

Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Educators' Guidebook

An affiliate of the International Science and Engineering Fair
and the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge



Contact:

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Sponsored By:

College of Charleston School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering, Patriots Point Foundation Cold War Submarine Memorial Fund, and Bosch.

2024 Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair

The Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering Fair (LRSEF), held annually in March/April, is the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge affiliate for Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Georgetown counties in South Carolina. *Joining us this year are schools within Beaufort County.* At the LRSEF, students compete for national, regional, and local awards and the opportunity to advance to the abovementioned competitions. The College of Charleston is the title sponsor for the LRSEF.



Logistics

Date

Considering the public and private school spring breaks and religious holidays, the 2024 LSF competition and awards ceremony will occur on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the College of Charleston, School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering (202 Calhoun Street). We realize this date is only ideal for some; however, it was necessary to choose it due to ISEF regulations.

Schedule of Events

8:00-9:30	Check-in and set up exhibits (Student Exhibits must be set up by 9:30) - Registration tables will be in the atrium.
9:00-9:30	Judges meet in the Judges' suite - 130H.
9:30-11:30	Category and Special Awards Judging
11:30-12:30	Lunch Break for all participants* - 1st place category winners for Senior Divisions notified - 1st place winners must stay for final interviews
12:30 - 12:45	Final Interview Judges meet in the Judges' suite - 130H
12:45-1:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Judges interview 1st place senior divisions' winners● SSMB/Campus Tour
1:30 - 2:30	Judges meet to determine winners
2:30 - 3:30	Awards Ceremony

* The LRSEF will be able to provide lunch to each participant and two chaperones per school/home school association.

Awards:

- Each student receives a signed Certificate of Participation.
- A variety of national, regional, and local special awards
- First, Second, and Third Place Category Awards for each Division
- Advancement to **Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge** for Middle School Students
- Advancement to ISEF for the 1st place winners in the Senior Division; note the exception that if a team wins 1st place, only the 1st place group will attend ISEF.

Location

**College of Charleston
School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering
202 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401**



Parking

Buses: Please unload and load at 202 Calhoun Street. Buses may park at any location listed here: [Bus Parking Map](#)

Parents/guardians/other guests: The following public garages are available:

- St. Philip Street (PG) garage is located at **89 St. Philip St.** between Vanderhorst St. and Calhoun St. The garage is labeled “PG” on the [Campus Map](#). The garage is a 0.4-mile walk via Calhoun St.
- George Garage (GG) is located at **34 St. Philip St.** by the CVS store, between George St. and Liberty St. The garage is labeled “GG” on the [Campus Map](#). The garage is a 0.3-mile walk via George St.
- Marion Square Garage is located at **399 King St.** The garage is a 0.3-mile walk via Calhoun and Meeting St.
- **** Street parking via meters is also available**.**

Rules

Eligibility

The LRSEF is open to public, private, and home school students in grades 5 - 12 from Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, and Georgetown counties. Students are selected based on their excellence in their school/ home school association science fair or by the school's science department. **There is no limit to the number of projects a school can advance to the LRSEF.**

Review Boards

Projects involving human subjects (including surveys and questionnaires), non-human vertebrates, pathogenic agents, controlled substances, recombinant DNA, or human/animal tissue must be approved by an **Internal Review Board (IRB)** or the Scientific Review Committee before experimentation.

Each school should have an IRB to evaluate a project's potential physical or psychological risk involving human subjects. All human research must be reviewed and pre-approved by the IRB before experimentation.

This includes any surveys or questionnaires to be used in a project. The IRB should include

- a science teacher,
- a school administrator,
- and one of the following: a psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed social worker, medical doctor, physician's assistant, or a registered nurse.

The LRSEF director appoints the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) to review and pre-approve experimental procedures for projects involving non-human vertebrates, pathogenic agents (including bacteria from the potentially pathogenic environment), controlled substances, recombinant DNA, and human/animal tissue to make sure they comply with the ISEF rules and any pertinent laws.

Important Information:

Senior Division students (grades 9-12) should review the ISEF rules and forms before experimentation and submit any necessary paperwork to the LSF director for SRC approval. **These forms must be submitted to ensure eligibility before the Fair Review Board meets.** Use the ISEF Rules Wizard to identify the appropriate ISEF forms for their project.

- The Fair Director and Judge Coordinator reserve the right to remove any project or item for safety reasons or to protect the integrity of the LRSEF and its rules and regulations.
- The LRSEF Display and Safety Regulations are based on the International Science & Engineering Fair Regulations. While planning their display, Senior Division (grades 9-12) students should review all ISEF Display & Safety Regulations.
- **The Rules and Regulations are provided on the ISEF website, including information on Categories, Subcategories, Forms, and Display and Safety Regulations.**
- ISEF Rules and Forms | <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>

Identifying Marks

Personal identifying markers such as last name and school name, including in display photographs, are not allowed on the front of the display. Students should not wear clothing with their school's name. This rule is to eliminate potential bias on the part of the judges. Exception: The LSF will concede to school rules regarding dress. If a participating school requires uniforms to be worn during school outings, uniforms will be permitted. However, any identifying logos or names should be covered. Opaque tape will be available.

Registration

[Click here for online registration](#)

Registration Packets

Registration packets are created for students to complete and submit, along with a handout to guide them through the registration process. **Please use the appropriate packet for your student's grade level.**

Registration Packets contain the following:

- Registration Checklist (*details all steps of the registration process*)
- **Approval Form (to be signed by the student, teacher, and parent/guardian)**
- **Research Plan (Junior Division only)**

Junior Division (grades 5-8) [JUNIOR DIV. PACKET](#)

~Students in the Junior Divisions should complete:

1. Online registration
2. Approval Form
3. Research Plan

****Each student should submit an individual online registration and Approval Form for team projects. Research Plans may be submitted jointly. Select "Team Project" under the Category heading and then the preferred discipline during the online registration. Each team member should enter the same project title and description to avoid confusion.****

Senior Division (grades 9-12) [SENIOR DIV. PACKET](#)

~Students in the Junior Divisions should complete:

1. Online registration
2. Approval form
3. ISEF Forms: 1, 1A, and 1B

Students in the Senior Division should complete the online registration and submit a hard copy of the Approval Form, ISEF Forms 1, 1A, and 1B, and any other appropriate ISEF forms along with the registration fee by or on **Sunday, February 11, 2024. Senior Division Teams may only have two members.**

Registration Fees

Registration fees are \$25 per individual project and \$30 per team project. Registration fees are due with the paperwork on **Sunday, February 11, 2024**, and are non-refundable. **Checks should be made payable to the "College of Charleston."**

★ **Payment online is preferred** – payments can be made at:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C20590_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=24.

Please note that each team member will receive an automated invoice for \$30 when registering a team project. However, team members should split the cost of the fee and only send a check for their portion. Each team member should only pay part of the fee of \$30. A limited number of fee waivers are available based on need. Please contact the fair director for a fee waiver.

[Science Fair Website](#)

Important Dates and INFORMATION



❖ **Sunday, February 11, 2024: Registration & Payment Due**

- **Payment online is preferred** – payments can be made at:
https://secure.touchnet.com/C20590_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=24.

❖ **Thursday, March 7, 2024: LRSEF Competition & Awards Ceremony**

- **Location: College of Charleston**
School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering
202 Calhoun St.
Charleston, SC 29401

❖ **A List of Participants must be submitted for each participating school or home school association by or on Sunday, February 11, 2024. This is to ensure that all participants are correctly registered.**

❖ **Email completed Registration Packets and List of Participants to ballardi@cofc.edu.**