



Davis Elementary Science Fair Information



Davis Science Fair 2021 Dates

- **Projects Due, Wednesday, January 20th, 2021**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Science Fair is 100% virtual this year. You will need to download the digital template from the Davis Science Fair website, modify it to present your project, save it as a pdf file and email it to sciencefair@davisdolphins.org

- **Judging, Wednesday, January 20th – Monday, January 25th, 2021**

The judges will review and score the projects. This year in place of the traditional face-to-face presentation to judges and question & answer session that we've done in the past, judges will review the scientists' reflections (Slide 2 of the template). Please fill this out as thoroughly as you can.

- **Awards Notification, Tuesday, January 26th, 2021**

We will let everyone know how they scored and, if eligible, plan for students moving on to regionals!

- **Austin Energy Regional Science Fair, January – February, 2021**

Exceptional Davis Elementary Science Fair projects from 3rd-5th grades will advance to the AERSF. These projects will be judged February 2-4 and award notifications will be sent on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

- **Awards Distribution, TBD**

Davis Elementary Science Fair Basics

- **Who can participate?**
 - Any Davis Elementary student in K-5th grade
- **What kinds of projects can be submitted?**
 - There are 3 kinds of projects
 - Collections
 - K-2nd grade only can submit collections
 - Share and classify a collection.
 - Exhibits
 - All grades can submit exhibits
 - Research and explain, often with a demonstration or model, how or why something works or details of a scientific phenomenon
 - Experiments
 - All grades can submit exhibits
 - Following the scientific method, design and complete an experiment to answer a question
 - Each project this year will be submitted digitally.
 - Download the project template on the [Davis Science Fair website](#)
 - Modify the PowerPoint or upload and modify it as a Google Slide
 - Save the finished project as a pdf file and email to sciencefair@davisdolphins.org by January 20th, 2021
 - Students can submit individual projects or team projects with up to 3 students total
 - Please note the rules before beginning a project. **Students may NOT do projects involving the growth of mold or bacteria.** If you have specific questions about an aspect of your project, please email sciencefair@davisdolphins.org.
- **How can I participate?**
 - Just download the template online and get started!
 - Slide 1 is the template that the student uses to modify and create their own project board.
 - Slide 2 will take the place of the in-person presentation and question & answer session with judges. Please fill this out as thoroughly as possible. We'd love to hear what you learned, how you became interested, and how much fun you had!

- Save your project board as a pdf file, including the first 2 slides and email it to sciencefair@daviddolphins.org.
- Celebrate all of your hard work and scientific inquiry! Each participant this year will receive a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon.

This document from the AERSF is extremely helpful:

<http://www.sciencefest.org/images/pdfs/ElemHowToDoSciFairProj.pdf>

Getting Started – The Rules

Listed on this page are important rules and guidelines* that participants must follow for both the Davis Science Fair and the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival (AERSF).

- **Projects Are NOT Allowed to Involve**
 - **Growing bacteria or mold of any type**
 - Firearms, explosives, or discharge air pressure canister devices, e.g. potato guns
 - Cause of pain, suffering, sickness, or death of an animal, i.e. vertebrates
 - Any activity or substance that presents a danger to the student or the environment, including hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials
- **Display Board and Safety Guidelines**
 - **No personally identifying photos or information**
 - Please do not include the scientist's name on the project board. This information will be provided when projects are submitted but should not be visible on the board itself.
 - Please do not post photos the scientists' face, especially if for 3rd-5th graders. Scientists in these grades are eligible to advance to regionals and identifying photos are not permitted.
 - **Allowed or Encouraged Items**
 - Photographs, drawings, stuffed animals/artificial plants or imitation (play) food to depict the prohibited or discouraged items
 - Photographs of project steps as a visual explanation of effort

- Credit/acknowledgement of all sources of graphics and photographers, e.g. “Photograph taken by...”
- **Parental Help**

Some students are fortunate to have parents who have time to help them. However, parents who do the thinking or build the project for students do not really help them. Parents are encouraged to help their children in these ways:

 - Read and discuss the Rules
 - Select projects that are appropriate for the child’s age and grade level
 - Plan and manage project work, documentation, and clean-up times
 - Take your child to the public library or other places for research
 - Help draw straight lines for young children
 - Listen to your child’s oral explanation of the project
 - Ensure the child’s safety

Students should list any parental help in the References and Acknowledgements section of the project.

*Davis Science Fair follows the rules and guidelines as set by the AERSF. The information provided here is adapted from their Elementary Rules for Participation. More info can be found on their website www.sciencefest.org

Project: COLLECTION

- **What?** A collection of items that are organized into groups, according to their similarities and differences, and labeled
- **Who?** Students in kindergarten through 2nd grade only
- **Why?** Classifying collections can be an excellent introductory project for a novice scientist. It can be a collection of anything – plants, bugs, toys, rocks, dinosaurs, anything your scientist is interested in. Their projects will be judged on the logic of their sorting and classification.
- **How?** Collections will not advance to the AERSF but follow the same basic AERSF project guidelines, i.e. journal entries with dates each time you work on the project, reference sources used to help classify the collection, etc. Please refer to the [AERSF's HOW TO DO AN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT – STUDENT GUIDE](#) for guidance.

