

Letter for Junior/Senior (Grade 6-12) Participants

2025 Coastal Bend Regional Science Fair (CBRSF)

Dear CBRSF Participants, Teachers, and Parents/Guardians,

You are receiving this message because your student is registered for the Junior or Senior Division CBRSF on Friday, February 14, 2025 at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Center (UC). The Award Ceremony will take place at 6 pm Friday, February 14 in the same location. Parking is free on the second floor of the Bayview Parking Garage on Friday.

Your school district may be arranging transportation for Friday. Parents/guardians are not required to attend if students are coming with their teachers, but we encourage parent/guardian attendance if able.

Please see our [campus map](#) for the location of the University Center. Park in the Bayside Garage - parking is free on the garage second floor on Friday, February 14. Simply park on the second floor and no additional steps are needed. Weekday parking on other garage floors or surface lots requires payment.

Project Board

ALL students must have their projects with them during their check-in time. Parents/teachers can go with their child to help them set up their boards. *Parents/teachers MUST leave the Exhibit Hall before judging begins. Students will not be judged if their parent/guardian/teacher is in the judging area.*

- Students can use the same project board submitted to their school/district fair, or they can improve their board for the regional fair if the original experiment stays the same.
- Board Dimensions: Projects that use two 36 x 48 display boards are NO LONGER allowed. The maximum height from floor to top of the board is 96 inches. NOTE that this is a change from the 108-inch limitation in previous years. All projects need to be placed on a table (30 inches), which means the physical board is allowed a 66-inch height. The width limitation is 48 inches.
- Please see the [CBRSF student guide](#) for more details on the required board elements and any items allowed/disallowed as part of your display.
- Please print a copy of your abstract and any approval forms. The abstract must be vertically displayed in front of the project or taped to the table.
- Be sure to individually label each photo, graph, or other visual with its source.

TIP! Dr. Chris Bird, professor of Biology at TAMUCC created an excellent [presentation](#) for the 2021 Regional fair that had to be held virtually. Dr. Bird explains the key features of sharing data. Viewing this video can help students understand how to best represent their findings.

IMPORTANT!!!

- **NO** boards with glitter on them will be allowed. Our facility prohibits glitter.
- **NO** helium balloons are allowed in the facility.
- **NO** liquids (even water) or organic materials are allowed as any part of the display.

The student guide on our web site provides further details about allowed/dis-allowed items.

Checking in

- Please arrive on time.
- Check-in is in the foyer inside the UC, just outside the Anchor Ballroom. Students will receive their T-shirts, a name tag, and a project form.
- 9-12th grade students enter in the doorway to the far right as seen from the parking lot
- 6-8th grade students enter the main UC doors to the far left of the parking lot.
- *The lines will be long, but we have lots of volunteers checking on our projects. At check-in boards will be inspected to make sure display and safety rules have been followed.*
- Parents/guardians will be given a fair sheet with the student's name and exhibit hall location on it at check in.
- Students will need to use the fair sheet to find their place.
- After checking in with our volunteers, teachers and/or parents/guardians can walk with their child to the Exhibit Hall and help them set up their project board. Boards will be inspected at your table to make sure display and safety rules were followed. Infractions may result in a disqualification. Boards must pass this safety and display inspection before being judged.

Exhibit Hall

- Teachers and/or parents are allowed in the exhibit hall during set up time but must leave before judging.
- We will have chaperones in the exhibit hall to supervise students.
- Students are not expected to stand the whole time and may need to rest. A small chair is provided in front of each table.
- Students should bring water only to drink. No other drinks are allowed. A small, neat snack is allowed.
- Students may bring a quiet game, book or drawing materials. Electronic games are allowed, but users will need earphones.
- Students are expected to stay relatively quiet and by their boards during judging. Students should NOT use this time to visit other projects.

Judging

- Students will be judged following check-in and set up.
- We will do our best to have 2 judges interview each student. Additional judges may visit students regarding special awards.
- Please see “interview techniques” on [our website](#) for some hints about the interview.
- Students should be prepared to talk about their project for 2-3 minutes and then to reply to judge questions. Judges may return to ask further questions.
- Students must stay in the judging Hall until released to be considered for awards.

***Parents/guardians and/or teachers should wait in the University Center or close by while the student is in the Exhibit Hall. They may not re-enter the exhibit hall once judging has begun. ***

After Judging

- After an entire division is complete, we will release the students from the exhibit hall and bring them to the Lonestar Ballroom.
- We will announce from the stage that the students are coming out of the Exhibit Hall.
- At the end of all judging, students need to remove their project board at 1:30pm. Boards left behind will be recycled.

Awards

Every student registered for and in attendance at the regional science fair this year will receive a special commemorative T-Shirt and Certificate of Participation.

Students will have the opportunity to receive the following awards at the Award Ceremony on Friday, February 14 2025, which begins at 6 pm.

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category by grade will receive a medallion.
- We have many special awards from sponsors and professional organizations.
- Participants can check the [JSEF website](#) for a list of special awards and their descriptions
- One top project in each division, Junior (6-8th grades) and Senior (9-12th grades), will receive a trophy for Best in Division. Their schools will also receive an award.
- One Best in Show will be awarded to the top project, as well as their respective school, among all grades 6-12.

Award Announcements:

As soon as judges have made decisions about all awards, we will post a list of names of students who need to return for the awards ceremony at 6 pm Friday. We will do our best to post names of students who will be receiving awards by 2 pm.

The list will be posted on our [awards and photos page](#).

ADVANCING to TxSEF (Texas Science and Engineering Fair), ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) or Thermo-Fischer:

Category Awards TxSEF

- Students who place 1st or 2nd place in their category are automatically promoted to TxSEF.
- 3rd place winners can attend TxSEF *if the 1st or 2nd place winner cannot attend*. 1st and 2nd place winners need to confirm their attendance by Saturday, February 15. Award winners will receive a packet with details.
- Use [this form](#) to confirm your student's attendance at TxSEF.
- **ALL category winners** will need to stay immediately following the awards ceremony for a brief informational meeting about attending state. ALL state-bound participants need to have ALL required information in STEM Wizard to be able to attend State.

Senior Division: ISEF AWARD

Two projects will be selected to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). The Coastal Bend Regional Science Fair pays all expenses for selected projects to attend ISEF, which is in Columbus, Ohio on May 10-16, 2025. ISEF winners are required to attend an informational meeting. ([Event information here](#))

Junior Division: Thermo Fischer

The top 10% of all projects in the Junior Division are selected to submit to the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge. Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony. Students submit their projects online and receive certificates and prizes, as well as the opportunity to attend the final competition in Washington D.C. ([Event information here](#))

[Fair Schedule is posted on our website](#)