

2026 Northwest Arkansas Regional Science and Engineering Fair
NWARSEF AFFILIATION AGREEMENT
Deadline: November 1, 2025

Affiliation: The *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* will submit to NWARSEF the following forms by November 1, 2025: (1) one signed copy of the NWARSEF Affiliation Agreement, and (2) the School/District Scientific Review Committee (SRC)/Institution Review Board Members Register.

_____(name of your Local School/District) Fair

The above fair agrees to affiliate with the 2026 Northwest Arkansas Regional Science and Engineering Fair (NWARSEF), the Arkansas Science and Engineering Fair (ASEF), and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) conducted in coordination with Society for Science & the Public. The Local School/District Fair must have a minimum of five students in either grades 5-6 for Mid Division, 7-9 for Junior Division and/or grades 9-12 for Senior Division for the competition. When this number of participants is not possible, coordination with another local or district associated fair for competition is suggested.

The following counties are covered by the Intel ISEF-affiliated NWARSEF: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Newton, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, and Washington

Upon affiliation, NWARSEF will provide through hard copy/ecopies of all appropriate regional, state and international information materials and publications to the *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director*. All NWARSEF information/forms can be found on our website: <https://engineering.uark.edu/science-engineering-fair/index.php>

Rules: The *Local School/District Fair Director* will ensure that all students in grades 5-6 for Middle Division, 7-9 for Junior Division, and 9-12 for Senior Division participating in the NWARSEF (State and Intel ISEF Affiliated Fairs) 1) are in full compliance with the International Rules for Precollege Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs (Intel ISEF Rules) and 2) use appropriate NWARSEF / ASEF / ISEF guidelines. The *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* agrees to hold the Affiliated Fair by February 18, 2026.

NWARSEF will provide document links to the updated Intel ISEF Rules and Student Handbook to all attendees of the pre-NWARSEF educator meeting held on October 3, 2025. The Local School/District is authorized to locally reproduce the Intel ISEF Rules. These Intel ISEF downloadable forms are available at: <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>.

SRC/IRB: The *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* will appoint a properly constituted Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and Institution Review Board (IRB) and will provide documentation of these members to NWARSEF.

Judging and Student Eligibility: The *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* will provide qualified judges for the school/district competition who will select no more than four entries in any Middle, Junior, or Senior division category (max of 4 projects/22 categories/3 divisions) to enter the NWARSEF competition. Projects, once judged by **category** from this School/District affiliated fair may not change category for the NWARSEF, State or ISEF.

Any student in grades 5-6 for Middle Division, 7-9 for Junior Division and 9-12 for Senior Division is eligible, none of whom has reached age 21 on or before May 1, preceding the Intel ISEF. Each student may enter only one project. Students will be judged only on research completed since the last Intel ISEF. Students may compete in only one Intel ISEF- affiliated fair, except when proceeding to a state/national fair affiliated with the ISEF **from** an affiliated regional fair. The Intel ISEF Judging Guide may be downloaded from the Intel ISEF Website.

Expenses: The NWARSEF will arrange for round trip travel, registration, lodging and meals, and project shipping expenses (**not to exceed \$200/per project round trip**) for the three overall Senior Division NWARSEF project(s) totaling no more than 5 students. Teachers of these finalists are not required to attend the ISEF, and their expenses will be supported at half cost for the ISEF trip. Finalists will be escorted by a University of Arkansas Accompanying Adult-in-Charge. Registration for all official party members is set by the ISEF and subject to ISEF change. This registration fee is covered for all finalist(s). All NWARSEF official party members will be provided and expected to follow the ISEF Code of Conduct.

Parents/Guardians wishing to attend the ISEF should arrange their itinerary to attend only the Thursday – Friday events during the ISEF. These expenses are not covered by NWARSEF and are the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Paperwork: The *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* is responsible for ensuring that all NWARSEF, State SEF, and Intel ISEF forms are complete and contain appropriate signatures, and that projects are reviewed in accordance with Intel ISEF Rules. After the Local/District Fair, the *Local School/District Affiliated Fair Director* will oversee that all projects are entered through the online NWARSEF registration page by no later than Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

All student project paperwork **MUST** be **COMPLETED and DUE** at the SRC/IRB meeting on 2/21/2026 prior to NWARSEF. At least **ONE (1) sponsor** from each participating school in the NWARSEF **MUST** assist with the NWARSEF Scientific Review Committee (SRC) on Saturday, 2/21/2026, prior to the NWARSEF. Paperwork will NOT be accepted after this date.

After the NWARSEF competition, State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF) registration fees will be the individual NWARSEF senior division winners' responsibility. All finalized Intel ISEF paperwork must be submitted by the NWARSEF Senior Division students attending the ISEF within 10 working days following the NWARSEF. The majority of this will be completed at the mandatory ISEF orientation meeting to be held on the UA campus the day after the NWARSEF and provide all ISEF paperwork on March 07, 2026, during this NWARSEF/ISEF meeting. Failure to comply with the submission deadlines for paperwork may result in projects being unable to exhibit at NWARSEF, SSEF, and the Intel ISEF.

Code of Conduct: Although not officially governed by the ISEF code of conduct, all NWARSEF participants at regional and state competitions are expected to follow their own school's code of conduct.

Administration: The University of Arkansas College of Engineering will direct the NWARSEF and hold the event on the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus or virtually, Friday, March 06, 2026. Judging and the Awards Ceremony will occur for the 2026 year in the UA Arkansas Union Ballroom on the same day as the judging.

Fee: None

ACCEPTED: NWARSEF

ACCEPTED: SCHOOL AFFILIATE

Shawn Bell, NWARSEF Director

Local School/District *Affiliated Fair Director*

Date

Date