

Intel Northwest Science Expo—Middle School Participation



The Intel Northwest Science Expo is Oregon's State Science fair for 5-12th grade students throughout Oregon. Students present posters describing their hands-on science inquiry and engineering projects to judges. The middle school event is held on **Friday April 13th** at Portland State University. **Online registration and copies of the forms are required by March 14.** Projects not registered online are not allowed to participate. Fees start at \$5 per project then increase by \$5 each week until the final deadline. A school is allowed to register up to 10 projects with a maximum of two projects in the same category. Students may work in teams of up to three, but may only present one project.

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Why add something else to your busy life?

Students are already doing science projects, this gives them the opportunity to present to adults in the field that interests them. They also get to see other students conducting truly incredible projects i.e. science peer pressure. Over 100 prizes are awarded including cash and nominations to the Broadcom Masters a national event for 6-8th grade students with a week in Washington DC.

Project Categories:

Animal Science
Behavioral & Social Sciences
Chemistry
Consumer Product Testing
Earth Science
Energy
Engineering: Mechanical & Materials
Engineering: other
Environmental Science
Mathematics & Computer Science
Microbiology
Medicine & Health Science
Physics: Electromagnetic
Physics: Mechanical
Plant Science

Online Registration

An Adult Sponsor (AS) is required to register online at www.affiliatedfairs.org. The adult sponsor is usually a teacher or parent, the AS is responsible for adding each project online, communicating with the student and mailing copies of the forms to the fair. 95% of fair communication is done through email. Once the project is added by the AS, students can be given their Exhibit # and password so they may edit their own forms.

Rules and Paperwork

Most middle school projects qualify to use the MS Super EZ form, which is a single form that is signed by student, parent and teacher with project procedures attached to it. Projects involving humans, animals, microbes, tissues and hazardous things need to follow very specific rules to qualify for the MS Super EZ, otherwise those projects must use the ISEF High School rules which involves the school forming a Scientific Review Committee before the project is allowed to start. For those that do qualify for MSEZ, answers to specific risk questions are required in the procedures.

Here is a brief description of the MS EZ Rules, the full rules are at nwse.org/middleschool

- ◇ Humans: Allowed Passive Observation (with no manipulation of the environment, can't even put different colored paper on the wall to see which people look at)
- ◇ Hazardous Chemicals, Activities and Devices: Many are allowed as long as the MSEZ Risk Assessment for Hazards is included in procedures. Firearms, explosives, radiation and several other things must use ISEF forms.
- ◇ Vertebrate Animals: Allowed observation of animals in zoo, wild or home, with restrictions behavioral studies involving pets.
- ◇ Human or Animal tissues: Allowed hair, hooves, nails and feathers; sterilized teeth; meat, eggs, meat by-products or pasteurized milk purchased from a store; and commercially prepared fixed tissue slides.
- ◇ Microbes: Yogurt cultures; Baker's and Brewer's yeast purchased from a store; nitrogen-fixing, oil-eating or algae-eating bacteria in their natural environment; mold growth on food items stopped at first sign of mold; Studies of mushrooms and slime mold. A few others are allowed with restrictions.