



## District Science Fair

To Principals, Vice Principals, Resource Teachers, and Science Fair Coaches:

The Delano Union School District Science Fair will be held on **Thursday, November 20, 2025** at the Almond Tree Middle School Gym. Check-in begins at 1:30 p.m. and judging starts at 2:00 p.m. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. and we expect to finish by 5:30 p.m.

The First and Second Place winners from each grade level will advance to the Kern County Regional Science Fair on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the Dignity Health Convention Center in Bakersfield.

We will be using the KCSOS rules/judging criteria for our District Science Fair. Each school may send 10 projects per grade level (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). Students in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade may only complete individual projects. Students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade may complete projects in teams of 3 or less.

Projects must be investigations and should follow the structure used in university-style research posters:

- Title - A concise statement of your project's focus.
- Introduction / Research Question - Clearly state the question you are investigating and why it matters.
- Background Research / Literature Review - Summarize what is already known about your topic from books, articles, and reliable sources.
- Materials and Methods - List the tools, equipment, or resources used and explain how you carried out the investigation in enough detail for others to replicate.
- Results - Present the data you collected, using graphs, tables, figures, or images to make it clear.
- Discussion - Explain what your results show, highlight patterns, and connect the evidence to possible explanations.
- Conclusion - Summarize your findings, note any limitations, and suggest new questions or next steps for further research.
- References - Cite your sources and credit those who supported your work.

**\*\*\*All projects must be approved by the site principal and the science fair coach/teacher before the student begins any work.** The attached Kern County Science Fair Risk Assessment Form is an excellent tool for this and should be completed before experimentation. The science fair coach/teacher and principal are responsible for the health and safety of the student conducting the experiment as well as the health and safety of any human or animal subjects. Projects must meet all KCSOS guidelines and be completed under safe conditions. The science fair coach and principal should carefully review the KCSOS Science Fair Official Rulebook prior to the start of the experiment. **Do not allow students to complete experiments without the proper adult supervision and safety measures in place.**

**Science Fair Coaches should plan to attend the KCSOS Science Fair Coach Orientation.** The coach orientation will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. via zoom. A recording of the webinar will be available for those that are unable to attend. Only sites that attend or view the recording may enter restricted projects in the DUSD Science Fair.

Restricted projects are any project that require special approval and supervision by a Qualified Scientist or Designated Supervisor and sometimes approval by the school Institutional Review Board or Scientific Review Committee due to the handling of potentially harmful materials, machinery, or non-human vertebrates, or topics involving human subjects.

### Examples of Restricted Projects

- Hazardous - anything labeled "Keep Out of Reach of Children" (bleach, motor oil, etc.)
- Controlled Substances are NOT allowed! (prescription drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.)
- Dry Ice is NOT allowed!
- Firearms or dangerous equipment (climbing a ladder, lighting a match, model rockets, lasers, etc.)
- Nonhuman vertebrates or field studies involving animals (pets, animals with bones, etc.) - grades 4-5 are not permitted to complete experiments involving animals, but may complete field studies
- Human subjects (surveys, questionnaires, physical exertion, ingestion of any substance, etc.)
- Pathogenic agents/bacteria- **projects involving mold, mildew or unknown bacteria are NOT allowed!**
- Recombinant DNA (DNA formed artificially)
- Human and animal tissue-including body fluids (anything coming from a human or animal body such as cells, teeth, bones, fluids, blood, urine or saliva)

Projects that are selected at the District Science to advance to the Kern County Science Fair **must** register and be approved through the zfairs online registration system at <https://ca-kern.zfairs.com/App?f=7a3b8873-5ae8-4946-8035-8af5ce5d7afb>. **It is the responsibility of the Science Fair Coach to register the students and make sure all forms are uploaded by January 16, 2026.** Only those projects selected at the District Science Fair should register through the zfairs online system.

Additionally, all of the attached forms (Coach Form, Volunteer/Judge Form & Student Entry Forms) must be submitted by e-mail or district mail to Lea Cantu in Educational Services (contact info. below). All forms should be typed. Forms may be accessed from the district website at <https://www.duesd.org/Page/520>.

Please submit the names of your site coaches on the attached **Coach Form** by **Friday, September 18, 2025**. As in the past, **each participating school is required to supply a minimum of three helpers** who will serve as judges at the District Science Fair. Their names must be returned on the attached **Judge/Volunteer Form** by **Thursday, November 6, 2025**.

**School events must be completed and Student Entry Forms submitted by Thursday, November 6, 2025.**

It is each school's responsibility to check for **accuracy of spelling of students' names**, as all certificates will be created from these forms.

Thursday, Sept. 18	Coach Form due
Thursday, Nov. 6	Judge/Volunteer Form due
Thursday, Nov. 6	Student Entry Forms due
Thursday, Nov. 20	DUSD Science Fair 1:00 p.m. - Judges and volunteers meet at Almond Tree Middle School 1:30 p.m. - Check-in begins for students and coaches in the Almond Tree Gym 2:00 p.m. - Judging begins in the Almond Tree Gym 4:30 p.m. - Awards Ceremony

#### Contact/Questions/Forms to:

District Science Fair - Lea Cantu - [lcantu@duesd.org](mailto:lcantu@duesd.org)

Phone: (661)721-5000 ext. 00109

District Mail: District Office/Educational Services

KCSOS Science Fair - Michelle Roy - [miroy@kern.org](mailto:miroy@kern.org) - 661-636-4640