



September 22, 2023

TO: Directors of Curriculum and Instruction
Principals of Middle and High Schools
Science and Mathematics Department Chairs
Los Angeles County School Districts)

FROM: Ruben Valles, Chief Academic Officer
Educational Services

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SUBJECT: 74th Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering
Fair Grades 6 through 12

The 74th Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair will be held at the Shrine Expo Center at 665 W. Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007 on March 10-12, 2024. Participation in the fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop STEM literacy skills. Each participating school may submit up to thirteen individual or team projects. The Fair website at <http://lascifair.org> provides essential information and resources needed by teachers and students.

Important Information:

An Enrollment Fee of \$300.00 will be assessed per middle school. High schools will be assessed based on the number of projects sent. Home schools are \$50.00 per entry. Fee Waivers are available as well. All Fee Waiver documents must be submitted by January 22nd, 2024 to be eligible. No Fee Waivers will be accepted after this date. The Enrollment Fee/Waiver Form is available for download from the website and must accompany payment before February 9, 2024 or a late fee of \$100 will be assessed.

School Enrollment is currently available online. Site Coordinators must view a [Site Coordinator 101 PowerPoint](#) and complete a [Google Form](#) before the school can be enrolled and must be completed on or before January 22, 2024. Schools must complete online enrollment before students can submit forms for pre-approval or register their projects for the fair. The Site Coordinator 101 Power Point and other Enrollment information is available on the website.

Any student who plans a project involving tissues/cell lines, human subjects (including surveys), vertebrate animals, hazardous materials (including lasers), or microbes must receive pre-approval by the Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) prior to beginning research on any project destined for the Fair. Information regarding applying for Pre-Approval is available on the website and must be submitted by October 23, 2023. Any project in which research or experimentation has commenced prior to pre-approval is received, will not be allowed into the Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair.

All students are required to register online for the Science Fair. Online registration procedures are included in the Site Coordinator information packet, to be emailed in January 2024. The student online registration will be open until February 12, 2024. Late registrations will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Students are required to submit their projects virtually by 11:59 PM on February 26, 2024, **in addition to** the physical submission on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Please Note: A virtual submission must include a three-minute video, a slide deck presentation, a Science Project report, and pictures or PDFs of original data pages from the logbook. A physical submission must include a physical display board along with the original logbook and a Science Project report.

Categorical Judging will take place on Monday, March 11, 2024. Specific schedules and procedures will be given to students and site coordinators prior to the Fair. While most special awards judging will be conducted during the in-person fair, virtual interviews will be held for some special awards on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

In lieu of the traditional Awards Ceremony, awards will be announced during a Virtual Awards Ceremony. Physical awards will be mailed to each school's Site Coordinator.

Informational Teacher Workshops are held July through October, free of charge. Workshop dates and registration can be found at the Fair website or [Workshop Registration page](#). An [informational padlet](#) of resources is also available on the Fair website.

The following are Important Dates and Deadlines applicable to all participants in the 74th Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair and a listing of all the potential Special Awards complete with organizations, criteria, and awards for this year.

**74th Annual Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair
 2023 - 2024 Important Dates & Deadlines**

Date	Description
August 14, 2023	School & Site Coordinator Enrollment Opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete online Enrollment Send Enrollment Fee/Waiver Form Submit payment
August 21, 2023	SRC Online Submission for Proposed Student Experimentation/Research Opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects involving Human Subject, Vertebrate, Microbe, and Hazardous Material require submission and approval
September 11, 2023	Deadline for Early SRC Online Submission for Proposed Student Experimentation/Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects involving Human Subject, Vertebrate, Microbe, and Hazardous Material require submission and approval This is the first opportunity for students to submit proposal
September 18, 2023	Notification of SRC approval/disapproval of Early Experimentation/Research Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification available to student and site coordinator on portal
October 23, 2023	Deadline for Final SRC Online Submission for Proposed Student Experimentation/Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects involving Human Subject, Vertebrate, Microbe, and Hazardous Material require submission and approval This is the last opportunity for students to submit proposal
November 6, 2023	Notification of SRC approval/disapproval of Final Experimentation/Research Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification available to student and site coordinator on portal
November 10, 2023	Deadline for Early School Enrollment Fee Payment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check must be postmarked by this date Refer to School Enrollment/Waiver Form for pricing

