



# Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2019

## IMPORTANT GUIDELINES AND CHANGES

### ELEMENTARY DIVISION

#### New:

- Elementary Schools must finalize their online registrations, submit all paperwork before **February 7, 2019.**
- Judge criteria sheet has changed to align with TEKS
- Judging sheets will no longer be returned to the schools

#### REMINDERS:

**EVERY PROJECT NEEDS AN ELEMENTARY PROJECT RESEARCH FORM**  
**EVERY STUDENT NEEDS AN SIGNED CODE OF CONDUCT/MEDIA RELEASE**  
SUBMITTED WITH THE SCHOOL REGISTRATION PACKET.

- Parking will be free of charge for all participants at the Palmer Events Center Garage.
- Schools will no longer be charged a “School Fee” of \$45.
- Project Registration Fee is **\$20 per project.**
- Due to space limitations the number of projects per school is as follows:

| NUMBER OF STUDENTS | NUMBER OF PROJECTS  |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0–499              | 12 projects maximum |
| 500–699            | 14 projects maximum |
| 700–899            | 16 projects maximum |
| 900+               | 18 projects maximum |

**RULES:** Students are **NOT Allowed** to do projects that involve growing any **mold** or **bacteria** PERIOD. NO HUMAN OR ANIMAL FOOD IS ALLOWED ON THE PROJECT BOARD OR IN THE PROJECT DISPLAY AREA (not even in sealed bags or containers) for any grade level.

#### PROJECTS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED

No student in the Elementary Division will be allowed to design and conduct any science project that involves:

- projects where the student has grown **mold** or **bacteria** of any kind (no moldy food studies etc.)
- firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- causing pain, suffering, sickness or death of an animal
- any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials

#### PROBLEM PAPERWORK AND LATE FEES

Incorrect and incomplete school paperwork, as well as missed deadlines, cause a great deal more work  
*(More on next page)*

for teachers, parents, and Science Festival organizers. Due to space limitations, late registration will not be permitted.

**Where to Get the Forms You Need**

Austin Energy Regional Science Festival Code of Conduct/Media Release Forms, as well as the Elementary Project Research Form, can be downloaded from [www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com](http://www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com).

**Common Problems Found with Registration Packets:**

- Student is registered online in the wrong grade level
- Original, signed student Austin Energy Code of Conduct/Media Release Form is not submitted
- Students forget to submit the “Elementary Project Research Form.”

**Where to Get the Forms You Need**

Austin Energy Regional Science Festival Code of Conduct/Media Release Forms, as well as the Elementary Project Research Form, can be downloaded from [www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com](http://www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com).



## Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2019

# ELEMENTARY DIVISION SCHEDULE

### ORIENTATION

There are two possible orientation dates for teachers and judges. Please choose the one that best fits your schedule.

### TEACHER ORIENTATIONS

Thursday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Teacher Orientation  
September 6, 2018 Austin Energy Assembly Room  
721 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704

Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Teacher Orientation  
September 12, 2018 Asian American Resource Center  
8401 Cameron Rd., Austin, TX 78754

### JUDGE ORIENTATIONS

Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Elementary Judge Orientation  
February 6, 2019 Asian American Resource Center  
8401 Cameron Rd., Austin, TX 78754

Wednesday, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Elementary Judge Orientation  
February 13, 2019 Austin Energy Assembly Room  
721 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78704

### REGISTRATION

Thursday, 5:00 p.m. Deadline for Online **School** Registration, Deadline for  
February 7, 2019 Online **Student** Science Project Registration - Deadline for  
Online Registration for **Judges** and **Volunteers** - Deadline  
for submitting complete school packet

Register at [www.sciencefest.org](http://www.sciencefest.org). **All registration documents MUST BE RECEIVED by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Due to space limitations, late registration will not be permitted.**

*(More on next page)*

## SCIENCE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### Friday,

February 22, 2019      2:00 – 7:00 p.m.      Check-in and set-up for the Elementary Festival  
Palmer Events Center

### Saturday,

February 23, 2019      8:00 a.m.      Judges for Grades 5 and 6 Sign-In, Review  
Requirements and Assignments

8:30 a.m. – 10:15      Grades 5 and 6 Judging  
*It is recommended that students be at their project at 8:15 a.m.,  
15 minutes before judging begins.*

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.      Exploring Science Day

10:30 a.m.      Judges for Grades 3 and 4 Sign-In,  
Review Requirements, & Assignments

11:00 – 1:00 p.m.      Grades 3 and 4 Judging  
*It is recommended that students be at their project at 10:45 a.m.,  
15 minutes before judging begins.*

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.      Public Viewing

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.      Elementary Awards Ceremony  
*If possible, attend the awards ceremony to celebrate your  
students' achievements and the accomplishments of other  
Central Texas students.*

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.      Dismantle Projects  
**Projects not picked up by 5:00 p.m. will be discarded**



# Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2019

## ELEMENTARY

### RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

#### 1. Participation

Students **must be in grades 3 – 6** to participate in the Elementary Division of the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival.

