



NC Science and Engineering Fair 2025 Student and Parent Orientation

**Congratulations!
Good luck! Learn! Have fun!**

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**Virtual Judging – March 25, 2025
In-Person Check-in March 28 and 29, 2025
In-Person Judging - March 29, 2025**

**Host: NC State University
Witherspoon Student Center
Wellness Center/Carmichael Gymnasium
Talley Student Center**

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Purpose of this Guide

Contact Emails

All students will receive an email from the SRC stating that their project met all of the ISEF/NCSEF requirements and is approved to participate in the state NCSEF. Please bring a copy of this SRC approval email with you to Check-in should there be any questions about your eligibility.

This Orientation Guide is meant to assist parents and students attending the NC Science and Engineering Fair (NCSEF) with needed information.

Reviewing the information in this guide will support a positive experience before and during the NCSEF event.

Please feel free to print a copy of this as you wish.

NCSEF Event Contact Information

Questions Prior to the Fair:

Judges: judges@ncsciencefair.org

Payments/Lunch Tickets: treasurer@ncsciencefair.org

Registration: registration@ncsciencefair.org

Volunteers: volunteers@ncsciencefair.org

Other: director@ncsciencefair.org

Questions During the Event:

Please see a volunteer and ask for assistance.

Emergency contacts:

NC State Campus Police – 919-515-3000

Emergency - 911

Before the Fair

- Confirm that all of your Milestones in your ncsef.stemwizard.com registration are **GREEN**.

If there is a **blue hourglass in any Milestone**, it is waiting for final approval from the Scientific Review Committee (SRC). If your school is paying your registration, it may not have been received yet. However, confirm that you have selected “School Payment” if you have been told that the school or system is paying.

- No later than March 14th at 11:55 PM, confirm that all of your Milestone for “Project Materials for Judging” in your ncsef.stemwizard.com account is marked **GREEN**. All projects are required to have the Project Presentation Slides submitted. Detailed [Guidelines are here](#).

- Participants contacted by the SRC must be cleared to be allowed to compete. Questions should be sent to src@ncsciencefair.org.

- Review the Display and Safety Rules for NCSEF before arrival for project setup.

- The State NCSEF, as an ISEF affiliated fair, follows the [ISEF Display and Safety Rules](#) and will not allow items that do not meet this standard. This may include items that were overlooked and not removed at a regional fair.

- Pre-Purchase Lunch Tickets (Optional)

Pre-purchase lunch tickets [here](#) (optional, but a big time saver on the NCSU campus where time and options for you and your family are limited). **The deadline is March 14, 2025.**

Unfortunately food allergies and other dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated.

For more information click [here](#).

NCSEF Pre-Fair Zoom Q&A with the Director

Q&A for VIRTUAL Judged Students - Thursday, March 20, 6:30 pm

Virtual judging is on Tuesday, March 25, between 9am and 1 pm. You will receive your interview time 4-5 days prior to your judging. Please be sure your computer has an updated version of Zoom.

Topic: NCSEF Virtual Students Question and Answer

Time: March 20, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88333693080?pwd=i5iVQ0m2YY8JGwaNQFaafoutpcpfEh.1>

Meeting ID: 883 3369 3080

Passcode: 134399

Q&A for IN-PERSON Judged Students - Monday, March 24, 6:30 pm

Your judging is on Saturday, March 29 with projects setup and **APPROVED by 8:45 am Saturday** morning in order for you to participate. Allow 45 minutes for this process. If you can set up on Friday, March 28, - much better idea!

