



Student DRSEF Guide for 2021

Virtual Judging

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 lighting 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>

Additional Information

Results: Results are posted on the DRSEF Facebook page by 5:00 pm on Sunday 2/28.

<https://www.facebook.com/DallasScienceFair>

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

Junior Division

1st \$175
2nd \$125
3rd \$75
4th \$50

Senior Division

1st \$300
2nd \$200
3rd \$100
4th \$75

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](#). Some students qualify to enter [Broadcom MASTERS](#) and to attend [Intel International Science and Engineering Fair](#).