DISPLAY BOARD ELEMENTS*

- **TITLE** of Collection with Classification
- **RESEARCH REPORT** gives background information, may include diagrams & pictures
- **CLASSIFICATION SCHEME** is defined, objective/measurable, and implemented on the display board or in photographs
- **CONCLUSIONS** describe what the student learned
- **REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Adapted from AERSF's 2017 ELEMENTARY PROJECT JUDGING. Please refer to www.sciencefest.org for more information.

Project: EXHIBIT

- **What?** An exhibit can be a demonstration, a model or a display. A demonstration or model describes how or why something works. A display reveals details about the topic. This information can be found in a book; the facts are known.
- **Who?** Students in kindergarten through 5th grade
- **Why?** Exhibits help a student gain a deeper understanding of a topic that interests them. This is basically your scientist showing an interest in any particular subject, studying & collecting more information on the subject, and then presenting it in a logical & understandable manner.
- **How?** Please refer to the AERSF's [HOW TO DO AN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT – STUDENT GUIDE](#) for guidance.

DISPLAY BOARD ELEMENTS* (Please do not include your name anywhere on the project template. If adding photos to your project, please make sure no faces or any other personally identifying information are displayed. If your project advances to regionals, this is a requirement.)

- **TITLE** of Demonstration, Model or Display
- **RESEARCH REPORT** gives background information, may include diagrams & pictures
- **EXPLANATION** of what the exhibit shows
- **CONCLUSIONS** describe what the student learned
- **REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

*Adapted from AERSF's 2017 ELEMENTARY PROJECT JUDGING. Please refer to www.sciencefest.org for more information.

Project: EXPERIMENT

- **What?** An experiment is a test of a question in order to make a discovery, test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact. To test your question, you must follow the steps of the [scientific method](#). A thorough display board shows all elements of these steps.
- **Who?** Students in kindergarten through 5th
- **Why?** Experiments help a student explore and answer a question or solve a problem and gain a better understanding of the world around them.
- **How?** Please refer to the AERSF's [HOW TO DO AN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT – STUDENT GUIDE](#) for guidance.

DISPLAY BOARD ELEMENTS* (Please do not include your name anywhere on the project template. If adding photos to your project, please make sure no faces or any other personally identifying information are displayed. If your project advances to regionals, this is a requirement.)

- **TITLE** of Experiment
- **PROBLEM** What question are you trying to answer?
- **DEFINITIONS** Explain the meanings of any special words stated in the “Problem”
- **HYPOTHESIS** This is what you think will happen before you start to test.
- **BACKGROUND INFORMATION** What do books, articles, and the Internet say about your topic?
- **EXPERIMENTAL MATERIALS** What items do you need to perform your experiment?
- **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE** These are the steps you follow to test your problem.
- **RESULTS** What happened? (Use tables of data or graphs plus a description.)
- **CONCLUSIONS** What is the answer to the question in your “Problem”? How do you explain your results?
- **REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** Books, resource people, articles (include the title and author) or specific Web sites (include the date the site was accessed). Neither search engines, such as Google and Yahoo, nor Wikipedia are scientific sources!

For a sample of the judging criteria, please see

<http://www.sciencefest.org/images/pdfs/ElemJudgCrit.pdf>

*Adapted from AERSF's 2017 ELEMENTARY PROJECT JUDGING. Please refer to www.sciencefest.org for more information.

Resources for Science Fair Information

- **Davis Dolphins Science Fair website**
 - <http://www.davisdolphins.net/academic-enrichment-school-clubs/science-fair/>
 - Detailed information packets, dates, and suggested timelines are available for download.
- **Davis Dolphins Science Fair Committee**
 - Please feel free to email at sciencefair@davisdolphins.org
 - Co-chairs: Karin Canipe, Sarah Ericsson, Larisa Kirkovits
- **Austin Regional Science Festival**
 - <http://www.sciencefest.org/>
 - Third, fourth, and fifth grade science fair projects may be selected to represent Davis Elementary in this 12-county regional event.
 - The Davis Science Fair also follows the rules and guidelines as set by the AERSF so specific information can be found there.
- **Helpful websites with tons of ideas**

Not all of the experiments on these websites are appropriate for an elementary science fair project. When choosing a project, please make sure it complies with the Davis Elementary and AERSF rules.

- Science Buddies
www.sciencebuddies.org
- Discovery Channel's Science Fair Central
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>
- Science Bob's Science Fair Ideas
<https://sciencebob.com/category/science-fair-ideas/>
- American Chemical Society's Adventures in Chemistry
www.acs.org/kids
- Ipl2 for Kids
<http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide/>