



The University of Georgia

Center for Continuing Education
Academic Special Programs
Georgia Science and Engineering Fair

Dear Parent/Sponsor of 2012 Finalist,

Thank you for supporting your student in his or her pursuit of scientific research success. Being selected as a Regional Science and Engineering Fair (RSEF) finalist is a great honor, and those regional finalists who are invited to advance to the state competition (GSEF) are in for an exciting and challenging experience.

How Can I Help My Student?

1. Be sure your student coordinates everything with his or her teacher. The teacher will coordinate with the Regional Fair representative.
2. Know your deadlines: The moment your student is selected to advance to GSEF, the clock starts ticking. Your student's GSEF application packet must be completed and processed by your Regional Fair representative, then mailed by your Regional Fair Director to be received in the GSEF office **within 10 days after your Regional Fair**.
3. Sign the Exhibitor Application form provided by the teacher or RSEF representative.
4. GSEF registration is \$39 per student. Please give your check to your RSEF representative as soon as your student's GSEF invitation is announced. Make check out to UGA and write Science Fair in the Memo Field. (Note: some RSEFs or School Districts pay this fee for their students. Ask yours.)

Your Role During the Fair

Thursday 3/29:

Thursday evening is family time at GSEF. You may help your student set up the exhibit, take videos and photos together, and visit with other students or with the GSEF staff. Pick up a map and other information to plan where to entertain your family tomorrow in our beautiful university town.

Friday 3/30:

On Friday, a quiet hospitality suite has been reserved for parents and teachers who wish to relax and enjoy free coffee and WiFi while their students are competing. The Azalea Room is at the Hilton Garden Inn, right across the street from the Convention Center, on the second floor. It is available from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, at no charge. No outside food, please.

This is also a great time to enjoy Athens' many sights and activities or to explore the University of Georgia campus.

Parents and visitors, I thank you in advance for refraining from entering the Classic Center building at any time on Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. This courtesy protects the privacy and concentration of our judges, who must be able to move freely among the exhibit halls, deliberation rooms, restrooms, and escalators without the possibility of having their discussions overheard. If your student advances to ISEF, similar rules will be enforced there, so this is good practice. You may

see others coming and going – they may be journalists, staff members, paraprofessionals assisting students with disabilities, RSEF Directors, or registered volunteers. I appreciate your understanding.

Your child will meet you outside of the building in waiting area A or B after judging concludes at 5:30.

Saturday 3/31:

Saturday morning you can roam Athens or explore the exhibit hall. Students must be at their exhibits from 1pm to 3pm during public viewing hours. It is common for university faculty, the media, industry representatives, and other excellent contacts to visit during this period.

The Awards Ceremony is the most exciting part of the event. Exhibitor attendance is *mandatory*. Most awards will be forfeited if the winner is not present. All exhibitors will be seated together; adults are not permitted in the student seating area (exception: individuals presenting special awards). You may photograph your student and friends with their awards after the ceremony. Note that some ribbons may be placed directly on exhibits and not presented during the ceremony. Exhibits must be taken down immediately *after* the ceremony.

After the Awards Ceremony, finalists receiving monetary awards must sign and turn in Honoraria and/or IRS forms before leaving. Be sure they have their Social Security numbers with them.

Students who are advancing to ISEF, whether from GSEF or directly from a Regional Fair, will attend a meeting after the ceremony. Plan on two hours.

How Can I Help GSEF?

Recruit Judges:

Although parents/teachers of exhibiting students cannot serve, you may have unbiased colleagues you can recruit. The application form is on our web site.

1. Senior Division judge applicants should have either:
 - a. PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, other doctorate or equivalent terminal degree, or
 - b. research and publication experience in a doctoral program in a scientific discipline, or
 - c. B.A., B.S. or master's degree and a minimum of six years of professional experience in a scientific discipline related to one of the 17 project categories.

2. Junior Division judge applicants should have either:
 - a. any of the Senior Division qualifications, or
 - b. significant research experience in a relevant professional or industrial setting, or
 - c. graduate standing in a discipline related to one of the 17 project categories, or
 - d. significant progress toward a degree in Science and/or Mathematics Education, or
 - e. a master's degree and current graduate standing in a relevant education discipline.

Recruit Sponsors:

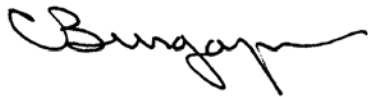
Perhaps you know of a business, organization, or individual that would like to be known as a major sponsor of the state's most prestigious Science and Engineering Fair. Or maybe they would like to sponsor a particular activity, such as the judges' dinner, a security team, or the parents' hospitality suite. Or they might like to sponsor a new award to encourage research in their own field, or to fund a trip to the ISEF finals for a winner in a particular category. The possibilities are endless. Contact us to discuss, or use the form on our web site.

Volunteer:

Do you live in Athens? We need skilled, accurate data entry assistance in our UGA office between 2/20/11 and 3/23/11. It requires *excellent* skills in Microsoft Access, as our GSEF database is complex. You'll need excellent English and spelling skills (including scientific vocabulary), the ability to logically decipher names in many languages and to read email addresses in poor handwriting, and the experience to anticipate what a person really meant when they didn't write something correctly. Possibly evening hours: we have to work around each other's schedules, because only one of us can manipulate the database at a time.

We also need someone to act as host in the parent hospitality room on Friday, and we need "gofers" for Saturday.

Thank you in advance for all that you do to make this event a success.



Christine Burgoyne
Director, Georgia Science and Engineering Fairs
Program Coordinator / Public Service Associate
The University of Georgia
Center for Continuing Education Suite 181
GSEF phone: 706-542-3554
Direct line: 706-542-6473
Fax: 706-542-0489
www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gsef
www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/testprep