Topic: NCSEF IN-PERSON Students Question and Answer

Time: March 24, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676742518?pwd=DaGzRPpsT7LCzoKc1Rji9SPCYxzlXv.1>

Meeting ID: 846 7674 2518

Passcode: 974596

NCSEF Schedule Overview- All Divisions

March 25, 2025 - Tuesday (Virtual Only) Zoom Platform

9AM - 1PM | Virtual NCSEF Judging Interviews

March 28, 2025 - Friday (Optional) [Carmichael Gym](#), NCSU ([Project Drop off Map](#))

3:30PM - 7PM | Early Registration and Project Set Up

March 29, 2025 - Saturday (In Person)

7:45AM - 8:45AM- Project setup - [Carmichael Gym \(Project Drop off Map\)](#)

9:15AM - 9:45AM 1st Welcome Ceremony - [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema

Elementary Division students, parents, teachers and guests

9:50AM - 10:20AM 2nd Welcome Ceremony - [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema

Junior and Senior Division students, parents, teachers and guests

10:15AM - 12:45PM - Judging (Students Only) - [Carmichael Gym](#)

10:15 - 11:30 Elementary Division Judging

10:30 - 12:30 Junior Division Judging

10:30 - 12:45 Senior Division Judging

10:30AM - 11:30AM - Special Information Session

[Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema

Parents, Teachers, & Guests

11:30AM - 1:30PM Lunch [Talley Student Union](#) 3rd Floor (**Lunch tickets required**)

11:30AM - 2:30PM Exhibitors [Talley Student Union](#) 3rd Floor

1:00PM - 3:00PM Open Project Viewing - [Carmichael Gym](#) (Open to the Public)

1:00PM - 5:00PM Optional Self-Guided Campus Tours (Open to the Public)

2:30PM - 5:30PM Awards Ceremonies - [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema

2:30 - 3:15 Elementary Division Award Ceremony

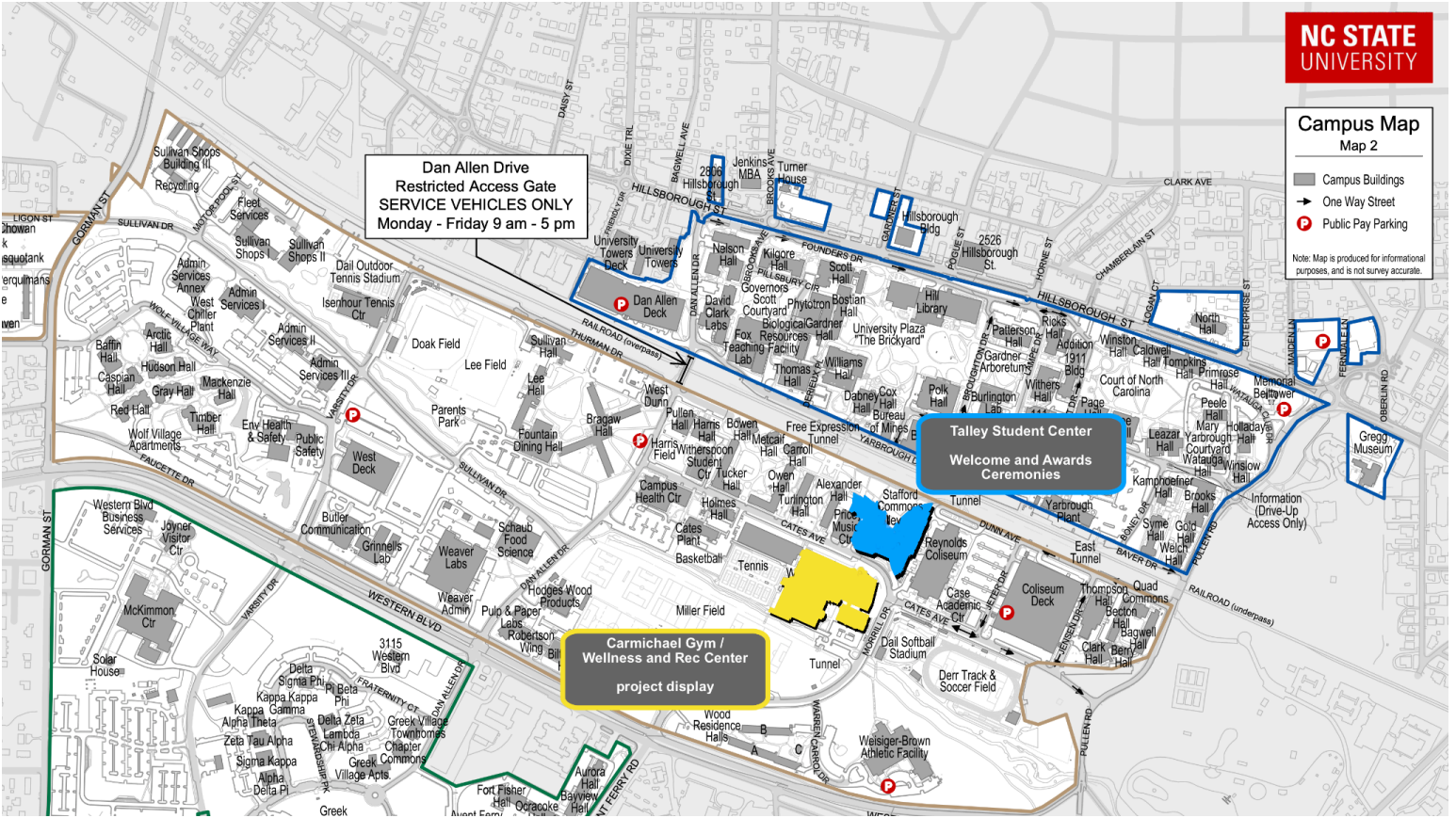
3:30 - 4:15 Junior Division Award Ceremony

