

What to Expect At the Fair

Synopsys Championship Judging Day March 13, 2025

Please wear your name badge.

Dress for success, neatly and professionally, and a mask is recommended but not required. Please arrive on time, but not too early. Doors to South Hall open at 1:25pm for grades 9-12 and at 1:55pm for grades 6-8. If you need to complete compliance requirements, please arrive 30 minutes early to your hall admittance time and check in at the white tent.

Be ready to stay at your project display until 6 PM

- There may be long periods between judges. Bring something to read while sitting quietly. (note: WiFi can be very slow when South Hall is full of students.)
- **Bring a water bottle** (water dispensers are available inside South Hall) **and a snack**, as food is not provided. Please keep your project area tidy.
- If you need a restroom break, leave a note at your board with an estimated return time.
- If you have any **questions or concerns**, please let a board member know (they'll be wearing a badge with a **dark green** ribbon) or check with the volunteer at the entrance to the Judging Area (they'll be wearing a **lime green** ribbon). **Do not enter the Judging area.**

Judging Basics

Judges start reviewing project boards in the morning but will return to ask questions once students arrive. There are two types of judges and both are really important. They'll likely interview you individually.

- **Category Award judges** (wearing blue ribbons) are responsible for the Category Awards (1st, 2nd, & Honorable Mention) in your category. At least two category judges will evaluate each project. Have them put their initials on your Compliance Checklist when the interview is complete. If you did not have at least two category judges interview you by 4:30pm, please report immediately to the Student Help Desk.
- **Sponsored Awards judges** (wearing white ribbons) represent organizations with a focus on STEM. Some will review all projects, while others focus on specific topics. Keep in mind that your project may not be eligible for all awards.

Judging usually takes place between 1:30 and 5pm for grades 9-12 (High school) and 2 to 5pm for grades 6-8 (Middle school). Judging will be completed by 5pm, but you may be asked to remain with your project until 6pm to finish the process.

Synopsys Championship public viewing 5 - 6pm.

Projects may be removed after 6pm when public viewing is completed.