

Finalist Registration Guidelines

Texas Science & Engineering Fair (TXSEF) 2023

Congratulations on your advancement to the Texas Science & Engineering Fair!

[The Texas Science & Engineering Fair \(TXSEF\)](#) 2023 will be in-person at Texas A&M University March 24 - 25, 2023. The competition will follow the guidelines set forth by the [Society for Science at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair \(ISEF\)](#) to determine eligibility. All finalists are required to complete a virtual display board and project overview video within the platform. Finalists will also be required to provide a physical display board for the finalist for in person category judging. All displays will undergo Display & Safety inspection. The TXSEF team worked closely with the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and Display & Safety (D&S) to establish how projects will be judged at 2023 TXSEF.

Before registering as a TXSEF finalist: **THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE REGISTRATION NOR PAYMENT**

1. Read these guidelines thoroughly.
 - a. Finalists/Teachers/Regional Directors/Parents will need to determine who is paying the \$50.00 finalist(s) participation fee. Individuals will be able to pay for themselves online using a credit card. Although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front.
 - b. Any district, school or regional fair paying on behalf of finalist(s) will need to reach out to TXSEF at txsef_registration@tamu.edu and include a full list of all students from the district competing in TXSEF. Please allow 1-2 business days to receive requested invoices. **Final deadline to pay is April 28, 2023.**
 - c. Review the rubric in the guide to better understand how your physical display board will be judged.
2. Team Projects
 - a. If students are part of a team project, every team member must apply individually.
 - b. Team projects will need to designate one team member as the team lead. The team lead is in charge of submitting all required items (*virtual display board/physical display board and project overview video*).

REQUIRED Items:

- I. Scientist
 - a. Finalists **MUST** log in to Scientist within 24 hours of being advanced by their Regional Fair to confirm a category and make any changes to the information listed in Scientist. **Once all information has been confirmed by the finalist or a teacher, no changes will be allowed.**
 - b. SRC approval **MUST** be completed for your project **BEFORE** you register in OpenWater. OpenWater is the platform you will be using to register for TXSEF. Finalists will need to login to their Scientist account daily to monitor status and check for SRC messages. Finalists should not wait until the last minute or finalists risk not being approved before the deadline which will automatically disqualify them from TXSEF participation.
- II. Application
 - a. Every finalist must officially register for TXSEF on the last page in Scientist. Upon confirming information, prompts will guide you to OpenWater.
 - b. When creating your TXSEF account you **MUST** use the same email address used in Scientist. Finalists will not be able to create an account using any other email address. **If you have forgotten your password, you will be able to reset it.**

- c. Pay all fees to participate in TXSEF. - ***THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE PAYMENT***
 - i. Finalists, teachers, and parents will need to determine who is paying the finalist(s) participation fee because refunds will not be possible.
 - ii. The fee is \$50.00 per student, and personal checks will not be accepted.
 - iii. Any district, school or regional fair paying on behalf of finalist(s) will need to email TXSEF at txsef_registration@tamu.edu and include a full list of all students from the district competing in TXSEF. ***Please allow 1-2 business days to receive requested invoices.***
 - iv. Although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front. ***Final deadline to pay is April 28, 2023.***
- III. Submissions
 - a. All submissions must be submitted during registration. Registration is considered incomplete until all required submissions are received.
 - b. The submission deadline is March 5, 2023, 11:59 p.m. (CST).
 - c. After the submission deadline, projects will then be locked for [Display & Safety](#) inspection prior to competition. Projects that fail to submit revised paperwork in a timely manner will not be eligible for participation in TXSEF 2023.
 - d. Finalists who advance to TXSEF are expected to:
 - i. Submit a virtual display board (PDF format) and project overview video during registration. Students can upload a limited number of lab notes, which is optional. (The virtual display board and project overview video are required for Special Award judging.)
 - ii. Compete in-person at Texas A&M University and provide a physical display board (project poster) as well as be interviewed in-person by TXSEF judges.

Special Award Judges will evaluate the following: Online Submissions

1. Virtual Display Board

a. Virtual Display Board (Special Award Judges - Review virtual submission)

- The virtual display board represents the project poster used during the in-person fair.
- Finalists are welcome to make the board look like the one used for the in-person fair, but they must use the [TXSEF poster template](#). This is an example project board template for students. Finalists may change colors, text box sizes, move panels, etc. ***To access this document, you must download and save it to your computer.***
- The template includes additional guidelines (note: students are not allowed to change the size of the template or add additional pages. Students are allowed three 48" x 36" slides).
- The virtual display board MUST include the **Official** SRC Approved Abstract from Sciencenter as well as Form 1C (*Regulated Research Institutional/ Industrial Setting Form*) and Form 7 (*Continuation/ Research Progression Projects Form*), if required for the project. These forms are found on the Sciencenter Dashboard (left side of screen) and can be downloaded as PDFs. **Failure to include these required documents may result in points being deducted during special award judging.**
- Many images found on the web are copyrighted. Only use images for which you have the express permission of the photographer/stock image company, and credit the image as required by copyright.
- Virtual display boards are **not** allowed to have any:
 - ◆ Animations or active hyperlinks. Remember: NO hyperlinks!

