



Dear Principal and/or NEIRSEF Educator:

We invite your outstanding students to be honored with participation and community awards for their original STEM research at the 62nd Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEIRSEF) hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Regional Fair Information

- **Fair Date:** Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEIRSEF): Saturday, March 18, 2017
- **Teacher Registration:** Schools interested in participating in NEIRSEF and receiving regional fair communications must have their designated teachers/ fair coordinators register **as soon as possible** at the Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI) website: www.sefireg.org
- **NEIRSEF Location:** At IPFW, the two campus locations used are the same as last year:
 - Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom (Junior Middle School Division and Senior High School Division)
 - International Ballroom (Junior Elementary Division; grades 4 and 5 only)
- **Student Registration Deadline:** NEIRSEF Deadline Date for those selected to advance to the regional fair is **March 3, 2017**
- **New Fair Director:** Please note the **Regional Fair will be directed this year by Dr. Matthew Perkins Coppola. Carol Dostal will take the role of Assistant Director.** Carol will continue to be involved with the fair committee however due to new staff responsibilities she will no longer be able to direct the fair and is pleased to transition leadership into very capable hands. Please feel free to contact Carol any time but for questions about Regional Fair procedures, registration, etc. contact Dr. Perkins Coppola.

Fair Grade Levels and Advancement Policy

Junior and Senior Divisions: The NEIRSEF Junior Division has two categories: Junior Elementary Division (4th and 5th grade ONLY) and Junior Middle School Division (6th through 8th grade). The Senior Division is for high school students.

Grade Level Advancement to the Regional and Indiana State Science and Engineering Fair: Student projects selected by their schools from grades 4th through 8th will advance to the 2017 Regional Fair. High school students may be selected by their high school out of a class or school fair or, if there is no high school fair, a high school student may register for the regional fair with their school's approval. **See the reverse side of this letter for an FAQ on the maximum number of students from each grade level** allowed to advance to NEIRSEF. The Regional Fair selects the students who will advance to the Hoosier State Science and Engineering Fair.

Project Reviews:

Junior Middle School Division The Regional Fair assumes that 6th-8th grade students engaged with research involving human participants and animals will follow appropriate safety and/or privacy procedures required for research. **Schools advancing students to the Regional Fair with these kinds of projects are responsible for examining a student's research plan prior to the experiment to ensure proper precautions are followed so students are eligible for awards and advancement to other fairs.** The enclosed resource sheet is a quick guide to help in that process. Fair officials are also available to answer questions (see contact information below).

Senior High School Division: Any high school student who would like to compete in the regional fair should register online as soon as possible and complete the SEFI project questionnaire. The answers will generate a list of International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) Forms to be completed and submitted online at the SEFI website. **Many projects require these forms completed/submitted prior to experimentation so high school students should not wait to register and complete the questionnaire.**

ALL students selected by their school to advance to the regional fair in the Junior Middle School Division and Senior Division will also submit project information online at the SEFI registration website and, in the case of high school students, their completed/signed ISEF forms after the experiment is completed but before the Regional Fair registration deadline of March 3rd. The projects are reviewed by the Regional Fair Scientific Review Committee to ensure appropriate procedures were followed.

Thank you for **sharing this important information with fair coordinators and teachers at your school.** Additional information will be provided to registered teachers in the near future. We look forward to serving your students at the 2017 Regional Fair.

Sincerely,

Matthew Perkins Coppola, Director
NE Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair
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Carol Dostal, Assistant Director
NE Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair
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Educator Commonly Asked Questions

Q: When is the Regional fair and who can participate?

The Northeast Indiana Regional Fair is Saturday, March 18, 2017 at IPFW Walb Student Union and the International Ballroom. The fair is open to 4th grade through 12th grade ONLY. The Regional Fair welcomes students from public, private, parochial, and home schools in an eight county area: Adams, Allen, Huntington, Kosciusko, Miami, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley.

Q: How many regional fair entries can a school have?

Junior Division (grades 4th -8th): We encourage schools to send one student from each allowable grade however if you feel your best projects are from the same grade; you may send two from a grade as long as you don't exceed the total allowable entries for a division from your type of school. *Note: Schools may not eliminate entries from one division and add those entries to another division so that they can send more students in a division of their choice.

Elementary schools with grades K-5: **2 entries maximum**; one project from each grade: 4th, 5th

Elementary schools with grades K-6: **3 entries maximum**; one project from each grade: 4th, 5th, & 6th

Middle schools with grades 6-8: **3 entries maximum**; one project from each grade: 6th, 7th, 8th

Jr/Senior High Schools with grades 7-12th grade: **2 entries maximum** from grades 7th, 8th and **5 entries** from grades 9-12th;

High Schools with grades 9-12: **5 senior division entries maximum**

**Team projects (2- 3 members) are counted as one entry*

Q: How much does it cost to enter the fair?

There is a \$10 entry fee for each project (NOT student). **Team projects count as one project.*

Q: Where do we send the registration fee?

Payments are due by the **March 3rd registration deadline**. Further information will be sent regarding where to send payment.

Q: Who is the Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI)

SEFI is the state organization under which all Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fairs operate. SEFI provides the funding for the Hoosier State Fair and the Finalists that advance to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair. SEFI also hosts statewide teacher and project registration for all regional fairs on their website.

Q: Where does a teacher register themselves to get information for the fair?

All teachers go to the **Science Education Foundation of Indiana (SEFI)** website www.sefireg.org to register themselves by entering their contact and school information. This is used for fair communication, to register students for the regional fair, and for students in grades 4-12 to enter their project information. If you are new to SEFI, a password will be emailed to you after you complete the Teacher Registration. If you had registered at the SEFI website previously, you can re-activate your account using the same email and password. Call Matthew at 260-481-6516 if you need assistance.

Q: What grades may advance beyond the regional fair to the state fair?

Up to 10-Junior and 10-Senior division projects may advance to the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair (HSEF) from the Regional Fair. Senior Division students are eligible to advance from the Hoosier Fair to the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

Q: Are there any restrictions on the types of projects students in grades 4-8 (new Jr division) can do for the Regional Fair?

According to SEFI guidelines, students in grades 4-8 should **not** be doing bacterial studies of any kind and should **not** be using hazardous chemicals, devices, and/or activities.

Q: How can we make sure projects for students in grades 9th -12th are eligible for the regional fair?

Most projects done in Senior high school are eligible but projects that involve **human participants**, or **animals**, or **potentially hazardous biological agents** (such as bacteria, tissue, body fluid, and yeasts) need to be reviewed and approved by the Regional Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) at IPFW **before the experiment is started**, to make sure the proper method and procedures are followed for every one's safety. This step is called Pre-Experimentation Review. Procedures for submitting project information to IPFW for review can be found on the NEIRSEF website www.ipfw.edu/scifair