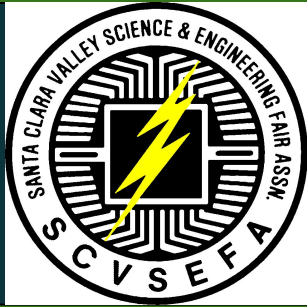
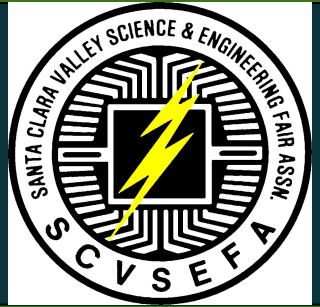




About the Silicon Valley Championship



- ❑ March 3 - 4, 2027 - In-person
- ❑ Applications Open: Sep 28, 2026
- ❑ Pre-approval deadline: Nov 13, 2026 11:59 p.m (important if you've participated in any ISEF affiliated fair in the past)
- ❑ Final application deadline: Jan 8, 2027 11:59 p.m.
- ❑ Visit www.science-fair.org





Synopsys Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship

Affiliated Science Fairs

CALIFORNIA STATE
SCIENCE FAIR



Thermo Fisher Scientific
**Junior Innovators
Challenge**

A program of Society for Science

REGENERON

ISEF

A PROGRAM OF
SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

Step 1: Application

Online application folder must contain:

- **Required Forms**
- **Signatures**
*Signature dates MUST be before experimentation begin date
- **Sponsoring Teacher:** [Who can sponsor?](#)
- **Project Procedures**
- **Projects with potential risks or continuation must have SRC/IRB pre-approval.** Deadline for pre-approval is **Nov 13, 2026**. Do I need [pre-approval?](#)
- **Payment or Voucher Code is needed to complete application process** (Admins CAN NOT process application unless it has been paid)

Why Join?

☀ Discover Something New

- Explore your curiosity and turn your questions into real experiments.
- You might find answers no one else has!

👤 Learn from Experts

- Get feedback from mentors and judges who are scientists, engineers, and professionals.
- Practice explaining your project like a real researcher.

🏆 Earn Recognition & Prizes

- Cash prizes up to **\$1,000**.
- Special awards from local organizations (tech companies, universities, NASA).

🏆 Advance to Bigger Stages

- Qualify for the **California State Science Fair (grades 6–12)**.
- Enter the **Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge (grades 6–8)**.
- Compete at the **Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (grades 9–12)**.

🚀 Unique Opportunities

- NASA awards for space-related projects.
- Sponsored prizes in categories like health, environment, and technology.

🎯 Tangible Takeaways for Students

- Build your **college résumé** and stand out.
- Practice **public speaking** and presentation skills.
- Connect with students who love science like you.



Types of Projects

Engineering, Math & Computer Science

Build, code, or design something that solves a problem.

Examples: app, bridge design, math model.

Product Testing & Food Science (Grades 6–8 only)

Test products or explore food science.

Examples: eco-friendly cleaners, bread rising with different ingredients.

Project Resources

Engineering Project Guide (PPT)

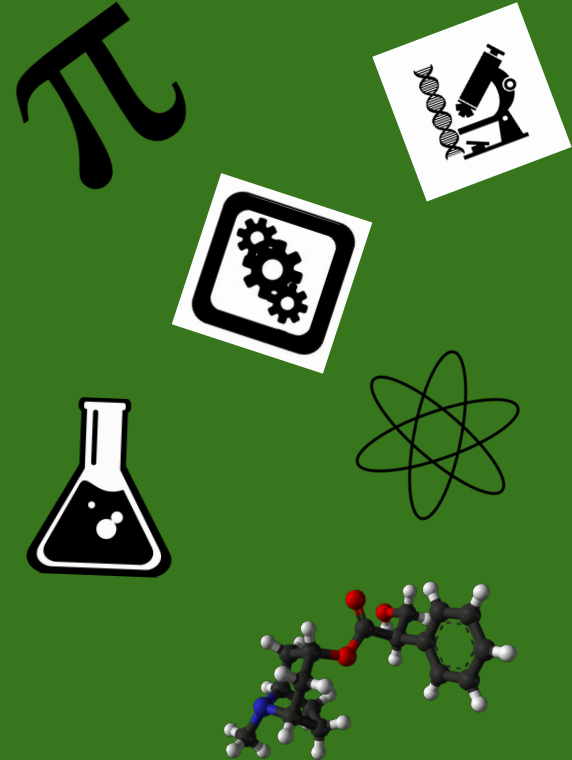
Minimum Quality Requirements

Special rules, forms & deadlines

Safety & Approvals

Projects with hazards, animals, or humans need **pre-approval**.