- ◆ References to an institution or mentor that supported the work or to any patents pending other than what is displayed on Form 1C on slide 3.
- ◆ Personal information such as email address, home address or phone number.
- **The final poster board presentation should be saved as a PDF for submission.**
- All virtual display boards must conform to the same D&S rules as if placed on a physical poster for judges and the public. Passing a [Display & Safety](#) inspection will be required to compete.

Avoid these common mistakes on the virtual poster board:

- Student name on the first slide
- Clickable links or hyperlinked URLs
- Adding more pages than allowed
- Pictures of logbook pages
- Only using links to credit sources

2. Presentation - Project Overview Video

a. Project Overview Video (MUST not exceed 2 minutes) – (Special Award Judges - Review virtual submission)

- Video should summarize the project at a high level and still be understood by a general core audience and should not exceed 2 minutes.
- While judges will have access to this video, it will not be the focus of their project review. Therefore, the video should not include key information omitted in other submitted items.
- If a project is best explained by showing a demonstration, you may include this in the project overview video. This video must meet all [Display & Safety](#) regulations.
- Physical poster boards are not necessary in videos because judges will have access to the virtual poster board.
- Only MP4, MPG, MPEG, MOV, and WMV video files are accepted. MP4 or MOV files are recommended.

b. Project Overview Video Tips

The video does not need a physical poster board because judges will have access to virtual poster boards.

Reference the Judging Rubrics: Science/Engineering included in this guide (Pages 5 and 6) to become familiar with how project overview videos will be judged. Additional suggestions include:

- **Introduce Yourself:** State your full name, your city and your school. Rather than reciting your project title, consider explaining your project in a single sentence.
- **Explain Your Project by Key Points:** What did you do? What did you find? What conclusions did you draw?
- Any props or visuals used must follow [Display & Safety](#) guidelines.
- Only student researchers of the project are allowed in the video. Parents are not allowed!

Best Practices for Filming:

Videos will not be edited after submission. To ensure videos are the best representation of the work, keep these best practices in mind:

- Dress appropriately, as if being interviewed by a judge.
- Film in a well-lit and non-distracting environment so the viewer's focus stays on you and your work.
- Remove or avoid distractions such as a moving fan in the background.
- For best results, film horizontally (landscape).

- Keep the camera still and in place during filming.
- Speak clearly and loudly and avoid long pauses.
- Do **not** increase the speed of the video to stay within 2 minutes.
- Watch the video before submitting to ensure the lighting is appropriate and the audio is clear and does not have excessive background noise.

1. Physical Display Board (Judging - In-Person - Live Interviews) March 25, 2023

- Finalists who advance to TXSEF will be required to provide a physical display board (project poster)
- The physical display board MUST include the **Official** SRC Approved Abstract from Scienceteer as well as Form 1C (*Regulated Research Institutional/ Industrial Setting Form*) and Form 7 (*Continuation/ Research Progression Projects Form*), if required for the project. These forms are found on the Scienceteer Dashboard (left side of screen) and can be downloaded as PDFs. **Failure to include these required documents may result in points being deducted during judging.**
- All physical display boards must conform to D&S rules to be displayed for judges and the public. Passing a [Display & Safety](#) inspection will be required to compete.

2. Presentation

a. Project Presentation: Interview (Judging - In Person - Live Interviews)

- Finalists will be interviewed during initial judging at Texas A&M University.
- Finalists should convey an understanding of their project's basic science, interpretation and limitations of the results and conclusions.
- If a team project, all team members should demonstrate significant contributions and understanding of the project.
- Reference the Judging Rubrics: Science/Engineering located in these guidelines.

Lab Notes (OPTIONAL)

- TXSEF does not require any project to submit a laboratory notebook. However, a finalist may upload a maximum of four individual pages (saved as four separate PDF files; one page = one PDF file) from a lab notebook to provide evidence of its use for online judging of Special Awards.
- Special Award judges reviewing projects online will have access to these optional lab notes, just as they would at a finalists' booth during an in-person fair. However, key information must be provided in the required materials as previously outlined since lab notes are supplemental. A maximum of four pages is allowed in order to protect your intellectual property.
- Lab notes may be provided for in-person judging and must conform to the [Display & Safety](#) guidelines.

Payment - **THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE PAYMENT**

Finalists/Teachers/Regional Directors/Parents will need to determine who is paying the \$50.00 finalist(s) participation fee. Individuals will be able to pay for themselves online using a credit card. Although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front.

- Any district, school or regional fair paying on behalf of finalist(s) will need to reach out to TXSEF at txsef_registration@tamu.edu and include a full list of all students from the district competing in TXSEF. Please allow 1-2 business days to receive requested invoices. **Final deadline to pay is April 28, 2023.**
- Payment instructions are provided beginning on Page 21 and 22 of this document.

