



## Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2012 ELEMENTARY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. WE ARE A HOME SCHOOL. CAN WE PARTICIPATE?**  
Yes. Please contact the Science Fair Director, Russell Cowen, for details:  
russell.cowen@austinenergy.com, (512) 972-9532
- 2. MY SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE A SCIENCE FAIR. CAN I STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL COMPETITION?**  
Yes. Please contact the Science Fair Director, Russell Cowen, for details:  
russell.cowen@austinenergy.com, (512) 972-9532
- 3. HOW DO I PAY FOR REGISTRATION?**  
Check with your school first, sometimes schools pay the fees.
  - We can take credit cards over the phone: Call Myra Ruiz at (512) 972-9520.
  - We accept checks: Make check payable to Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2012 and send them with the school's paperwork.
  - We also accept PO's. Call Myra Ruiz at (512) 972-9520.
- 4. MUST THE STUDENTS BE PRESENT DURING CHECK-IN/SETUP?**  
No. A teacher, parent, friend, etc. may bring the project to check it in and set it up.
- 5. MUST STUDENTS BE PRESENT DURING JUDGING?**  
No. It is not required, but talking to the student helps the judge evaluate the project more thoroughly.
- 6. MUST STUDENTS BE PRESENT AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY?**  
No. A student(s) awards can be mailed to the school.
- 7. DO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ADVANCE TO HIGHER COMPETITIONS?**  
No. The regional fair is the highest level of competition for elementary students.
- 8. WHERE/WHEN WILL RESULTS BE POSTED?**  
Results will be announced at the awards ceremony and posted on our website at [www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com](http://www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com) in the week following the competition.
- 9. WHEN IS THE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE?**  
Our deadline will be Thursday, February 9, 2012, 5:00 p.m. but check with your school to make sure they have not set their own deadline or already registered you.

*(More on next page)*

**10. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT ABOUT PROBLEMS WITH ONLINE REGISTRATION?**

Send a short e-mail describing the error or problem to [webmaster@sciencefest.org](mailto:webmaster@sciencefest.org).

**11. MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL NEEDS OR NEEDS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS. WHO DO I TALK TO?**

When you register your child online, please fill in the special requests box with a description of the request. We will do our best to accommodate your request or contact you if more special arrangements are needed.

*(More on next page)*



## Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2012 ELEMENTARY DIVISION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR DAY OF FAIR

**Q: What do I do if there is an emergency and I need to contact EMS or a safety officer?**

**A:** Report any emergency to an Austin Energy staff member in a dark polo Science Festival shirt. They will contact Palmer's administrative staff who will notify the appropriate entity.

**Q: Where should Judges and Volunteers report?**

**A:** Judges report to the Hospitality Suite, located on the second floor. Follow the signs to the north end of Palmer. Volunteers report to the Information Booth in the Exhibit Hall.

**Q: Where do I go for Lost and Found items?**

**A:** Lost and Found items will be located at the Information Booth in the Exhibit Hall.

**Q: Who can I ask for specific information?**

**A:** Issues should be taken to the Registration Desk or the Information Booth in the Exhibit Hall. Both locations will be staffed by Austin Energy personnel.

**Q: How do I find my project?**

**A:** Whoever checked in your project will have been given a card with the number of your booth. If you can't find your card, you can ask someone at the Registration Desk or Information Booth inside the Exhibit Hall.

**Q: Where can I park for the Science Fair and is there a charge?**

**A:** Parking is available in the Palmer parking garage FREE of charge.

**Q: How is registration organized?**

**A:** Registration is organized by the school's last name.

Example: Barbara Jordan Elementary would be registered under "J" for Jordan.

**Q: Must the students be present during check-in/setup?**

**A:** No. A teacher, parent, friend, etc. may bring the project; check it in and set it up.

**Q: Must students be present during judging?**

**A:** No. It is not required but it helps the judge evaluate the project more objectively.

**Q: Must students be present at the awards ceremony?**

**A:** No. A student's award(s) can be mailed to the school. Please contact your school with the request.

**Q: Why can't I take my project in through the doors just beyond registration?**

**A:** All projects must be reviewed at the Display and Safety checkpoint desk to ensure they do not contain components that pose a safety risk.

**Q: Are students allowed to go outside Palmer without their teachers?**

**A:** No. Students must have adult supervision to exit the building.

*(More on next page)*

**Q: How long is Elementary judging and how long will my child be in the Exhibit Hall alone?**

**A:** The judging can take up to two hours, depending on when the judge gets to the project. Once the project has been judged, a sticker will be placed on the front of the project board and your child will be escorted to Exhibit Hall II. The child's name will be announced and you will be able to pick him/her up at the stage in Exhibit Hall II. No adult other than judges or volunteers can be present in the Exhibit Hall.

**Q: Can I drop off my child and pick him/her up later?**

**A:** No. All parents/teachers are accountable for their children/students. Parents/teachers should wait for their child/student in Exhibit Hall II (Stage area).

**Q: How are projects scored?**

**A:** Elementary students do not compete against each other. Instead, their projects are scored using a rubric (guidelines) the student must follow. Judges use the rubric as a guide and make the final decision after interviewing the child and reviewing the project (including photography and acknowledgements). Students who successfully complete either all or the majority of the components of the rubric will receive a first place ribbon, for example. (Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd)

**Q: My child is part of a team project. Does each child on the team receive a ribbon?**

**A:** Yes. Each child receives a ribbon. If three children worked on a team project, three ribbons will be placed on the project.

**Q: Can I get the judges' comments for my child's project?**

**A:** Yes. Judges' scoring sheets will be mailed to each school. Students should ask their science teacher for the scoring sheets on their projects.

**Q: Where can I pick up items that were removed from projects?**

**A:** Items removed from projects during the Display and Safety check and/or at project setup will be located at the Display and Safety table after judging.

**Q: When can the public view projects?**

**A:** Elementary Division: Saturday, February 25, 2:00-4:30p.m.

**Q: When can we take the project home?**

**A:** Elementary Division projects must be taken home after the Awards Ceremony on Saturday. Elementary projects left in Palmer after 5:30 p.m. on Saturday will be discarded.

**Q: When are the awards presentations held and is there a charge?**

**A:** Elementary Division: Exhibit Hall II, Saturday, February 25, 3:00-4:30p.m. There is no charge to attend.

**Q: Do elementary students advance to higher competitions?**

**A:** No. The regional fair is the highest level of competition for elementary schools.

**Q: Where/when will results be posted?**

**A:** Results will be announced at the awards ceremony and posted on our Website at [www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com](http://www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com) in the week following the competition.