November 20, 2023	Final Deadline for Resubmission of Revised Student Experimentation/Research Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is for projects that were not approved on initial submission • Students may only resubmit their plans once • No new submissions accepted
December 1, 2023	Notification of SRC approval/disapproval of Revised Experimentation/Research Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification available to student and site coordinator on portal
December 11, 2023	Student/Project Online Registration Opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must have already enrolled • All Students need to register their projects even if received SRC approval, SRC Project Approval does NOT mean you are registered. • Project Abstracts must be included with project registration
January 8, 2024	Deadline for Changes in Procedure or Protocol for Projects Previously Approved Research Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable to all students
January 15, 2024	Notification of Approval/Disapproval of Procedure or Protocol Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification available to student and site coordinator on portal
January 22, 2024	School Online Enrollment Closes, 11:59 PM All Fee Waiver Forms Due
February 9, 2024	Deadline for Standard School Enrollment Fee Payment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check must be postmarked by this date • Refer to School Enrollment/Waiver Form for pricing
February 12, 2023	Student/Project Online Registration Closes, 11:59 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must have already enrolled • SRC Project Approval does NOT mean you are registered • Project Abstracts must be included with project registration
February 14, 2023	Deadline for Site Coordinators to Approve Student Projects, 11:59 PM.
February 21, 2024	Notification of Approval/Disapproval of Project Submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that require SRC review but did not receive it will not be

	approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that do not abide by LACSEF will not be approved • Students and Site Coordinators will be notified of projects that are not approved.
February 21, 2024	Project Upload Site Opens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project videos, slide deck, reports, and notebooks to be uploaded for review by judges
February 26, 2024	Project Upload Site Closes, 11:59 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project videos, slide deck, reports, and notebooks to be uploaded for review by judges
March 10, 2024	Onsite Registration & Project Setup, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Interactive Exhibits, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Public Viewing (free), 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
March 11, 2024	Judging & Student Interviews, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students must be present for the interviews Project Removal, 4:00 PM
March 12, 2024	Special Award Interviews, TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held on Zoom
March 24, 2024	Virtual Award Ceremony, 12:00 PM

Key
Student Responsibility
Site Coordinator Responsibility
Science Review Committee (SRC) Responsibility

Special Awards

The following Special Awards will be presented at the Awards Ceremony if their criteria are met. This list is subject to change at the discretion of the sponsoring organization.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name of Award</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Prize</i>
American Meteorological Society	Certificate of Outstanding Achievement for Ability and Creativity in an Atmospheric Science Exhibit	Grades 6 - 12. Project showing excellence in atmospheric & related oceanic & hydrologic sciences	Certificate & invitation to LA-AMS Annual Banquet
American Psychological Association	Certificate of Award for Achievement in Research in Psychological Association	Grades 6 - 8. Best psychology-related project. Behavioral & Social Sciences / Animal Sciences / Biochemistry / Computer Sciences / Environmental Sciences / Math / Medicine & Health Sciences	Certificate
Association for Women Geoscientists	Certificate of Award for Achievement in Research in Psychological Association	Grades 6 -12. Best psychology-related project. Behavioral & Social Sciences / Animal Sciences / Biochemistry / Computer Sciences / Environmental Sciences / Math / Medicine & Health Sciences	Certificate
Association for Women Geoscientists	Certificate of Award for Achievement in	Grades 9 -12. Best psychology-related	Certificate

	Research in Psychological Association	project. Behavioral & Social Sciences / Animal Sciences / Biochemistry / Computer Sciences / Environmental Sciences / Math / Medicine & Health Sciences	
Broadcom	Broadcom Coding With Commitment		Raspberry Pi & \$250 Gift Card
California Association of Professional Scientists (CAPS)	CAPS Outstanding Young Scientist Award	Grades 7-11. For the project best illustrating good scientific methodology in a discipline represented by members of CAPS, including physics, chemistry, biological & environmental science, toxics & energy resources	Certificate, \$100, & Eligibility to compete for CAPS Outstanding Young Scientist Award
The David Park Innovation Foundation	The David Park Foundation Scholar Award	Grades 6 - 12. Most outstanding projects related to innovation & technology	Cash Awards
Department of Defense	DoD STEM Leadership Prize	Grades 6 - 8. Excellence in STEM, as well as the problem-solving skills and determination to overcome challenges throughout the research project.	Certificate & \$100
ICP DAS USA, Inc.	Southern California Social Impact Award	Grades 6 - 12. Best new innovations	Cash Awards

