



Science Fair Orientation

I. The Big Picture


- a) Annual Montana Science Fair held at the University of Montana (Adams Center)
 - i) Students present at Science Fair on March 30, 2026
 - ii) Registration opens January 6, 2026
 - iii) \$30 registration fee per student
 - (1) Aid available for financial hardship by contacting [Pete Lovette](#)
- b) CSEG students are in the Division II age group (6-8 grade)
 - i) Division II categories are Biological and Physical
- c) Entries can be scientific experiments, scientific research, or engineering designs
- d) Teams are allowed

II. The Details

- a) The U of M [Science Fair website](#) provides extensive information
- b) U of M Science Fair follows the [International Science and Engineering Fair \(ISEF\) guidelines](#)
- c) Science Buddies provides a [Topic Selection Wizard](#), which can give interest-based ideas for potential science projects

III. Next Steps

- a) Select 2-3 topics for your project and **bring ideas to class on December 1st**
 - i) We will discuss the topics in class to help narrow the selection
- b) Purchase a research journal/lab notebook (Amazon has a wide variety) and bring the **journal to class on December 1st**. Amazon offers a wide variety of lab notebooks, but any notebook will do.

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- c) Use the ISEF [Rules Wizard](#) with a teacher or mentor (preferably the person whose name will appear on the registration form). This wizard determines if you will need to provide *additional* paperwork during registration.
 - i) Projects not involving vertebrate animals, human subjects, hazardous materials/activities, or biological agents do not need to submit ISEF paperwork.
 - d) Read through the CSEG Science Fair General Information Packet (to be provided separately)
 - e) Once your project topic is selected, complete the CSEG proposal form (signed by a parent)
 - f) Students must have a [Research Agreement](#) filled out before experimentation
 - i) CSEG can complete the Research Agreement and register students for the fair under the name “Christian STEM Education Group” as their “teacher,” or parents can register their students as a homeschool
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