

Update Jan. 27, 2014

Dear Educators:

Thank you for your involvement in the NE Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NEIRSEF).

Most of you have registered on the SEFI website for this year in order to receive ongoing communications and for access to Regional Fair registration for students who advance from your school/home school organization.

In this Fair Update:

- 1) **Important Dates**: extension of the Pre-Experimentation Review Deadline
- 2) **Review of Fair Procedures**: some basic reminders
- 3) **2 Important Considerations** for your school fair

1. IMPORTANT DATES

Pre-Experimentation Review Deadline (middle school [6th, 7th, 8th grades] and high school): **extension of the deadline to Friday, January 31**

Middle and High School Educators please look for a follow up email message from Caryl Spira with detailed reminders about Pre-Experimentation Review procedures. Caryl will assist with paperwork questions and other related needs.

Regional Fair Registration Deadline for ALL GRADES for students advancing from your local fair: March 7, 2014 at 5:00 PM

Northeast Indiana Regional Science & Engineering Fair: March 22, 2014

2. REVIEW OF FAIR PROCEDURES: BASIC REMINDERS

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

For Regional Fair information go to NEIRSEF: www.ipfw.edu/scifair

For Registration go to SEFI: www.sefireg.org

TEACHER Registration: Teacher's who will be advancing students from their school must be registered themselves on the **SEFI website** (see link above).

Student Registration for the Regional Fair:

Teachers register students through the **SEFI website** using their teacher page.

Advancement Numbers for the Regional Fair:

Advancement numbers are based on Projects NOT students. The information below (with additional details) can be found on NEIRSEF website (see above link) under Registration Information for each division.

NEIRSEF Regional Fair Elementary Division

K-5 schools: 5 projects/school

K-6 schools: 5 projects/school for grade K-5 and 2 projects/school for grade 6.

(Grade 6 students must follow Junior division procedures (<http://sites.ipfw.edu/scifair/OnlineEligibilityForm.htm>) explained on the NEIRSEF Website)

NEIRSEF Regional Fair Junior Division

6th - 8th Grade: 5 projects/school

NEIRSEF Regional Fair Senior Division

9th-12th Grade: 15 projects/school

Registration cost for the Regional Fair: \$10 per project (not student) sent to IPFW (not SEFI) at the address found on the NEIRSEF website (see link above) under registration.

Schedule for the Regional Fair: The 2014 schedule will be posted on the NEIRSEF website (see link above) under Fair Date Details in mid-February along with a letter for parents that we ask you to distribute for all the students who have advanced from your school to the Regional Fair.

3. CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR FAIR: 2 items to consider

DISPLAY GUIDELINES: Many schools do not have any specific restrictions or guidelines for their school fairs. This becomes a problem when students advance to the Regional Fair and they have project displays that do not adhere to Regional Fair guidelines. We strongly advise schools to establish the same guidelines that the Regional Fair has in order for students to make a smooth transition to the Regional Fair. Many students are asked to change their projects ON THE SPOT WHEN THEY ARE SETTING UP as their schools are not using the same guidelines. This can cause the student and parent distress and, sometimes, confusion.

ABSTRACTS: All middle and high school students who advance to the Regional Fair are required to have an abstract on-line at the SEFI website. The abstract is a short, written summary of their results and is not written until after the experiment is completed. Again, in order to make an easy transition to the Regional Fair and, if they advance further, to the State Fair, middle schools should consider having each student write a short abstract to get in the practice of writing a summary of results. This extra step will aid the students in preparing for their interview with the judges who often ask about results. If the student has written a summary, they have an easier time explaining and summarizing for the judges verbally.

Thanks again to each of you for your work with students and the extra time it takes to have students prepare for the Regional Fair. Keep checking the NEIRSEF website for updated information.

Regards-Carol Dostal, NEIRSEF Director

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