		carefully crafted, researched, built, and experimented to help better the environment and quality of life on the planet.	
The Lemelson Foundation	The Lemelson Early Inventor Prize	Grades 6 - 8. Problem-solving, empathy, entrepreneurial, and environmentally responsible invention.	Certificate & \$100
MU Alpha Theta	Mu Alpha Theta Award for the most challenging, original, thorough, & creative investigation of a problem involving mathematics	Grades 9 - 12.. Most outstanding project exhibiting in the area of mathematics.	Certificate
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	NASA Earth System Science Award	Grades 6 - 12. Project that offers greatest insight into Earth's Interconnected Systems and demonstrates excellence in inquiry.	Certificate and Invitation to a Webinar with NASA Scientist
National Geographic	That's Geography! – Cultivating Empathy for the Earth Award	Grades 9-12. Project seeking solutions to the Earth's most pressing challenges	Certificate & \$100
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA's Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award - for presenting research that demonstrates the Principles & Technical Innovations	Grades 6-12. Best project related to understanding and predicting changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts. Conserving and	Letter & Certificate

	that offer the greatest potential for an improved understanding of Earth's dynamic processes	managing coastal and marine ecosystems.	
Office of Naval Research (U.S. Navy / U.S. Marine Corps)	The Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award	Grades 6-12. Any project which shows excellence in science or engineering. No Team Projects!	Jr.- Certificate & Medal Sr. - Certificate, Medal, & \$50 gift card
Professional Engineers in California Government	Honorable Mentions Marilyn Jorgenson-Reese Award for Excellence James E. Roberts Award for Excellence	Grades 6-12. Best engineering related projects	Gift Card & Honorable Mention Medal, Cash Awards
Regeneron	Regeneron Biomedical Science Award	Grades 9-12. Excellence in Science	Invitation to Compete in the Intel Science Talent Search
Ricoh USA, Inc.	Ricoh Sustainable Development Award - for presenting research that demonstrates the Principles & Technical Innovations that offer the greatest potential for Sustainable Development	Grades 6-12. For presenting research that demonstrates the Principles & Technical Innovations that offer the greatest potential for Sustainable Development	Certificate
Saban Family Foundation	Saban Family Foundation Award	Grades 6-12. Top projects by female scholars with a focus	Cash Awards

		on providing a positive impact to her community.	
Society of Petroleum Engineers - LA Section	Award for any project that demonstrates a principle of energy, fluid and gas production and handling, or other technologies or science related to the Petroleum industry	Grades 6-12. Energy, fluid and gas production and handling, or other technologies or science related to the Petroleum industry.	Letter, Certificate, & \$100
Society for In Vitro Biology	Society for In Vitro Biology Award	Grades 6-12. Energy, fluid and gas production and handling, or other technologies or science related to the Petroleum industry.	Certificate
Southern California Paleontological Society	Southern California Paleontological Society	Grades 6-12. Best project related to paleontology or geology, earth science, paleobiology, or similar categories	Cash Prize, Certificate, Possibility of Publication in Society's Journal, 1-yr honorary membership to society, Tour of La Brea Tar Pits
Stockholm Junior Water Prize	Regional Water Prize Award - Award of Excellence for a Water-Related Science Research Project	Grades 9-12 only. Outstanding water-related research at the high school level which focuses on relevance in terms of science, the environment, & society, creativity of	Certificate + Nomination to State SJWP Competition

		the project, methodology, subject knowledge, practical skills, & report & presentation.	
Thermo Fisher Scientific	Thermo Fisher Scientific Nominee	Grades 6-8. Top 10% of all Junior Projects	Certificate + Eligibility to enter Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge
UCLA Brain Research Institute	Award - for outstanding projects related to Neuroscience	Grades 6-12. For outstanding projects related to Neuroscience	Gift Card & Certificate
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	Science Champion Award	Grades 6-12. Scientific excellence and using science innovatively to create a potential solution to international development challenges.	Certificate
U.S. Air Force	The U.S. Air Force Science Award	Grades 9-12. Projects exemplifying STEM-related research	Certificate
U.S. Metric Association	U.S. Metric Association Award for the best use of SI Units in a Science Fair Project	Grades 9-12 only. Any project which involves measures and expresses those measures consistently and correctly in SI metric units; A project in which the measures were integrally important to the	Certificate

		research.	
Yale Science and Engineering Association	Most Outstanding Exhibit	Grade 11 only. Outstanding Exhibit in Computer Science, Engineering, Physics, or Chemistry	Certificate & Medallion