Preparing for the Fair

Student tips for interviews:
- Prepare a 1-minute overview of your project
- Choose a spot in your home/room that has the most direct access to your Internet setup.
- Place your computer camera at your eye level. I use the camera on my laptop, so I put 3 or 4 books under my computer to elevate my camera to eye level. It is also important to keep your hands off your computer during your recording to avoid a jumpy image.
- To enhance your lightning without buying a ring light use a lamp placed in front of you
- Do not sit in front of a window or bright light. It will wash out your face.
- To achieve the best audio quality use headphones that have a microphone.
- Speak up
- Silence your cell phone and computer apps
- Look directly into the camera
- Test out your setup before the recording. On Zoom you can start a meeting with video and see how you will appear to others. This gives you a chance to adjust lighting and the items that will be visible while you are on camera.
- Try not to interrupt the judges

Judging Guide:
- All interviews will be conducted via Zoom at their scheduled time.
- Each project will be interviewed by the entire judge group at the same time.
- Each project will have a 10-minute time limit.
- Interviews will not be recorded.
- Student will spend the first minute summarizing their project.
- Students are not allowed to demonstrate or show any part of their project.
- Students are not allowed to share their screens.
- Zoom background should be professional and not distracting. No words or project details should appear in your background.
- Parents of students are not allowed to join the interview. If a parent should interrupt during an interview, the project will be disqualified.
- Winners will be posted on Facebook by 5:00 pm on Sunday 2/28.
- Students will not be able to receive feedback from the judging process.
Each student will receive an email by 5:00 pm on Thursday 2/25 from DRSEF with their scheduled interview time and the Zoom link. If you do not receive this information, please email drsef@smu.edu with your project number and name.

**Fair Days**

**Student check-in and Round 1 judging with student interviews**

Students will check in at their scheduled time and provide day-of-fair phone number upon entering Zoom. Students project boards that were submitted online will have already been viewed for Display & Safety inspection. Please note that all project items are prohibited during your virtual interview.

All projects will be interviewed by 2 to 4 Category judges for ~10-minute interviews.

All team members must be present for interview or points will be lost. Interviews will be scheduled by the DRSEF team. No request will be accepted.

**Round 2 judging for larger categories, no student interviews**

**Grand Prize qualifiers notified**

One project from each Category qualifies for the Grand Prize round. Qualifiers will be notified by phone with more information.

**Grand Prize judging with student interviews**

A new set of judges will interview students on Sunday 2/28 for the Grand Prize round with winners determined in Life Science and Physical Science.

**Grand Prize Awards presented**

DRSEF will present Grand Prize Award winners live on Facebook at 4:00 pm on Sunday 2/28 and all additional winners will be posted by 5:00 pm. [https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair](https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair)

**Additional Information**

**Results:** Results are posted on the DRSEF Facebook page by 5:00 pm on Sunday 2/28. [https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair](https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair)

**Awards:** Projects placing 1st – 4th in Category Judging receive the following cash prizes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Division</th>
<th>Senior Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st $175</td>
<td>1st $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd $125</td>
<td>2nd $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd $75</td>
<td>3rd $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th $50</td>
<td>4th $75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Award Celebration:** TBA

**Advancing:** First and second place in Senior Division and first place in Junior Division from Category judging advance to the [Texas Science and Engineering Fair](https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair). Some students qualify to enter [Broadcom MASTERS](https://www.broadcommasters.org) and to attend [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](https://www.intel.com).