4:30 - 5:30 Senior Division Award Ceremony

5:30 - 6:00 ISEF Finalists Information and Planning Meeting

3:00PM – 5:00PM Project removal – Projects not removed by 5:00 will be discarded.

Project Drop Off Map



Project Setup Arrival Friday March 28, 2025

3:30PM - 7:00PM (see [Setting up Your Project](#) below for setup details)

Project Set-Up is in the Wellness and Recreation Center and Carmichael Gymnasium, 2nd Floor 2611 Cates Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27606. **Students and Guests are NOT allowed on the exercise equipment or on other floors of Carmichael and risk removal from the Fair if found violating this.**

The parking lot in back of Carmichael will be reserved for “Drop Off” of projects with a few 15-minute reserved spaces. This is the floor below the project exhibit area. Please do not leave minors unattended. You can also walk in directly from Cates Avenue across the street from Talley.

Campus Parking in any other location is available but requires payment until 5:00PM. After that time, parking on campus is free except for marked reserved spaces. *If you enter the Pay Lot of the Parking Deck – you will still have to pay.* [Parking Map](#)

Project Setup Arrival Saturday, March 29, 2025

7:45AM - 8:45AM (see [Setting up Your Project](#) below for setup details)

Project Set-Up is in the Wellness and Recreation Center and Carmichael Gymnasium, 2nd Floor 2611 Cates Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27606. The parking lot in back of Carmichael will be reserved for “Drop Off” of projects with a few 15-minute reserved spaces. This is the floor below the project exhibit area. Please do not leave minors unattended. You can also walk in directly from Cates Avenue across the street from Talley. **Students and Guests are NOT allowed on the exercise equipment or on other floors of Carmichael and risk removal from the Fair if found violating this.**

Parking on campus on Saturday is free **except if you enter the pay area of the Parking Deck**. Do NOT park in marked reserved spaces. [Parking Map](#) Students who did NOT check in and set up on Friday MUST complete the process by 8:45AM Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Setting up Your Project

- Review the Display and Safety Rules for NCSEF before arrival for project setup.
 - The State NCSEF, as an ISEF affiliated fair, follows the [ISEF Display and Safety Rules](#) and will not allow items that do not meet this standard. This may include items that were overlooked at a regional fair.
- Projects should be displayed on a backboard or stand that you provide within the 48” wide space that you are allowed on the table. From the floor, the maximum height is 108”.
- At your assigned project table, the student’s packet will include the SRC approved gold seal NCSEF abstract.
 - **If students have a Form 1C or Form 7, bring a copy to display at the project.**
- You may bring laboratory journals and/or research papers to display.
- **New in 2025! ALL graphics that are created by the Finalist MUST BE properly cited individually using statements such as “Photo taken by Finalist,” “Image created by Finalist using . . .”; Graph created by Finalist using . . .”; Chart created by Finalist using . . .”; or “Data Table created by Finalist.”** [More details at ISEF Display and Safety Rules](#)
- Complete the **GREEN Display & Safety (D&S) Sheet in your project envelope**. A D&S examiner will get to you as soon as possible. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PROJECT OR GYM UNTIL IT HAS BEEN APPROVED.** Leave your approved D&S Sheet with your project.