Apps/projects involving **medical or mental health** must have a doctor supervisor & pre-approval.



Project Hints & Tips – Student Checklist

- ❤️ Pick Something You Care About – Choose a topic you're excited about. Would you still want to talk about it in 3 months?
- 🔍 Do Your Research – Search online, watch videos, or ask experts. Write down 3–5 key facts in your own words.
- ❓ Ask Why or How – Go beyond 'what'. Example: Not 'What is solar power?' but 'How can solar power be used at my school?'
- 🌍 Make It Matter – Could your project help the environment, your school, or your community?
- 🤖 Go for the Wow! – Pick something inherently cool (glows, reacts, moves, surprises).
- 📓 Keep a Notebook – Record every idea, sketch, mistake, and result. Your project diary!
- 📊 Analyze Your Findings – Look for patterns, compare results, and summarize your big takeaway.



Project “No-No’s”

Not Allowed:

- Pouring Coke (or other liquids) on things just to “see what happens.”
 - Simple store-bought tests like Miracle-Gro on plants.
- “I just want to find out what happens when...” projects (too vague).
- Experiments with **tau proteins or similar biomedical materials**.
- Culturing bacteria, mold, or anything else at home in Petri dishes.

Remember:

- Some projects are unsafe or not scientific enough.
- For the full list of restrictions, check the “**No-No’s**” page on our [website](#) before starting.

Science Fair Project Steps

How to Choose, Iterate, and Succeed

Why Science Fair?



- Be curious: Ask questions about the world around you
- Be the scientist/engineer: Try your own experiments
- Discover something new and share it
- Show off your creativity and ideas

Step 1: Pick a Topic

- Choose something you are curious about
- Brainstorm: What problems or interests excite you?
- Example: Video games, sports, the environment, cooking

Step 2: Do Background Research



- Look up information online, in books, or ask experts
- Write down 3–5 facts in your notebook
- Example: If you like plants, learn how water, soil, or light affects growth

Step 3: Ask Why or How ?

- Turn your interest into a testable question
- Example: Not 'What is solar power?' but 'How can solar panels power my classroom fan?'
- Aim for experiments where you change one thing and measure the result

Step 4: Design & Test

- Plan your experiment: What will you test? How will you measure it?
- Keep it simple: change ONE thing at a time
- Record every result, even mistakes—they're discoveries too!

Step 5: Analyze & Share



- Look for patterns: Did the same thing happen each time?
- Compare results and think: What does this mean?
- Share your story on your science fair board

How to Choose and Refine a Project



- Step 1: List at least 3 project ideas
- Step 2: Score each idea:
 - Is it interesting to me?
 - Is it testable with my time/materials?
 - Does it matter (to me, school, or world)?
- Step 3: Refine your best idea and make it specific

Next Steps



- This week: Write down at least 2 project ideas
- Use the 3-question test to pick your best idea
- Talk with your teacher or family for feedback
- Be ready to share your project choice soon!

NEED MORE IDEAS?



-  Build on Someone Else's Work – Example: If someone tested paper towels for absorbency, test eco-friendly brands vs. regular.
-  Search Smarter – Try searches like 'fun science projects with energy' or 'student experiments on recycling'.
-  Start With YOU – Hobbies (sports, gaming, cooking), Problems (cafeteria waste, screen time), Local Issues (air quality, traffic), Current Events (wildfires, AI in schools).
-  Use Cool Tools – Example: UV meter (test sunglasses), fitness tracker (does music affect heart rate?), air sensor (plants in classrooms).
-  Example Project – Why is there bare dirt between chaparral and grassy areas of Mt. Diablo? Could be plant competition, soil, or sunlight differences.

Example of a real “science fair project”

Bare Zones

Why is there a strip of bare dirt between the chaparral and grassy areas of Mt Diablo? Is it a complicated plant warfare? Or something much simpler?

APPLYING

- ➔ **Be clear**
 - ◆ **Include safety information**
 - ◆ **Use metric**
 - ◆ **Know your variables**
 - ◆ **Check for all the forms your project requires**
 - ◆ **Signatures**
 - ◆ **Bibliography**



IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- www.science-fair.org
- www.sciencebuddies.org
- <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/>
- <https://www.discoveryeducation.com/>
- [https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/resources/
project/how-to-do-a-science-fair-project-2](https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/resources/project/how-to-do-a-science-fair-project-2)

CONTACT US

Use our [Contact Us](#) page or email us
directly:

fairmanager@science-fair.org

We hope this is the beginning of great things to come!

