

2026 GSEF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT



Required for **EVERY STUDENT (including team members) attending** the 2026 Georgia Science & Engineering Fair. Failure to submit with all required signatures will result in ineligibility. Submit to your Regional Fair Director within 3 days following your Regional Fair. **All 3 pages of this agreement must be complete and submitted together.**

PLEASE NOTE BEFORE CONTINUING:

This form is **only** for GSEF participants who are **under the age of 18**. Students age 18 or older **must** use the 18+ version of the agreement form, available at bit.ly/GSEF26PA18

Fields that must be completed are marked with an arrow (➡).

Program/Activity Information

Program/Activity Name: Georgia Science & Engineering Fair Date(s): March 26-28, 2026
Location: The Classic Center and UGA Campus in Athens, GA

Student Participant Information

➡ Student Participant Name: _____
➡ School: _____
➡ Date of Birth: _____ ➡ Current Age: _____

Students 18 or older use a different form; see above.

RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE

I, ➡ _____, the parent or legal guardian of the Participant, ➡ _____,
(Parent/Guardian Name) (Student Participant Name)

for the sole consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, of the right to participate in the program described above as the Program/Activity Name (the Program), do hereby agree to the following relating to the Program.

I fully and voluntarily consent to my child's participation in the Program. I hereby acknowledge my awareness that participation in the Program may expose me/my child(ren) to risk of property damage, bodily or personal injury. Participation could include certain physical activities such as touring campus facilities, setting up exhibits, participating in science demonstrations, attending seminars, networking, crossing streets, parking lots and intersections. I understand that the risks that I/my child may encounter include, but are not limited to accidents such as those occurring from being near or handling exhibits or participating in science demonstrations, injury from falls, bumps, bruises, cuts and abrasions, muscle strains and sprains, and exposure to contagious diseases and communicable illnesses, including but not limited to, COVID-19, which may cause death, as well as other risks that may not be foreseeable. I knowingly and freely assume any and all such risks.

In exchange for being allowed to participate in the Program, I hereby release and forever discharge and agree to indemnify the University of Georgia the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, its members individually and their officers, agents and employees from any and all claims, demands, rights, expenses, actions, and causes of action, of whatever kind, arising from or by reason of any personal injury, bodily injury, property damage, or the consequences thereof, whether foreseeable or not, resulting from or in any way connected with my/my child's participation in the Program. I further covenant and agree that for the consideration stated above, I will hold forever harmless and will not take legal action against the University of Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, its members individually, and their officers, agents, and employees for any claim for damages arising or growing out of my/my child's participation in this activity whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

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I understand that the acceptance of this Release, Waiver of Liability, and Covenant not to sue shall not constitute a waiver, in whole or part, of sovereign immunity by said Board, its members, officers, agents, and employees.

I understand that as a state agency, the University of Georgia is exempt from licensing by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning for minors programs.

I certify that I understand and have read the above carefully before signing. I acknowledge and represent that I freely and voluntarily sign this Agreement, and that it is my express intent that this Agreement shall contractually bind my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and my child's heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, as well as myself and my child.

➡ Parent/Guardian Name: _____ ➡ Student Participant Name: _____

➡ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ ➡ Date: _____
No typed or digital signatures. Electronic signature OK if handwritten.

PHOTO AND MEDIA RELEASE

Check either **Yes** or **No**. **Fields at bottom of page are required regardless of whether **Yes** or **No** is selected.**

Check either Yes or No and sign below

Yes, I, the parent and/or legal guardian of the participant, hereby give the University of Georgia, and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the right and permission to use, reproduce, edit, exhibit, project, display, copyright and/or publish my/my child's images, likeness, and voice in which I/my child may be included in the whole or in part, developed during participation in the Program/Activity and thereafter, and to circulate the same in all forms and media for any lawful purpose whatsoever. My consent includes, but is not limited to, images, likenesses and recordings that may be deemed to be educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA").

