

Judge Qualifications, Roles and Schedule



JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS

SENIOR DIVISION (Grades 9-12)

- a. doctorate or other terminal degree (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, etc.); or
- b. substantial research experience in a PhD program in a STEM discipline; or
- c. bachelor's or master's degree in a STEM field and six years of research or professional experience in STEM

JUNIOR DIVISION (Grades 6-8)

- a. any of the Senior Division qualifications (left); or
- b. STEM research experience in a relevant professional or industrial setting; or
- c. bachelor's or graduate degree in a discipline related to a [GSEF Project Category](#) or in a relevant education program

ROLES & TIMES

The following is an overview of the GSEF judging process; adjustments may be made closer to event. Junior Division judges interview students in grades 6–8, and Senior Division judges interview students in grades 9–12. Senior Division judges are assigned as Tier I, II, or III, depending on prior judging experience and preference. Judge applicants are asked to select the Division(s)/Tier(s) you are qualified for and interested in judging; you will be assigned based on your preference and where we most need your help.

JUNIOR DIVISION

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Needed: 150+

Junior Division judges include first-timers as well as many experienced judges. After checking in, you will have training and orientation, during which you will receive a text or email link to the GSEF judging web app (no download required). The app will provide a list of specific projects to judge. After training you will have lunch (provided) and head for the exhibits. Interview a student and score the project in the judging app. Once you have interviewed and scored all of your assigned projects and submitted all comments/feedback, you are free to leave (or, see the Help Desk for more project assignments).

SENIOR DIVISION, Tier I

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Needed: 150+

Tier I judges range from first-timers to those with over 20 years of judging experience. They judge Senior Division, grades 9–12, during Round 1. After checking in, you'll attend training and orientation, during which you'll receive a text or email link to the GSEF judging web app (no download required). The app will provide a list of specific assigned projects for you to judge, usually all in one category. You will be introduced to the Tier II judge to whom you'll report. You'll have 90 minutes to preview the projects while the students are away and to make notes for your interviews. While previewing, you'll also be alert for Special Award candidates. After lunch (provided), the students arrive for Round 1. Interview a student and score the project in the judging app. When you have interviewed all your students, meet with your Tier II to discuss your top projects. Your Tier II judge will dismiss you once they have everything they need from you. Please keep your cell phone on until at least 6:00 PM, in case we need to clarify anything.

SENIOR DIVISION, Tier II

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Needed: 15-20

Tier II judges have judged at GSEF for at least 3 years. Tier II and III judges meet at 9:00 AM and then join the Tier I judges for additional instructions. You'll be assigned a group of Tier I judges – you'll be responsible for collecting all their paperwork after judging. You'll have 90 minutes to preview all projects in your category. While previewing, you'll also be alert for Special Award candidates. Tier II judges have a variety of different tasks during the Round 1 interview period; some also perform Tier I interviews. After Round 1, you'll meet with your Tier I judges to discuss their top projects. During Round 2, you'll interview the top projects and pare the list down to your own Top Projects short list. After Round 2, discuss this list and your Best in Category choice(s) with your Tier III. Turn in any remaining scores or comments. Your Tier III judge will dismiss you once they have everything they need from you. Please keep your cell phone on until at least 9:00 PM, in case we need to clarify anything.

SENIOR DIVISION, Tier III

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Needed: 10

Tier III judges have at least 4 years of Tier II experience at GSEF. Tier II and III judges meet at 9:00 AM and then join the Tier I judges for additional instructions. After orientation, you'll preview all projects in the Senior Division, looking for exhibits that fit the criteria of Special Awards. During judging, you'll discreetly talk with students, including those you suspect may end up on the Top Projects lists, and conduct interviews for some Special Awards. You may be asked to assist or fill in for a Tier I or II judge during Round 1 or 2 or be assigned other responsibilities. You're responsible for ensuring your Tier IIs have turned in all materials before you dismiss them. In the evening, you'll discuss the Top Projects and Best in Category suggestions and select winners.

Junior Category Leader (JCL)

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM (in addition to Tier I or Junior Division judging time)

Needed: 20

These are Tier I or Junior Division judges who are also responsible for helping select Best in Category for a Junior Division category.

Special Award Judge

12:30 PM – 5:30 PM (varies)

Needed: 20

Special Award Judges judge for a specific sponsored award on behalf of its sponsor. If you're a sponsor who plans to send a judge to interview and select your winners, please indicate so on the Award Sponsorship Form; these judges don't need to fill out a Judge Application unless they'd also like to sign up for regular Junior/Senior Division judging. Upon arrival, judges will receive a packet with instructions for the specific award(s) they'll be judging, as well as any nominations submitted by other judges during previews. Judges interview students who may be contenders for the award and then report the winning projects to the Help Desk.