



Merced County STEM Fair Display Information

1. Display size limitations:

Maximum width	Maximum depth	Maximum height
4 feet (122 cm)	2.5 feet (76 cm)	6.5 feet (198 cm) (table) 9 feet (274 cm) (floor)
2. (a) Projects displayed on tables are the preferred standard. Projects which require floor access may utilize Fair tables for a portion of their display, but the entire display must still fit within the width and depth limitations specified above. Projects with floor displays may be placed out of numerical sequence and possibly away from other projects in the same subject category. (b) All projects must fit within these prescribed space limitations. This includes elements of the project that may extend or protrude. Displays which are admitted, but are later augmented to exceed the space limitations will be disqualified until brought into conformance. Using the aisle between projects as additional display space, even temporarily during interviews, is cause for disqualification.
3. Students must be present at their display during the judging period or the project will not be judged. For team projects, a minimum of one-half of the authors must be present before judging will be allowed.
4. The student's original laboratory notebook must be present for inspection during judging. However, it is advised that this notebook be on display only during the actual judging period.
5. Display Safety Concerns:
 - All project displays must adhere to all laws for public safety. Lasers must be appropriately shielded. Projects must sustain their own weight.
 - No hazardous materials may be exhibited at the project display. This includes, but is not limited to, acids, unsecured glassware, mercury (including glass thermometers), hazardous microbes, carcinogenic and radioactive materials, open flames, and unsealed foodstuffs which may attract pests. For these items, the substitution of illustrations or photographs is encouraged. Materials in violation of this rule will be marked and must be removed by the participant before judging will be allowed. The judgment of the Directors of Judging is the final authority on permissible materials.
 - The Merced County Science Fair will disqualify any project deemed unsafe.
6. Displays may not contain any living organism. This prohibition includes all animals, plants, and studied collections of microscopic life forms such as bacteria, fungi, and molds. The display of preserved animals is not permitted. Projects may not display photographs of procedures detrimental to the health and well being of vertebrate animals. Photographs of surgical procedures may not be exhibited.
7. Projects requesting electrical power will be provided first come, first served. You must bring your own UL approved three prong grounded extension cord. The Science Fair does not provide extension cords. No gas or water outlets are provided.
8. A project display at the County Science Fair need not be identical to the display at the School or District Fair. The display may be altered to improve the presentation or to incorporate the results of research subsequent to the School or District Fair.
9. All projects must clearly distinguish between the work of the student participant and the work of others. Students participating in a research opportunity in industry, a university, hospital, or institution other than their school, must display only their research. Such students must have the principal research director complete the Professional Research Opportunity Support form specifying the assistance received and the role and contributions of others in the project. A copy of this form must be submitted as part of the application. The original must be included in the project notebook at the project display for inspection by the judges.
10. Awards won in previous competitions may not be displayed or announced.
11. Participants are not permitted to distribute any items to the judges.

IMPORTANT: LOSS OR DAMAGE Valuable equipment, such as computers, may be part of the display only if the student participant accepts full responsibility. It is advised that valuable materials (e.g. computers, research notebook) be on display only during the actual judging period. The Merced County Office of Education/Merced County STEM Fair assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to any project or project part.



Merced County STEM Fair Science Fair Project Rules and Regulations Grades 5-8

WHO CAN APPLY?

Individuals or Teams of students in grades 5-8.

Projects can be completed and submitted as an individual or team project. No more than three (3) students allowed per team.

WHAT IS PROVIDED?

A Standard Rectangular Table will be provided to each project

Electrical Power (available on first come, first served basis - must request in advance)

Lunch (for project teams only)

REQUIREMENTS

1) Project Data Sheet

Informational Sheet about the project, student information, special needs/requests, etc.

*Due by February 16, 2018

2) Abstract

The abstract should contain:

Objective or Goal: State the objective, goal, or hypothesis upon which the project is based.

Materials and Methods: Indicate the materials, methods, and experimental design used in your project. Briefly describe your experiment or engineering methods.

Results: Summarize the results of your experiment and indicate how they pertain to your objective.

Conclusion/Discussion: Indicate if your results supported your hypothesis or enable you to attain your objective. Discuss briefly how information from this project expands our knowledge about the category subject.

*Should be available for viewing in your workbook but does not need to be turned in.

3) Summary and Questions

Prepare an oral summary of the important points in the project. Judges and spectators may ask you to present the summary when they arrive at your display and should be no longer than 60 seconds. Also be prepared for questions they may ask you about your project. Team projects should designate one member to be the lead on the oral summary but all members are required to have participated in and be equally knowledgeable about the project.