Judging Criteria for Science Projects

I. Research Question (10 pts)

- clear and focused purpose
- identifies contribution to field of study
- testable using scientific methods

II. Design and Methodology (15 pts)

- well-designed plan and data collection methods
- variables and controls defined, appropriate and complete

III. Execution: Data Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation (20 pts)

- systematic data collection and analysis
- reproducibility of results
- appropriate application of mathematical and statistical methods
- sufficient data collected to support interpretation and conclusions

IV. Creativity (20 pts)

- project demonstrates significant creativity in one or more of the above criteria

V. Presentation (35 pts)

a. Poster (10 pts)

- logical organization of material
- clarity of graphics and legends
- supporting documentation displayed

b. Interview (25 pts)

- clear, concise, thoughtful responses to questions
- understanding of basic science relevant to project
- understanding interpretation and limitations of results and conclusions
- degree of independence in conducting project
- recognition of potential impact in science, society and/or economics
- quality of ideas for further research
- for team projects, contributions to and understanding of project by all members

Judging Criteria for Engineering Projects

I. Research Problem (10 pts)

- description of a practical need or problem to be solved
- definition of criteria for proposed solution
- explanation of constraints

II. Design and Methodology (15 pts)

- exploration of alternatives to answer need or problem
- identification of a solution
- development of a prototype/model

III. Execution: Construction and Testing (20 pts)

- prototype demonstrates intended design
- prototype has been tested in multiple conditions/trials
- prototype demonstrates engineering skill and completeness

IV. Creativity (20 pts)

- project demonstrates significant creativity in one or more of the above criteria

V. Presentation (35 pts)

a. Poster (10 pts)

- logical organization of material
- clarity of graphics and legends
- supporting documentation displayed

b. Interview (25 pts)

- clear, concise, thoughtful responses to questions
- understanding of basic science relevant to project
- understanding interpretation and limitations of results and conclusions
- degree of independence in conducting project
- recognition of potential impact in science, society and/or economics
- quality of ideas for further research
- for team projects, contributions to and understanding of project by all members

Scientific Review Committee (SRC)

The State Science Review Committee (SRC) reviews each project for eligibility. Each project must be cleared by the SRC prior to TXSEF participation. The volunteer-based SRC includes at least one biomedical scientist, one science educator, and one other member. Members of the SRC are knowledgeable about research subject matter and regulations, review required forms for entries, and address any problems before competition. The SRC looks for “red flags” that may require additional forms or project eligibility. The goal of the SRC is to ensure all projects are safe and meet the guidelines set by ISEF. Visit the [ISEF Rules Wizard](#) as a first step to help you determine what forms of approvals are necessary.

What are common SRC red flags?

- o Human Subjects
 - If you used human subjects, a consent form for each subject must be obtained and available upon request.
- o Vertebrate Animals
 - If you used vertebrate animals, the vertebrate animal form must be completed.
- o Hazardous Materials
- o Certified Laboratories
 - Experimentation involving the culturing of potentially hazardous biological agents, even BSL-1 organisms, is prohibited in a home environment. However, specimens may be collected at home as long as they are immediately transported to a laboratory with the BSL containment determined by the affiliated fair SRC. For more information about Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Rules please review [ISEF rules](#).
- o The following types of studies involve BSL-1 organisms and are exempt from prior SRC review and require no additional forms:
 - Studies involving baker’s yeast and brewer’s yeast, except in rDNA studies.
 - Studies involving Lactobacillus, Bacillus thuringiensis, nitrogen-fixing, oil-eating bacteria, and algae-eating bacteria introduced into their natural environment. (Not exempt if cultured in a petri dish environment.)
 - Studies involving water or soil microbes not concentrated in media conducive to their microbial growth.
 - Studies of mold growth on food items if the experiment is terminated at the first evidence of mold.
 - Studies of slime molds and edible mushrooms.
 - Studies involving E. coli k-12 (and other strains of E. coli used solely as a food source for C. elegans) that are performed at school and are not subject to additional rules for recombinant DNA studies or use of antibiotic resistant organisms.
- o [Checklist and information for SRC Review](#)

Is data collection after the Regional Fair allowed?

Yes. However, finalists cannot add any new procedures involving human subjects, bacteria, vertebrate animals, or anything else that would require approval and that was not approved earlier.

Display & Safety (D&S)

Display & Safety inspections include a review of all submitted materials and enforcement of the display guidelines as published in the [International Rules and Guidelines](#). This includes meeting all of the format and size requirements, providing appropriate credits for photographs, graphs and other visuals and

having any permissions of individuals depicted in any project materials (on the board or in the project overview video) available.

Judging

Category Judging (Live Interviews) will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Texas A&M University, [Student Recreation Center](#).

