

67th Shenandoah Valley Regional Science Fair

Rules and Guidelines: Junior Division

Tuesday, March 17, 2025

Welcome to the 67th edition of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Important points:

- Registration Fees will be increased to \$13 per *student* in the Junior Division (middle school). In the future we will work to reduce fees through sponsorship.
- We will have a public session (students, parents, teachers) between 2:00 and 3:00 pm
- The deadlines for submission of all materials will be strictly enforced in order to provide us with adequate time to program the fair.

Contacts. Please contact the following if you have any questions:

Corey Cleland, JMU, Fair Director (clelandcl@jmu.edu) – questions beyond judging, registration, Forms

Kristopher Kubow, JMU, Judging (kubowke@jmu.edu) – judging question

Kelley Turner, Instructional Design, Curriculum and Assessment, Winchester, VA – project registration questions

Kara Bates, MRGS, Chair, Scientific Review Committee (krbates@shenandoah.k12.va.us) – questions on required Forms

Deadline

➤ **February 20, 2026 Online Project submission**

Fair Website and Registration Link: <http://svrsef.org>

Location

The annual Shenandoah Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SVRSEF) is scheduled for Tuesday March 17, 2026 at James Madison University in Godwin Hall. Snow date is Wednesday, March 18.

Eligibility

To be eligible to present a research project in the JUNIOR division, a student must reside in the Shenandoah Valley Fair Region (roughly between Clarke Co to the north and Rockbridge Co to the south; more specifically, Highland County, Bath County, Rockbridge County, Staunton City Winchester City, Page County, Harrisonburg City, Warren County, Shenandoah County, Augusta County, Rockingham County, Frederick County, Clarke County), be enrolled in one of the grades 6-8 in any public, private, parochial, Christian school or in an equivalent documented program of home schooling, and not be over the age of 21.

Students may only present research that was conducted since approximately March, 2025. However, student(s) may present research on a continuing project if the presented work is based on new research within the past year. A student may enter/contribute to only one research project. The project must be the student(s)' own work. Only 1, 2 or 3 students can contribute to a project.

Projects involving: weapons and their components (including paintball and potato guns), sleep deprivation or drinking of alcohol by human or animal subjects are not allowed.

Submission Process – Project information

Abstract and associated information must be submitted electronically by February 21, 2025 via the following website (new this year). The information required includes: All 1-3 student names, School, category, abstract, teacher/sponsor and teacher/sponsor email.

The Registration Link can be found at the Fair website: **svrsef.org**
(available no later than February 13, 2026)

Projects must be classified into one of the following 12 Scientific Categories (note these differ somewhat from ISEF):

1) Animal Science	9) Energy and Transportation
2) Behavioral and Social Science	10) Environmental Science
3)	11) Medicine and Health
4)	12)
5) Chemistry	13) Physics and Astronomy
6) Computer Science and mathematics	14) Plant Science
7) Earth and Planetary Science	15) Consumer Science
8) Engineering	

Note that at the Fair small categories may be combined or large categories divided to create more balanced Judging Groups. Consequently, it is possible that some scientific categories may not have winners or there may be more than one winner in a category.

Please consult **Kelley Turner** (turnerk@wps.k12.va.us) with any questions about electronic submission.

Submission Process – Required Forms

None required for the Junior Division. If Grand Prize students elect to compete in the Fisher Scientific National Competition, forms will be required and supplied by the organization.

Cost

There will be a \$13 (Junior Division) nonrefundable fee for each *student* (not each project), payable to James Madison University with “Science Fair” in the memo line. Please bring the check or cash to the Science Fair. JMU Accounting will have a representative available to receive the fee. No student will be kept from participating due to financial constraints; please contact the Director (Corey Cleland) as needed.

Schedule – Day of the Fair

The Shenandoah Valley Regional Science & Engineering Fair will be held Tuesday March 17, 2026, at James Madison University in Godwin Hall. Show date is March 18. Autos and vans can park in the adjacent G, F, P and C5 lots without passes. Buses will be allowed to park in the adjacent bus parking area of Godwin, the Godwin Transit Center; they may need to use the call box or call dispatch to be let through. The best way to enter the JMU campus is from Port Republic Rd (I-81 exit 245). Link to a map is below: All regulations for JMU students, faculty and staff will remain in effect, and JMU students attending the

event are required to park in appropriate student parking lots with a JMU parking permit. Note that regular enforcement will continue in other parking lots, and guests may receive parking citations if parked in restricted lots. Guests are prohibited from parking in specially designated spaces such as Service Vehicle spaces, accessible spaces without proper permit, or expired timed spaces. They are also prohibited from parking in Fire Lanes. You are encouraged using the online parking map located at:

https://www.jmu.edu/parking/_files/parkingmap.pdf

The exhibit hall doors will be open for Registration and setup at 8 am. Presentation lists will be posted and labels notes placed on the tables to indicate Project locations.

All Junior projects must be ready for Display and Safety Inspection by 10:30 am and for judging by 11 am. Presentations must conform to ISEF Display and Safety Rules:

<https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules/>

Category Judging will continue from 11am to about 12:30, at which time students should leave.

We will have a public session (students, parents, teachers) between 2:00 and 3:00 pm

Awards will be made at 3:00 pm in the adjacent gym and will finish by 4:00pm. Junior Awards will be made before Senior awards; there will be a brief break allowing Junior students, if desired, to leave. Exhibits must be removed by 5:00 pm.

Awards – Scientific

First, second and third Places will be awarded in each *Judging group*. Judging groups typically correspond to scientific categories (see above), except small categories may be combined and large categories may be split into multiple judging groups. Consequently, it is possible that some scientific categories may not have winners or there may be more than one winner in a category.

Judging Group 1st Place winners will be eligible to compete in the Fisher Scientific competition, which is a highly competitive national competition.

Awards – Special

Special and organizational awards will also be awarded. In some instances, the recipient will need to follow-up with organization by email or website to complete receipt of the award.

Disclaimer

Neither the Science Fair Committee, the cooperating groups and sponsors, nor James Madison University, assumes any responsibility for loss or damage of any personal property, exhibit or part thereof. Fair rules are subject to JMU rules.

Further Information

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