Check-in T-Shirt Pick-up Lunch Tickets

Check-in

Students should report directly to the [Carmichael Gymnasium in the Wellness and Recreation Center](#). There will be a table where you will be directed to where to set up your project. There will be an example of how your project should be displayed when you first walk into the gymnasium. Students may not leave their display until they receive approval from a safety and display official.

T-Shirt Pick-up

T-shirt pick up will be available on Friday, March 28, 2025, in the Carmichael Gymnasium (see back table) during the early project set-up between 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

On Saturday March 29 2025 Students may pick up their **T-Shirts** at the Talley Student Union Center 2nd floor main lobby (use this [link](#) to find the location)

Lunch Tickets - Purchase Deadline is March 14, 2025

With limited time during the state NCSEF and limited lunch options on and around the NCSU campus, boxed lunches are available for pre-purchase by students and their families again this year.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes a sandwich (white bean, turkey, ham or beef), bag of chips, cookie, and a bottle of water. Sandwich selections will be available on a first come first serve basis so arrive early if you have a strong preference. ***Unfortunately food allergies and other dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated.***

Pre-purchase lunch tickets [here](#) (optional, but a big time saver on the NCSU campus where time and options for you and your family are limited).. There will be a limited number of tickets for sale on the day of the fair.

Lunches and pre-purchased lunch tickets can be picked up on the third floor of the Talley Student Union

Center directly across from the Ballroom Registration Desk on Saturday, March 29. (use this [link](#) to find the location)

Exhibitors & Passport Raffle

The North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair is excited to connect you with STEM organizations and opportunities in North Carolina.

North Carolina State University partners, NC STEM corporations, and nonprofit groups will be present for students, parents, and teachers to meet and gain information on March 29, 2025 from 11:30AM - 2:30PM on the third floor of [Talley Student Union](#).

Students who are present at NCSEF will have the opportunity to complete the Passport found in their project packet (1 passport per student). Students who collect at least six (6) signatures from the exhibitors are eligible to win prizes during their respective awards ceremony. Students should collect signatures from exhibitors by 2:30 pm and turn in their entry in as follows:

- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Volunteers will have bins in the Exhibitor area. The volunteer will check for the 6 signatures and once approved tear off the bottom section of the passport and put it in your division's bin (Elementary, Junior, or Senior).
- 2:30PM or later- Passport Sheet bottom will be collected by division, as students enter their divisional award ceremony. Volunteers will have bins outside of the Awards Ceremonies.

*****As the raffle drawing happens during the Award Ceremony, entries cannot be accepted after the ceremony begins.*****

Parents: What to Expect

Project Set up (In-person only)

Finalists must set up their project either **Friday, March 28, 2025, between 3:30PM - 7:00PM** or **Saturday, March 29, 2025, between 7:45AM - 8:45AM** in the [Wellness and Recreation Center and Carmichael Gymnasium](#). Project setup requires time for a Display and Safety inspection and approval before students can leave their setup. Please plan time for this process in your schedule. **No students, parents, or guests will be allowed in the project area between 9AM - 10:15AM on March 29, 2025, as this time is reserved for *judges only* to view projects.**

Welcome and Opening

Students, parents, teachers, and guests are invited to join us in the [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema for the opening ceremony and welcome for NCSEF 2024. **Elementary is from 9:15AM - 9:45AM** and **Junior and Senior is from 9:50AM - 10:20AM.**

Judging

Students are required to be with their projects for Judges' Interviews based on their division's judging schedules; **10:15 - 11:30 Elementary Judging**

10:30 - 12:30 Junior Judging

10:30 - 12:45 Senior Judging

Parents, teachers, and guests are not allowed in the area during this time. Judges' Interviews occur in the gym area in [Wellness and Recreation Center and Carmichael Gymnasium](#). Alternate programming for parents, teachers, and guests will be running in the [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema.