#### 2. Project Forms

All Elementary students must complete an **Elementary Project Research Form** and submit it with their registration packets.

#### 3. Scientist Training

The Scientist Training program is **not available** at the Elementary Level.

#### 4. Projects That Are Not Allowed

No student in the Elementary Division will be allowed to design or conduct any science project that involves

- Firearms, explosives or discharge air pressure canister devices (i.e. potato guns)
- **Growing bacteria or mold of any type : NOT ALLOWED**
- Causing pain, suffering, sickness or death of an animal
- Any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials

#### 5. Display and Safety Guidelines

All student projects must follow the guidelines listed below to be allowed to display in the festival exhibit hall.

**Items Not Allowed: Project display must not exceed 48 in. wide x 16 in. deep.**

- **No organisms; living, dead or preserved** (no plants or animals)
- **No chemicals, crystals, liquids (including water)**
- No human/animal parts or body fluids (for example, blood, urine)
- No human or animal food
- No poisons, drugs, controlled or hazardous substances
- No sharp items (for example: syringes, needles, pipettes, knives, tacks, nails)
- No glass or glass objects unless encased or an integral and necessary part of a commercial product (for example, a computer screen)
- No pressurized tanks or containers
- No batteries with open top cells (so that battery acid can be seen)
- No dirt, soil, gravel, rocks, sand, waste products, etc.
- No project, device, activity or substance that may be deemed hazardous to student health or safety
- No photographs or pictures of animals or people in surgical techniques, dissections or necropsies.

#### Discouraged Items

- Expensive, breakable or fragile items.

*(More on next page)*

### **Allowed and Encouraged Items**

- Photographs, drawings, stuffed animals/artificial plants or imitation (play) food should be used to depict the prohibited or discouraged items.
- Students should always plan on taking photographs of their project steps as a visual explanation of their effort. Students must ask permission before photographing any other individuals for display on project.
- Be sure to properly credit/acknowledge all sources of graphics and photographers on the display board (Photograph taken by . . .).
- Students may use a computer and printer for written parts of the project.
- Electrical projects may use batteries as sources of electricity.

### **6. Display Board**

Project display should be on sturdy tri-fold board available at local craft and office supply stores. Written material, drawings and pictures should be securely attached to the display board.

Projects will be displayed on tables that are 36 inches high. Size of display area may not exceed the following measurements: 15” deep, 48” wide, and 72” high. Due to space limitations, displays that exceed these measurements cannot be accepted.

### **7. Electricity for Your Display**

- Electrical projects may use batteries as sources of electricity.
- If a project requires electricity, indicate this need when registering the project online.

### **8. Project Organization at Austin Energy Regional Science Festival**

*(See Project Types & Judging Criteria in this document or on the website for more details.)*

A. Grade Level: Each project is categorized by grade level or grade level equivalent

B. Project Categories: There are two types of projects that students may enter. These categories are explained in detail later in this guide.

(1) Exhibit: Model or Display

(2) Experiment

Note: Many students have difficulty discerning the difference between Exhibit and Experiment projects. Remember, an Experiment follows the steps of the scientific method.

It clearly asks a question to which you do not already know the answer without testing. An Exhibit is an explanation of how or why something works. It reveals details about the topic. An Exhibit is an explanation, not a question.

*(More on next page)*

## 9. Parental Help

Some students are fortunate to have parents who have time to help them. However, parents who do the thinking or build the project for students do not really help them. Parents are encouraged to help their children in these ways:

- Read and discuss the “Rules for Participation”
- Select projects which are appropriate for the child’s age and grade level
- Plan and manage project work, documentation and clean-up times
- Take your child to the public library or other places for research
- Help draw straight lines for a young child
- Listen to your child’s oral explanation of the project
- Ensure the child’s safety

*Students must list any parental help in the References and Acknowledgements section of the project.*

## 10. Registration Deadlines

All online registrations must be submitted at [www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com](http://www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com) by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2019**. All paperwork must also be submitted to our office by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2019**.

**Due to space limitations, late registration will not be permitted.**



# Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2019

## TEACHER CHECKLIST – ELEMENTARY DIVISION

**Please use this checklist to help successfully complete the registration process for the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival.**

- Attend one of the Science Festival Teacher Orientations (Thursday, September 6, or Wednesday September 12) or be briefed by your school's attending teacher.
- Registration will open in January, 2019 at [www.sciencefest.org](http://www.sciencefest.org). You must register your school and all projects online before **February 7, 2019**.