I understand and agree that my/my child's image will become part of the University of Georgia's photograph file and that it may be distributed to other organizations or individuals for use in any publications, media, or technology now known of or hereafter developed in the future for any lawful purpose whatsoever without further permission from me. I also understand that I will receive no compensation in connection with the use of my/my child's image.

I hereby waive the right to inspect or approve my/my child's image or any finished materials that incorporates the image. I further release, discharge, and agree to waive the University of Georgia, and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, their licensees, successors, legal representatives and assignees from any liability for violation of any personal or proprietary right that I may have in conjunction with said pictures or images and with the use thereof. I further acknowledge and agree that the University of Georgia and the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and its members, their officers, agents, and employees shall not be responsible for any of such image, likeness or recording by any third party accessing it through the internet or any other means.

or

No, I do not grant permission for my/my child's image, likeness or recording to be used in any form, unless necessary for the administration of the program in which my child is participating.

➡ Parent/Guardian Name: _____ ➡ Student Participant Name: _____

➡ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ ➡ Date: _____
No typed or digital signatures. Electronic signature OK if handwritten.

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PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

➡ Student Participant Name: _____
 ➡ Parent/Guardian Name: _____
 Program/Activity Name: Georgia Science & Engineering Fair

This page must be completed and signed by **BOTH** the student participant **AND** their parent/guardian.

This Code of Conduct is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants in a Program/Activity hosted at or by the University of Georgia. It applies to all participants including minors and their parents/guardians.

Requirements:

- Respect and adhere to Program/Activity rules and guidelines including those specific to this event or activity.
- Uphold the Society for Science's principles of scientific integrity and Ethics Statement.
- Abide by the decisions made by the GSEF Judges and Staff. Subjectivity will always be a minor part of competitions; unsportsmanlike conduct by student or guardian will result in disqualification of the project.
- Follow the Safety & Supervision Guidelines outlined in the GSEF Event Handbook.
- For student participants, be present during scheduled interviews and follow the Attendance Policy outlined in the GSEF Event Handbook.
- If participating in ISEF as part of the GSEF delegation, follow directions of chaperones and adhere to rules of conduct for student delegates.
- Follow all instructions and directives given by Program/Activity Staff.
- Act in a courteous manner and treat participants, parents, volunteers, staff, and others with respect. Appropriate language and behavior are expected at all times.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity by supporting an environment of inclusion which welcomes involvement of participants from all backgrounds.
- Obey University policies and local, state and federal laws.

Participants who fail to adhere to this Code of Conduct are subject to a range of disciplinary actions. When appropriate, immediate corrective action will be taken to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants. Failing to adhere to this Code of Conduct may subject participants to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Program/Activity and future Programs/Activities offered at the University of Georgia.

PARTICIPANT & PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

To be completed by the Student Participant: I understand that as a condition for participating in the Program/Activity I must comply with the Program/Activity's rules and standards of conduct and follow all reasonable direction of the Program/Activity Staff. Failure to comply with the Program/Activity's rules and standards of conduct or failure to comply with the reasonable direction of Program/Activity Staff may result in my being dismissed from the Program/Activity and impact my ability to participate in future Programs/Activities.

➡ Student Participant's Signature _____

No typed or digital signatures. Electronic signature OK if handwritten.

➡ Date _____

To be completed by the Parent/Guardian: I understand that my child will be subject to the rules and standards of conduct of the Program/Activity and the University System of Georgia. I further understand that my child's violation of the rules and standards of conduct or failure to comply with the reasonable direction of Program/Activity Staff may result in my child's dismissal from the Program/Activity. I accept responsibility for all costs associated with removing my child from the Program/Activity, including but not limited to transportation costs to return my child home. I understand that dismissed Participants are not eligible for a refund of any fees or expenses and may not be eligible to participate in future Program/Activities.

➡ Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

No typed or digital signatures. Electronic signature OK if handwritten.

➡ Date _____