



Participating in the SARSEF Regional Science Fair – An Overview

Rules and Eligibility

- ❑ Determine Eligibility
 - PreK – Grade 4: All Arizona students are eligible; however, projects must qualify at the school level before SARSEF Fair submission.
 - Grade 5 – 8: Arizona students living south of the Gila River are eligible; however, projects must qualify at the school level before SARSEF Fair submission.
 - Grades 9 – 12: Arizona students living south of the Gila River are eligible and can submit their project to the SARSEF Regional Fair.
- ❑ Review Rules
 - Projects/student research must have taken place within the last year.
 - Projects must not have competed in a SARSEF Regional Fair before.
 - Continuation projects (multi-year projects) must be made clear, including what additional research was performed since the previous year.
 - Students must compete only in their CURRENT grade level.
 - Students may only submit ONE individual or team (2-3 students) project. They may, however, be a part of a class (4+ students) project in addition to their individual/team project.
 - Class projects are allowed and encouraged at every grade level (including high school) and will compete separately from individual and team projects.
 - Schools and homeschool students must apply for an allocation (number of projects they can register for the SARSEF Regional Fair). Preschools and high schools will be given an unlimited allocation. [More about allocation](#)
 - Preschool (ages 3-5) children do not need to be enrolled in a formal preschool program to submit a project. Though guided by a caregiver or educator, the project and research must be the child's work.
 - All necessary Scientific Review Committee (SRC) forms and human subjects forms (IRB) MUST be completed before starting the project and accompany the completed project presentation.
 - Project must adhere to all Display and Safety Rules.
- ❑ Complete needed SRC (Scientific Review Committee) Forms
 - **Before beginning ANY project, students and teachers should review SRC and IRB (for human subjects) requirements and to determine the project's needed paperwork.**

- Any projects involving humans/human tissue, non-human vertebrate animals, controlled or hazardous substances or devices or potentially hazardous biological agents (microbes) must obtain approval **prior to the experiment**. See [Rules](#) for more information.

Research and Project Creation

- Students perform research
 - [Create a project](#) and [Step by step process](#) is available as a resource as you work through science and engineering practices in the classroom.
 - SARSEF offers [free outreach programs](#), including a “Roadmap to a Rockin’ Project” presentation at your school if you need additional guidance.
- Create project presentation
 - See [Create a project presentation](#) for current SARSEF Regional Fair requirements.
 - You may create your own requirements for your school fair.
- Hold a school fair if needed
 - See [Holding a school fair](#) for guidance

SARSEF Regional Fair Participation

- Register eligible projects for SARSEF (Registration is open mid-January through mid-February. See [important dates](#) for specifics.)
- Students attend interviews during Fair Week
 - PreK-5: Optional
 - Grades 6-8: Encouraged, but optional
 - Grades 9-12: Required
- Attend Community STEM Expo and Awards at the end of Fair Week
 - After judging is complete, award winners will be announced on the website.
 - SARSEF participants, their families, and all members of the community are invited to attend our Community STEM Expo celebrated science, engineering, and our young researchers!

Celebrate and Encourage

- Celebrate all the efforts of your young researchers
- Assist in registration and participation in other competitions as desired