

# Lowcountry Regional Science & Engineering Fair

## Educators Guidebook

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



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# *2025 Lowcountry Regional Science and Engineering*

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. 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.

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## **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. **The number of projects a school can advance to the LRSEF is unlimited.**

### **Review Boards**

**Before experimentation, 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.**

Each school should have an IRB to evaluate a project's potential physical or psychological risk to human subjects. The IRB must review and pre-approve all human research 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 ensure compliance with the ISEF rules and any pertinent laws.

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### **Important ISEF 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.** <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.

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## Registration Checklists

### **Students in Grades 5-8**

- Online Registration - [2025 LRSEF Registration](#)
- Registration Fee (If a team, split the cost)
- Research Plan
- Approval Form

### **Students in Grades 9-12**

- Online Registration - [2025 LRSEF Registration](#)
- Registration Fee (If a team, split the cost)
- Parent/Guardian Publicity Authorization and Release
- Approval Form
- ISEF Forms 1, 1A, and 1B
- Other Appropriate ISEF Forms

### Fees

Registration fees are **\$25 per individual project and \$30 per team project. They are non-refundable** and on **Thursday, February 6, 2025.**

\*\*Please note that when registering a team project, each team member will receive an automated invoice for \$30. Each team member should pay only their part of the fee. \*\*

★ **Payment online is preferred** – [LRSEF Payment](#).

**Checks should be made payable to the “College of Charleston.”**

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## Logistics

### Date & Location

Thursday, March 6, 2025, at The College of Charleston, School of Natural & Environmental Sciences. 202 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401

### Schedule of Events

8:00-9:30	Check-in and set up projects (Projects must be set up by 9:30)
9:00-9:30	Judges meet in the Judges' suite - 130H.
9:30-11:30	Judging
11:30-12:30	Lunch Break* - 1 <sup>st</sup> place category winners for Senior Divisions notified - 1 <sup>st</sup> place winners must stay for final interviews
12:30 - 12:45	Final Interview Judges meet in the Judges' suite - 130H
12:45-1:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Judges interview 1st place senior divisions' winners</li><li>● SNES and SECM Activities</li></ul>
1:15 - 2:15	Judges meet to determine winners
2:15 - 3:00	Awards Ceremony

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

### Awards:

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in the Senior Division; note the exception that if a team wins 1<sup>st</sup> place, only the 1<sup>st</sup> place group will attend ISEF.

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## **Logistics contd.**

### **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.

- The St.Philip Street (PG) garage is located at **89 St. Philip St.** between Vanderhorst St. and Calhoun St. It is labeled “PG” on the [Campus Map](#) and 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. It is labeled “GG” on the [Campus Map](#) and 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.
- Metered street parking is also available.

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