



Austin Energy Regional Science Festival 2010

ELEMENTARY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 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 and Volunteers report to the Hospitality Suite, located on the second floor. Follow the signs to the north end of Palmer.

Q: Where are the restrooms?

A: Restrooms are located to the right of the south foyer and the west hallway.

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 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 do you 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 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 awards can be mailed to the school. Please contact your school with the request.

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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 the project does 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.

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: Why are there so many 1st place ribbons in the elementary grades?

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). If a child successfully completes either all or the majority of the components of the rubric they will receive a first place.

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. (Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd)

Q: My child's class entered a project. Will each child receive a ribbon?

A: Due to cost limitations, only one ribbon will be placed on a project entered by a class.

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 project.

Q: Where can I pickup 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 27, 2:00-4:30p.m.

Q: Will I be able to buy a picture of my child with his/her project?

A: We do not have a photographer available to take individual photos. However, families can take pictures of students and projects. Photos can be taken of students on the stage.

(More on next page)

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?

A: Elementary Division, Exhibit Hall II, Saturday, February 27, 3:00-4:30p.m.

Q: Is there a charge to attend either award presentation?

A: No.

Q: Do elementary students advance to higher competitions?

A: No. The regional fair is the highest level for elementary.

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 in the week following the competition.