Awards

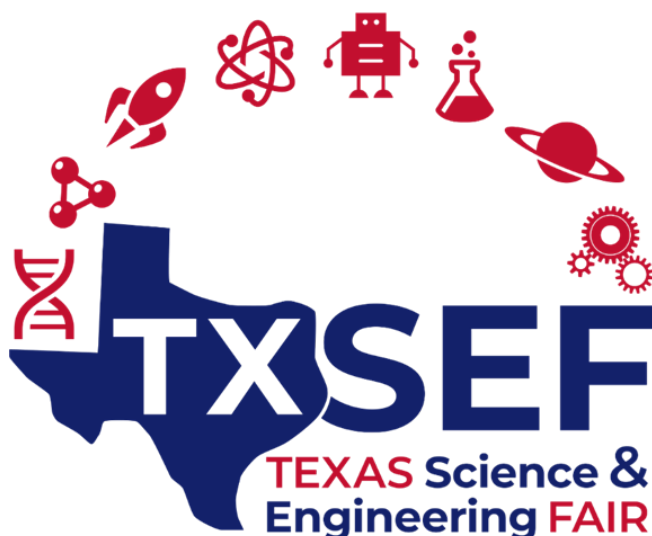
TXSEF will award first through third place winners in all 21 categories in both divisions. There will be a limited number of special awards and scholarships available to select projects. A number of students from the senior division will be selected to attend the [Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy](#) and [Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge \(JIC\)](#) finalists will be selected from the junior division. Best in the State for Life Science and Physical Sciences will be awarded to both divisions, plus an honorable mention for each award. Twelve (12) projects will be selected from the senior division to advance to the [Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair \(ISEF\)](#). Those selected for ISEF will be required to attend a **mandatory meeting** immediately after the TXSEF awards ceremony.

Important Dates for TXSEF

- March 5, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (CST) — Student deadline to submit all required items in OpenWater
- March 24, 2023 — Student, Project check - in and Display and Safety, [Student Recreation Center](#), Texas A&M University
- March 24, 2023 — A Night at Zach, [Zachry Engineering Complex](#), Texas A&M University
- March 25, 2023 — Category Judging - live Interviews, [Student Recreation Center](#), Texas A&M University
- March 25, 2023 — TXSEF Awards Ceremony, [Rudder Auditorium](#), Texas A&M University

Important Dates for ISEF and Thermo Fisher

- May 14 - 19, 2023 — Regeneron ISEF 2023 - Dallas, TX.
- June 14, 2023 — Thermo Fisher JIC application deadline.



The screenshot shows the 'Student Dashboard' for a user named Lisa Wriggles. The dashboard includes a sidebar with 'Project Steps' (1-18) and 'Filled Forms'. The main content area displays 'MY FAIR' and 'MY SCHOOL' information. A green bar indicates 'ACCOUNT STATUS' is 100% Completed. An orange bar shows 'PROJECT COMPLETION' is 95%. A red button labeled 'Click to confirm Texas Science and Engineering Fair registration' is circled in purple, with a purple arrow pointing to it from the right. Above the button, text reads: 'CONGRATULATIONS! If you have not completed Confirmation for the Texas Science and Engineering Fair click the button below:'. At the bottom, a blue bar says 'You are viewing the site as Lisa Wriggles' and a button says 'Click to return to your account'.

Step-by-Step Registration Process

The images below are a helpful guide to the registration process. Finalists are able to return and make changes or add submissions before the March 5, 2023, deadline at 11:59 p.m. (CST). Once finalists submit their registration, no additional changes are allowed.

Registration for student finalists begins after students have confirmed information in Scienteer. The last screen in Scienteer will have a red/orange button that finalists will need to click to be directed to the TXSEF registration.

From the link provided on Scienteer, the Texas Science & Engineering Fair registration website will require finalists to **Create a New Account** the first time they login. **Finalists must use the same email as used in Scienteer** when creating their account.

The screenshot shows the 'TXSEF TEXAS Science & Engineering FAIR' website header with navigation links: HOME, MY ACCOUNT, TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE, and SCIENTEER LOGIN. Below the header is a 'Login or Create an Account' section. On the left, the 'Login' form has fields for 'Email Address *' and 'Password *' (with a 'lost password?' link), a 'remember me' checkbox, and a 'TAMU SSO' button. On the right, the 'Create a New Account' form has fields for 'First Name *', 'Last Name *', 'Email Address *', 'Create a Password *', and 'Retype Password *', with 'Back' and 'Register' buttons at the bottom. A red arrow points from a text box on the right to the 'Email Address *' field. The text box contains the instruction: 'You must use the same email as used in Scienteer when creating your account.'

[HOME](#)
[MY ACCOUNT](#)
[TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE](#)
[SCIENTEER LOGIN](#)

Welcome Mary Weather

- [Home](#)
- [My Applications](#)
- All (1)
- Incomplete (1)
- [My Profile](#)
- [Change Password](#)
- [Log Out](#)

[Home](#) / [My Applications](#) / 7818 - Rotten Chicken The New Normal

2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair

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Scienteer Email Address

maryweather@scienteer.com

Last Name

Mays

First Name

Maryweather

Secondary Email

Many students are unable to receive all email to student school email accounts. It is required to give an additional non-school email that is checked on a regular basis.

Parent or Guardian Email Address

Student Contact Number

Please list a phone number that will be answered in case you advance or TXSEF has any questions for you.

(201) 555-0123

Home Mailing Address

Street Address

Line 2

City

Country

United States

State / Province

Select

Zip / Postal Code

What county do you currently live in?

