General Information

The 2015 North Carolina Region 4 Science & Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, February 21st, 2015 in the Auxiliary Gym, Jones Health and Physical Education Center, on the campus of UNC Pembroke. For directions, click here. Students can begin setting up their displays at 7:30 am and the awards ceremony will conclude at 4:00 pm. For a complete schedule of events see the fair website. Deadline for application materials is February 13, 2015.

The North Carolina State Science and Engineering Fair is affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for grades 9-12. Projects that are winners in their categories will be sent from the state level competition to participate in the 2015 ISEF in Pittsburg, PA. In order for our students to be more competitive at the state science fair we will follow the rules set by ISEF.

Important items of interest for the 2014-2015 fair season:

• **NO FEE FOR THIS YEAR’S REGIONAL FAIR.** The Region 4 Fair Fee of $4.00 has been waived, due the generosity of Duke Energy! Thank you Duke Energy.

• **REGION 4 WILL BE PAYING THE STATE LEVEL FAIR FEE.** Once again, due to the generosity of Duke Energy, the Region 4 Fair will be paying the entrance fee for all those participants who are selected to advance to the state level fair.

• **ALL** grade levels are to use the official ISEF forms (see links and discussion below). The use of the one page Elementary and Middle School Research Plan and Approval Form was discontinued several years ago.

• **NO Elementary Projects involving the culturing of Microorganisms are allowed.** Due to the risks and safety rules associated with culturing microorganisms, the NCSEF has decided to restrict these projects to the JUNIOR AND SENIOR LEVELS ONLY. Microorganisms include, but are not limited to: bacteria, fungi (including molds), viruses, viroids, prions, rickettsia, and parasites. ALL junior and senior level projects involving microorganisms must follow the ISEF Rules regarding culturing, handling and disposal. **Students at all levels may NOT grow microorganisms at home.**
The Region 4 Fair will be utilizing the same on-line application software as the NC Science and Engineering Fair. This is the “Science Fair in a Box” software which has been used by Region 4 for several years. We strongly encourage you to view the “Step-by-step Guide to Registering” presentation on our website (see links list on last page).

Although implemented several years ago we would like to remind teachers and students of the six categories. They are: Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. A description of these categories can be found on the NC Science and Engineering Fair website.

Application Information

(Note: Registration will open on January 1, 2015 and must be completed on-line by February 13, 2015)

Again this year the Region 4 fair will be using the “Science Fair in a Box” software. This is the same on-line registration process utilized for the past several years and the same software that is used to register for the state level fair. Please read and follow the “Step-by-step Guide to Registering” on the fair webpage! If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

For teachers…the students must register individually. Teachers cannot, and do not need to, register their school. Also, each student will need a valid, unique email address. The email address is how the software tracks the participant. This means teachers cannot use their email address for multiple students and any email address can only be used once.

In addition to the on-line application students must complete the required ISEF paper forms as outlined below. ALL STUDENTS MUST BRING THE COMPLETED PAPER APPLICATION MATERIALS WITH THEM TO THE FAIR. Do NOT mail in the ISEF forms. Failure to bring completed forms on the day of the fair will prevent the student from advancing to the state level.

- For ALL divisions, at a minimum all students are required to use the official ISEF form 1, form 1A, form 1B and the abstract. For the abstract please utilize the ISEF abstract form. Depending on the topic of the student’s project, additional forms may be required. The best way to determine what ISEF forms are required is to use the “Rules Wizard” link below. For a link to all forms and detailed instructions, please see the state level fair website at: http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/forms

As part of the on-line application each entry will be required to submit a signature form that has been postmarked by February 16, 2015 and received by February 19, 2015. This is one of the requirements listed on the “Participant Home” page found in the Science Fair in a Box registration software online. Please mail signature forms only (NOT any other entry forms)
to: Ms. Carolyn Oxendine, Region 4 Science Fair - Accounting, Department of Chemistry & Physics, UNC Pembroke, P.O. Box 1510, Pembroke, NC 28372. **There is NO entry fee for the 2014 Region 4 Science & Engineering Fair.**

Teachers, please ensure your students choose the proper category for their project! For guidance visit the following link: [http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/rules/categories](http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/rules/categories).

**General Rules & Regulations**

1. In ALL categories (Elementary, Junior, and Senior), no more than **three** students may enter a project together.

   - **Elementary:** The elementary division includes grades 3-5. In this division the projects are not divided into categories. Each elementary school may submit 3 projects in this division to the Region 4 Fair. These may include all from one grade, or any combination for a total of 3 projects. Eight projects from the elementary category will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition. **Because of the risks and safety rules associated with culturing bacteria, these projects are restricted to junior and senior divisions ONLY.**

   - **Junior:** The junior division includes grades 6-8. In the junior division the categories include Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. The first place winners in each division from local school fairs can be sent to the Region 4 Fair. The first and second place projects from each junior division will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition.

   - **Senior:** The senior division includes grades 9-12. In the senior division the categories include Biology A, Biology B, Chemistry, Earth/Environmental Science, Physics & Astronomy, and Technology/Engineering. The first place winners in each division from local school fairs can be sent to the Region 4 Fair. The first and second place projects from each senior division will be chosen to move on from the regional fair to the state level competition.

   - **Maximum number of entries per school:**
     - Elementary school: 3 entries
     - Middle school: 6 entries
     - High school: 6 entries

**County Science Fairs:** *If the county has a county science fair,* the first, second, and third place
winner from each category described above may be submitted for a total of 54 projects (18 from grades 3-5, 18 from grades 6-8, 18 from grades 9-12).

2. **Permissible items for display in the participants booth, in addition to the presentation board, are very limited.** A complete list of what can and cannot be displayed can be found in the 2015 Rules & Guidelines document, pages 23-25. Please make sure to consult this document in order that you are NOT disqualified from participating. No gas or running water can be supplied. Dangerous chemicals, open flame, and explosives will not be accepted in exhibits. Students are reminded to NOT bring their experiments with them to the fair. They will not be permitted to display them.

3. Experimental procedures with animals, which involve discomfort, pain or death, or diets deficient in essential nutrients, will be disqualified. No live animals should be brought to the fair.

4. Your project must be within the following limits when set up for evaluation and students must provide their own display board for presentation.
   - 30 in. (76 cm) deep, front to back
   - 48 in. (122 cm) wide, side to side
   - 108 in. (274 cm) high, floor to top including the table -- table height is ~30”

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**Check List**

**All Divisions:**

- [ ] ISEF Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)
- [ ] ISEF Student Checklist (1A)
- [ ] ISEF Approval Form (1B)
- [ ] Official Abstract
- [ ] Research Plan
- [ ] and any other required forms (use Rules Wizard link)
- [ ] Complete the online registration process
- [ ] Mail in signature form from online registration process along with registration fee (one form for both)
- [ ] All paper ISEF forms are to be completed and brought to fair with participant
HELPFUL WEB SITES:

Categories:  http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/rules/categories
Forms:  http://ncsciencefair.org/index.php/students-a-parents/forms
International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF):  
   https://student.societyforscience.org/intel-isef
ISEF Rules & Guidelines:  https://student.societyforscience.org/rules-all-projects
NC State Science & Engineering Fair:  http://www.ncsciencefair.org/
NC Region 4 Science Fair (UNCP):  http://www.uncp.edu/academics/colleges-schools-departments/departments/chemistry-and-physics/science-fair
NC Region 4 Science Fair online registration:  http://ncsefreg4.sfiab.com/
Science Buddies:  http://www.sciencebuddies.com/
Science Fair Central:  http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/