair topics ranging from physics and chemistry to biology and even sociology. They offer free science fair ideas suitable for every grade level: preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or high school. <http://www.education.com/science-fair/>
* Discovery.com offers Science Fair Central with project ideas, how to start a science fair project and resources <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/?pID=fair>
* **Questions on Science Fair**
  + Margaret Johnson, Science Facilitator and Science Fair Coordinator
  + Office: 915-230-2326
  + Cell: 915-494-8638
* Email: mxjohnso@episd.org