Select

Student Gender

Female

Student Race

White

Date of Birth

1/1/2007

Current Grade

12

Anticipated Graduation Year

Select

Current Age

Select

Are you a foster youth or were you at any time in the foster care system?

This data will not be connected to individual students or shared with judges. We are collecting the data to have a better understanding of the student population we serve.


Select

Save

Save and Next

Complete all of the **Entrant Information** and select the “Save and Next” button:

Complete the **Project Information**:


TEXAS Science & Engineering Fair
Texas A&M University

HOME MY ACCOUNT TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE SCIENTEER LOGIN

Welcome Mary Weather

- Home
- My Applications
 - All (1)
 - Incomplete (1)
- My Profile
- Change Password
- Log Out

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Project Title *

Rotten Chicken The New Normal

Category *

Senior Division

Animal Sciences

School Name

Test Texas High School

School District

AUSTIN ISD

Which of the following best describes your school? *

Public

School Address

Street Address

721 Barton Springs Rd

Line 2

City

Austin

Country


United States

State / Province

Texas

Zip / Postal Code

78704



[HOME](#)
[MY ACCOUNT](#)
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Parent First Name *

Parent Last Name *

Parent Email *

Parent Phone Number

(652) 222-2222

Teacher First Name

Teacher Last Name

Teacher Email

Please check any of the following extra-curricular activities you participate in on a regular basis.

☐ Academic Societies and Competitions
☐ Pre-Professional and Vocational Groups
☐ Sports
☒ STEM Club/Activities
☐ Arts and Drama
☐ Music
☐ Media and Journalism
☐ Government, Politics, and Social Activism
☐ Community and Volunteer Work
☐ Part-time Job
☐ Summer Camps
☐ Other

Are you eligible for 504 accommodations? *

☐ Yes
☒ No

This data will not be connected to individual students or shared with judges. We are collecting the data to have a better understanding of the student population we serve.

Will you require a translator or interpreter? *

☐ Yes
☒ No

After high school I plan to... *

What is your academic interest post graduation? *

Complete all of the **Project Information** and select the “Save and Next” button:

Finalists should answer the **General Questions**:

- Select which Regional Fair you advanced from.
- Identify if you already qualified for Regeneron ISEF being held May 14-19, 2023, in Dallas, TX.
- Use the link provided during registration to look up your High School CEEB Code, if unknown.
- Select who will be paying for your submission.
- If your school or school district will be paying for the registration, be sure to list the name and email of who (in your school or school district) should be emailed a copy of the registration invoice.

[HOME](#)
[MY ACCOUNT](#)
[TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE](#)
[SCIENTEER LOGIN](#)

Welcome Mary Weather

- Home
- My Applications
 - All (1)
 - Incomplete (1)
- My Profile
- Change Password
- Log Out

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What career industry interests you the most? *

☐ Arts & Culture: Arts, Communication, Entertainment, Media
☐ Business: Accounting, Consulting, Finance, Human Resources, Marketing & Sales, Operations
☒ Engineering, Technology & Data Science
☐ Entrepreneurship
☐ Healthcare: Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Other Health Professions
☐ Public Service: Education, Government, Law, Nonprofit
☐ Sciences: Life, Physical
☐ Other

Would you like to receive Texas A&M University information based on your college and career interests? *

☒ Yes
☐ No

Which Regional Fair did you advance from? *

Test Texas Regional Fair

Are you a high school student (9th-12th grade)? *

☒ Yes
☐ No

Did you recently qualify for Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) being held May 14-19, 2023 in Dallas TX? *

☐ Yes
☒ No

What is your High School CEEB Code? *

If you don't know your CEEB code, please look it up [HERE](#) and then return to registration. If you are in the Junior Division or do not see your High School listed you will need to enter 000000 as the CEEB code.

000000

Will your parent/guardian or school district be paying your registration fee? *

☐ PARENT/GUARDIAN/SELF
☐ SCHOOL/SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Prev](#)
[Save](#)
[Save and Next](#)

Complete all of the **General Questions** and select the “Save and Next” button:

Finalists should thoroughly read and acknowledge the **TERMS & Conditions** statements on the registration form:

- I understand that a \$50 registration payment is required to participate, and no personal checks or cash will be accepted.
- I understand that although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front. Deadline for payment is April 28, 2023.
- I understand that Project Board Check - In, Display & Safety, Category Judging will take place in-person on campus March 24 & 25, 2023. My attendance is required to be judged.
- I understand if I advance to TXSEF that I am required to bring a PHYSICAL poster board that meets all ISEF guidelines, along with a copy of my official abstract to put on display. In the past, abstracts have been provided but will not be provided in 2023. View [ISEF Guidelines](#).
- I give permission for my research to be shared with Judges and relevant TXSEF team members for the purpose of evaluating the project.
- I will not contest in any manner decisions made by the TXSEF staff or judges.
- I understand that participation in a competition of this nature allows for and permits a certain amount of subjectivity in these decisions.
- I agree and understand that judges must evaluate certain aspects of my research that are objective, and they also evaluate interpretive aspects of my entry which are qualitative in nature.