*****At the end of each division judging, parents/guardians are requested to meet up with their child in the lobby of the Wellness Center/Carmichael Gymnasium.*****

Public Viewing

Following Judges' Interviews there will be a period of public viewing from 1:00PM - 3:00PM. Parents, teachers, and guests are welcome to explore the projects and speak to the student researchers about their work during this time. Students are encouraged to be at their projects to share their research and/or explore the other projects during this time.

Project Removal

All project materials must be removed from the project area by 5:00PM on March 29th. Any materials left in the project area after this time will be discarded by fair staff.

Awards Ceremonies

All Awards Ceremonies will be held in the [Witherspoon Student Center](#) Cinema and should last about 45 minutes. Students are asked to sit in reserved seating in the front of the room to make it easier to present the awards.

What to Bring

- All of your documents for your research project and presentation. If you have journals or logs of your research, bring those for your display.
- If you have a research paper, that can be displayed at the table.
- Forms 1C (regulated research institution/industrial setting) & Form 7 (Continuation Project) must be taped to the front of the table or in a display stand if appropriate for your project.
- The official abstract that must be displayed at your project will be given to the student at project setup with a gold seal. No other abstracts are allowed!
- Copies of additional required ISEF forms based on your research. These are not to be displayed.
- Book or quiet activity to occupy time when not being judged.

Do NOT Bring

- Do Not Bring: any prohibited items for health and safety reasons as found in ISEF Display and Safety Rules.
- **Frequent Violations that lead to required corrections and failure to receive immediate project display approvals**
 - Acknowledgements are not allowed including logos, names of people that you have worked with, or locations such as universities that you have worked.
 - Must cite who made each and every photograph, graph, chart, image, and diagram.
 - **Nothing that has ever been alive and no food or liquids** are allowed as part of the display. Use properly credited photographs instead!
 - Do not bring any items that are breakable or sharp
 - Abstracts displayed other than the one received at check-in

NCSEF Virtual: What to Expect

- Students who have chosen to be judged virtually will be contacted by email approximately 4-5 days prior to virtual judging with their Zoom interview time and directions on joining.
- Interviews will last 12-15 minutes each
- Students should prepare a short (1-2 minute) introduction and know their project well.
- Judges will have previewed all of your “Materials for Judges” Milestone.
- Judges may choose to only ask you questions on your project or they may ask you to present your project. Every Judge has the option to determine this.
- Do NOT plan on sharing all of your project slides, select a few to show data or clarify points but do not be disappointed if you are unable to share them. The Judges have your presentation.
- Have a closing statement (1 minute maximum) of what you want the Judges to remember about your project.

Local Hotel Information

[Ramada by Wyndham Raleigh](#)

Group Name: NCSEF25 - \$89 plus tax, Doubles

1520 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607 **+1-919-832-4100**

Wingate by Wyndham State Arena Raleigh/Cary; -

Group Name: NC Science Fair Foundation

Booking Link: [Wingate by Wyndham State Arena Raleigh/Cary Rooms & Rates](#)

Cut-off Date: March 14, 2025. **\$169 plus tax (includes breakfast)**, 1 King and Pullout

6115 Corporate Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607 [\(919\) 480-8693](#)

[Hampton Inn & Suites Raleigh Crabtree Valley](#) – Monica Shreve Director of Sales

\$179 includes breakfast, Doubles

[3920 Arrow Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27612](#)

919-881-7080

[Homewood Suites by Hilton Raleigh Cary I-40](#)

555 Crossroads Blvd, Cary, NC 27518

919-745-8589

[Doubletree by Hilton, Cary](#)

[500 Caitboo Avenue, Cary, NC 27518](#)

(919) 239-4777

NCSEF 2025 Sponsors

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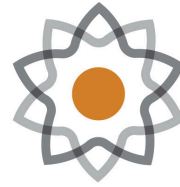
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www.ncsef.org