Your school will be emailed an invoice from the Austin Science Education Foundation shortly after your online Registration. Follow the instructions on the invoice to pay.

### **By Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

- Register your school and winning projects online at [www.sciencefest.org](http://www.sciencefest.org)
- 
- Obtain the following from each participating student:
  - The original Austin Energy Code of Conduct/Media Release Form, signed by their parent/guardian
  - One copy of the Elementary Project Research Form for each project
- Submit a complete school packet to Austin Energy at 721, Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78704. The building is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.  
A complete school packet consists of:
  - Original signed Austin Energy **Code of Conduct/Media Release** Form for each student
  - Copy of Elementary **Project Research Form** for each project

### **Friday, February 22, 2019**

Check in at Palmer Events Center\*, 900 Barton Springs Road, South Lobby, 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Clear your project through Registration and Display & Safety and set up project.

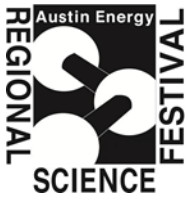
### **Saturday, February 23, 2019**

Encourage students to be at their project 15 minutes before judging. Judging begins at 8:30 a.m. for grades 5–6 and 11:00 a.m. for grades 3–4.

If possible, attend the Awards Ceremony, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., to celebrate your students' achievements and the accomplishments of other Central Texas students.

Dismantle Projects, 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Projects not picked up by 5:00 p.m. on February 23 will be discarded.





# Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2019

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### ELEMENTARY DIVISION

| RIBBON AWARDED<br><i>(mark only one box)</i> |                |     |
|--|----------------|-----|
|  | 16 – 18 points | 1st |
|  | 10 - 15 points | 2nd |
|  | 5 - 9 points   | 3rd |

Project # \_\_\_\_\_ Judge # \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to give **POSITIVE VERBAL FEEDBACK** to the student!

| Judging Criteria   |  |  |   |       |
|--|--|--|---|-------|
| Criteria   | Basic  | Average  | Excellent   | Score |
| <b>Question</b><br><i>Indicates variables tested / changed and observed / measured effect</i>                            | <i>Minimal information about what was tested and effects (outcome)</i><br><b>(1 point)</b>                   | <i>Basic information about what was tested and effects (outcome)</i><br><b>(2 points)</b>                                | <i>Includes specific change, and how will determine effects (outcome)</i><br><b>(3 points)</b>  |       |
| <b>Independence</b><br><i>Evidence the student generated and performed processes of project</i>                          | <i>Displayed in academic/adult language, shows little understanding of topic</i><br><b>(1 point)</b>         | <i>Mostly student-generated, understands general topic</i><br><b>(2 points)</b>  | <i>Displayed in student language, understands connections / details</i><br><b>(3 points)</b>  |       |
| <b>Project Organization</b><br><i>Includes all details needed to replicate testing and/or design process</i>             | <i>Lack of materials and steps of test/design procedures; cannot be replicated</i><br><b>(1 point)</b>       | <i>Incomplete quantities of materials and general details of procedures limit exact replication</i><br><b>(2 points)</b> | <i>Detail in quantities of materials and procedures support replication of project</i><br><b>(3 points)</b>   |       |
| <b>Presentation of Data</b><br><i>Critical sections are labeled and in logical order</i>                                 | <i>No organized testing process, missing lists and needed sequence, no graphics used</i><br><b>(1 point)</b> | <i>Steps of process shown using sequenced lists, labels, data in written and graphic forms</i><br><b>(2 points)</b>      | <i>Student created graphics indicating details of measured /observed outcomes</i><br><b>(3 points)</b>  |       |
| <b>Verbal Presentation</b><br><i>Communicates and presents verbally to a judge</i>                                       | <b>Student not Present</b><br><b>(0 points)</b>  | <b>No all team members participated in interview or were able to answer questions</b><br><b>(0 points)</b>               | <i>Student described and related achievements, answered judge's questions; if applicable: all team members participated in interview</i><br><b>(3 points)</b> |       |
| <b>Conclusion / Lessons Learned</b><br><i>Answers the testable question or problem supported with relevant evidence.</i> | <i>General results difficult to relate to question and/or problem</i><br><b>(1 point)</b>                    | <i>Results relate to question or problem without much evidence</i><br><b>(2 points)</b>                                  | <i>Student restated question or problem with supporting evidence and applied it to real world</i><br><b>(3 points)</b>  |       |
| <b>Total</b>   |  |  |   |       |