Ethics Statement

Student researchers, as well as adults who have a role in their projects, are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Integrity.** Honesty, objectivity, and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research. The project should reflect independent research done by the student(s), and represent only one year's work.
- **Legality.** Compliance with all federal, country, state and local laws is essential. All projects must be approved by a Scientific Review Committee (SRC), and when necessary must also be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and/or Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).
- **Respect for Confidentiality and Intellectual Property.** Confidential communications, as well as patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property must be honored. Unpublished data, methods, or results may not be used without permission, and credit must be given to all contributions to research.
- **Stewardship of the Environment.** It is the responsibility of the researcher(s) and the adults involved to protect the environment and its organisms from harm. All projects involve some amount of risk. Everyone is expected to recognize the hazards, assess the risks, minimize them, and prepare for emergencies.
- **Animal Care.** Proper care and respect must be given to vertebrate animals. The guiding principles for the use of animals in research includes the following "Four R's": Replace, Reduce, Refine, Respect.
- **Human Participant Protection.** The highest priority is the health and well-being of the student researcher(s) and human participants.
- **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBAs).** It is the responsibility of the student and adults involved in the project to conduct and document a risk assessment and to safely handle and dispose of organisms and materials.

Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. Plagiarism, use or presentation of other researchers' work for one's own, and fabrication or falsification of data will not be tolerated. **Fraudulent projects will be automatically disqualified.**

Finalists and Parents/Guardians should read and sign the **Terms of Use** and the **WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION** documents on the registration application.

The screenshot shows the TXSEF (Texas Science & Engineering Fair) registration application interface. The header is dark red with the TXSEF logo and navigation links: HOME, MY ACCOUNT, TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE, and SCIENTEER LOGIN. A sidebar on the left shows a welcome message to Mary Weather and navigation options like Home, My Applications, All (1), Incomplete (1), My Profile, Change Password, and Log Out. The main content area shows the user's path: Home / My Applications / 7818 - Rotten Chicken The New Normal. Below this is the title '2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair' and a breadcrumb trail: Brief Information -> Project Information -> General Questions -> Terms and Conditions -> WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION -> THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM -> Submissions. The main heading is 'TERMS & Conditions' with a subheading 'Please thoroughly read each statement below and acknowledge:'. The terms are presented as a series of statements, each followed by an 'I understand' checkbox. The statements cover registration payment, payment deadline, project board check, virtual display board requirements, permission to share research, contesting decisions, subjectivity in decisions, evaluation of research, ethics statement, and scientific fraud/misconduct. The ethics statement includes integrity, honesty, objectivity, avoidance of conflicts of interest, legality, confidentiality, intellectual property, respect for the environment, animal care, and human participant protection. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Prev', 'Save', and 'Save and Next'.

Welcome Mary Weather

Home / My Applications / 7818 - Rotten Chicken The New Normal

2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair

Brief Information -> Project Information -> General Questions -> Terms and Conditions -> WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION -> THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM -> Submissions

TERMS & Conditions

Please thoroughly read each statement below and acknowledge:

I understand that a \$50 registration payment is required to participate and no personal checks or cash will be accepted. +

☐ I understand

I understand that although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front. Deadline for payment is April 28, 2023. +

☐ I understand

I understand Project Board Check - In, Display and Safety, Round 1 & Blue Ribbon Judging will take place in-person on campus March 24 & 25, 2023. My attendance is required to be judged. +

I understand that if I advance to TXSEF that I am required to submit a virtual display board and a project overview video online. I will also be required to participate in TXSEF in person at Texas A&M University and provide a PHYSICAL display board that meets all [ISEF guidelines](#) along with a copy of my official abstract to put on display. In the past abstracts have been provided, but will not be provided in 2023.

☐ I understand

I give permission for my research to be shared with Judges and relevant TXSEF team members for the purpose of evaluating the project. +

☐ I agree

I will not contest in any manner decisions made by the TXSEF staff or judges. +

☐ I agree

I understand that participation in a competition of this nature allows for and permits a certain amount of subjectivity in these decisions. +

☐ I understand

I agree and understand that judges must evaluate certain aspects of my research that are objective, and they also evaluate interpretive aspects of my entry which are qualitative in nature. +

☐ I agree and understand

Ethics Statement +

Ethics Statement

Student researchers, as well as adults who have a role in their projects, are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- Integrity, Honesty, objectivity, and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research. The project should reflect independent research done by the student(s), and represent only one year's work.
- Legality. Compliance with all federal, country, state and local laws is essential. All projects must be approved by a Scientific Review Committee (SRC), and when necessary must also be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and/or Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).
- Respect for Confidentiality and Intellectual Property. Confidential communications, as well as patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property must be honored. Unpublished data, methods, or results may not be used without permission, and credit must be given to all contributions to research.
- Stewardship of the Environment. It is the responsibility of the researcher(s) and the adults involved to protect the environment and its organisms from harm. All projects involve some amount of risk. Everyone is expected to recognize the hazards, assess the risks, minimize them, and prepare for emergencies.
- Animal Care. Proper care and respect must be given to vertebrate animals. The guiding principles for the use of animals in research includes the following "Four R's": Replace, Reduce, Refine, Respect.
- Human Participant Protection. The highest priority is the health and well-being of the student researcher(s) and human participants.
- Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBAs). It is the responsibility of the student and adults involved in the project to conduct and document a risk assessment and to safely handle and dispose of organisms and materials.

Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. Plagiarism, use or presentation of other researchers' work for one's own, and fabrication or falsification of data will not be tolerated. **Fraudulent projects will be automatically disqualified.**

☐ I understand.

Prev Save Save and Next

Complete all of the **Terms and Conditions** and select the "Save and Next" button:



Welcome Mary Weather

- [Home](#)
- [My Applications](#)
 - All (1)
 - Incomplete (1)
- [My Profile](#)
- [Change Password](#)
- [Log Out](#)

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2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair

[Entrant Information](#) → [Project Information](#) → [General Questions](#) → [Terms and Conditions](#) →

[WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION](#) → [THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM](#) → [Submissions](#)

Terms of Use

Texas Science & Engineering Fair (TXSEF) 2023

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AGREEMENT FOR WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION

I, _____, age _____, desire to participate voluntarily in all activities of the **TEXAS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR** ("Activity"), which is sponsored or conducted by or under the auspices of

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION, ("Sponsor"), a member of The Texas A&M University System. I am fully aware that there are inherent risks to myself, and others involved with the Activity, including but not limited to illness, including the COVID-19 virus, its variants and other mutations, injury (including death), and loss of personal property, and I choose to voluntarily participate in the Activity and do voluntarily assume the above-mentioned risks as to myself and my property, and to the person and property of others. I acknowledge that the Activity may be physically strenuous. I know of no medical reason why I should not participate.

HOLD HARMLESS, INDEMNITY AND RELEASE:

For myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, I do hereby release, waive, covenant not to sue, indemnify and agree to hold harmless for any and all purposes the Sponsor, The Texas A&M University System, the Board of Regents for The Texas A&M University System, and their members, officers, agents, volunteers, or employees ("RELEASEES" and/or "INDEMNITEES") from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, injuries (including death), or damages, including court costs and attorney's fees and expenses, which may occur to myself, other participants, and third-persons as a result of my participation and conduct in the Activity while traveling to and from the Activity, or while on the premises owned, leased, or controlled by RELEASEES/INDEMNITEES, including injuries sustained as a result of the sole, joint, or concurrent negligence, negligence per se, statutory fault, or strict liability of RELEASEES/INDEMNITEES. I understand this waiver does not apply to injuries caused by intentional or grossly negligent conduct.

NO INSURANCE:

I understand that RELEASEES/INDEMNITEES do not maintain any insurance policy covering any circumstance arising from my participation in the Activity or any event related to that participation. As such, I am aware that I should review my personal insurance coverage. Sponsor does not carry general liability insurance to cover claims arising from the Activity so it seeks a waiver of claims as additional consideration for my right to participate such that Sponsor, a governmental unit of the State of Texas, can (a) provide the activity at the lowest possible cost to participants; and (b) provide access to a greater number of participants by expending limited resources on program materials rather than on liability insurance.

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION, INDEMNITY AND WAIVER:

I understand RELEASEES/INDEMNITEES cannot be expected to anticipate or control all of the risks associated with the Activity and RELEASEES/INDEMNITEES may need to respond to illnesses, accidents, injuries, and potential emergency situations. Therefore, I hereby give my consent for any medical treatment, rescue or evacuation services that may be required (as determined by Sponsor staff, medical, emergency personnel, or other medical professionals) during my participation in the Activity with the understanding that the cost of any such treatment will be my responsibility. I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives, or assigns, agree to indemnify and hold harmless INDEMNITEES for any costs incurred to treat me, even if an INDEMNITEE has signed medical care facility documentation promising to pay for the treatment due to my inability to sign the documentation. I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, further agree to release, waive, covenant not to sue, and agree to hold harmless for any and all purposes, RELEASEES from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, injuries (including death), or damages, including court costs and attorney's fees and expenses, that may be sustained by me while receiving medical care or in deciding to seek medical care, including while traveling to and from a medical care facility, including injuries sustained as a result of the sole, joint, or concurrent negligence, negligence per se, statutory fault, or strict liability of RELEASEES. I understand this waiver does not apply to injuries caused by intentional or grossly negligent conduct.

VOLUNTARY SIGNATURE AND BINDING OF HEIRS AND ASSIGNS:

In signing this Agreement, I acknowledge and represent that I have read it, understand it, and sign it voluntarily as my own free act and deed. Sponsor has not made and I have not relied on any oral representations, statements, or inducements apart from the terms contained in this Agreement. I execute this document for full, adequate and complete consideration fully intending to be bound by the same, now and in the future. For students engaging in extracurricular activities: I understand I can choose not to sign this document and free myself from its terms and the associated risks of the activity by simply not participating in the activity and choosing some other activity available to me that has a lower level of risk to me. I further understand this is a voluntary activity and that not participating in this activity will in no way hinder my ability to obtain a degree from member institutions of The Texas A&M System. For students going on field trips, foreign travel or other class-related activities: I understand participation in this class/fieldtrip/activity is not mandatory and I will not be penalized for failing to participate in this activity because an alternative activity exists for which I can receive like credit. While I understand alternative activities are available to me that do not have the risks associated with the Activity I still desire to voluntarily engage in the Activity.

