



Austin Energy Regional Science Festival
February 21 – 24, 2018
Palmer Events Center



Judges and Volunteers Needed to Support Young Scientists:

Judges

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| Thursday, Feb 22, 2018 | |
| 8 am to noon | Senior Division (High School) |
| 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Junior Division (Middle School) |
| Qualifications: Degree or significant experience in scientific field | |
| Saturday, Feb 24, 2018 | |
| 8 am to 10:15 am | Elementary Division, 5th–6th Grade |
| 10:30 am to 1:30 p.m. | Elementary Division, 3rd–4th Grade |
| Qualifications: Good general education, experience talking to young children | |

Volunteers (4-hour shifts)

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| Wednesday, Feb 21, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Registration, Project Set-Up |
| Thursday, Feb 22, 7:30 am to 5 p.m. | Judging Assistance |
| Friday, Feb 23, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Registration, Project Set-Up |
| Saturday, Feb 24, 7:00 am to 5 p.m. | Judges Assistance, Awards Ceremony |
| Qualifications: Comfortable interacting with children and young adults | |

To register as a judge or volunteer, go to

<http://www.sciencefest.org/volunteers>

For more information contact:

ingrid.weigand@austinscience.org or 512-994-4783

Judging Process and Qualifications:

The Austin Energy Regional Science Fest is a competition for students from 23 school districts and 12 counties who are advancing from their local schools.

Junior (middle school) Division and Senior (high school) Division students submit their projects in a scientific category. Judging is competitive and the top three winners in each category from both divisions advance to the state fair in San Antonio. The overall top six projects in the Senior Division, called "Best of Fair", advance directly to the international competition.

Because judging is competitive, we need subject matter experts to evaluate the projects. About 7-8 projects are assigned to each group of judges (typically consisting of 3 people). After a group has interviewed their assigned students, group members discuss the merit of each project and jointly determine the ranking. Seniors are judged in the morning, Juniors in the afternoon. It is a 2-4 hour commitment, depending on the amount of students in each category. We offer orientation sessions in the weeks leading up to the fair.

Projects will be available for previewing the night before judging without students present. Links to the abstracts will be made available the weekend prior to the fair.

Judging Qualifications:

Junior Division: Undergraduate (3rd year and above) and graduate students, as well as professionals with either a degree or 3 years of experience in the applicable science category

Senior Division: Graduate students, professionals with either a degree or 5 years of experience in the applicable science category.

Elementary students submit their projects by grade level; each one is judged on its own merit and receives a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place ribbon. Each judge is assigned six to seven projects; it is a 2 – 3 hour commitment. We offer orientation sessions in the weeks leading up to the fair.

Judging Qualifications:

Adults with a good general education and the ability to talk to young children.