It is my express intent that this Agreement shall bind the members of my family and spouse, if I am alive, and my heirs, assigns and personal representatives, if I am deceased, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas.

**SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT INVOLVES THE WAIVER OF VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS.
CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT.**

SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT INVOLVES THE WAIVER OF VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS.
CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT.

Signed this day *

Participants Initials in Lieu of Signature *

Participants Name *

Participant's Date of Birth *

Finalists MUST have a parent or legal guardian fill out the information below. Failure to do so will disqualify your participation in the Texas Science & Engineering Fair. **SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT INVOLVES THE WAIVER OF VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE RIGHTS AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY.**

Parent or Legal Guardian Initials in Lieu of Signature *

Parent or Legal Guardian Name *

Emergency contact name: *


Emergency contact phone number: *

Prev

Save

Save and Next

Complete all of the **Liability Waiver Information** and select the “Save and Next” button:



[HOME](#)
[MY ACCOUNT](#)
[TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE](#)
[SCIENTEER LOGIN](#)

Welcome Mary Weather

[Home](#)
[My Applications](#)

[All \(7\)](#)
[Incomplete \(7\)](#)

[My Profile](#)
[Change Password](#)
[Log Out](#)

[Home](#) / [My Applications](#) / [7518 - Ruben Chicken The New Normal](#)

2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair

[Event Information](#)
[Project Information](#)
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[Terms and Conditions](#)

[WAIVER, INFORMATION AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION](#)
[THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM](#)
[Submissions](#)

Signed this day

Participant Signature

Clear

Participants Name

Participant's Date of Birth

Finalist MUST have parent or legal guardian fill out the information below. Failure to do so, will disqualify your participation in the Texas Science & Engineering Fair. **SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT INVOLVES THE WAIVER OF VALUABLE LEGAL RIGHTS. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE RIGHTS AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY.**

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature (If Participant is under 18 years old)

Clear



Parent or Legal Guardian Name


Participants Name

Address
Street Address

Line 2

City

Country
 
State / Province
 
Zip / Postal Code

Phone
 (201) 555-0123

Driver's License# (if applicable)



Dependent
☐ Yes


Emergency Contact Name


Address
Street Address

Line 2

City

Country
 
State / Province
 
Zip / Postal Code

Phone
 (201) 555-0123

Alternate Phone
 (201) 555-0123


Relationship to Participant

Complete all of the **The Texas A&M University Information** and select the “Save and Next” button:

Project Submissions:

- Select the type of project: Individual or Team.
- Upload Project Overview Video (video format maximum 4 minutes).
- Reference the official [TXSEF poster template](#) to upload the Digital Board. Must be in **PDF** format!
- Upload up to four individual pages of lab notes. (OPTIONAL)

Individual Project Submission:



[HOME](#)
[MY ACCOUNT](#)
[TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE](#)
[SCIENTEER LOGIN](#)

Welcome Mary Weather

- Home
- My Applications
 - All (1)
 - Incomplete (1)
- My Profile
- Change Password
- Log Out

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2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair

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What type of project is this? *

Individual

Upload a 3 to 4 minute Project Overview Video for judges to learn about your project and research. *

TXSEF will only accept .MP4, .MPG, .MPEG, .MOV, .MOV, .WMV. It is recommended to use .MP4 or .MOV formats.

You video may not be longer than 4 minutes and you are not allowed to increase the clip speed.

Choose File No file chosen

Digital Board *

Only the official TXSEF poster template will be accepted. To download the template click [HERE](#). Do not change the size of the poster template or add additional slides/pages.

- Read the template directions fully before creating the poster.
- All completed templates must be submitted in **PDF** format. No other versions will be accepted.
- You must include your OFFICIAL approved abstract which can be found in Scienteer.

Choose File No file chosen

Upload up to four individual pages of lab notes. (OPTIONAL)

Items	Action
No Items have been added. Click on Add Item below.	

Add item

Prev Save Add to Cart

Team Project Submission:

If the project is a Team Project, identify the **Team Lead** who will be responsible for submitting the Project Overview Video and Digital Board for the entire team.

Entrant Information → Project Information → General Questions → Terms and Conditions → Terms of Use → WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, AND MEDICAL TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION → THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

What type of project is this? ★

Are you the Team Lead? Only one person on each team can be the Team Lead. ★ ☒ Yes ☐ No

The Team Lead is responsible for submitting the Project Overview Video and Digital Board for the entire team.

Upload a 2-minute Project Overview Video for judges to learn about your project and research ★

TXSEF will only accept .MP4, .MPG, .MPEG, .MOV, .WMV. It is recommended to use .MP4 or .MOV formats.
Your video may not be longer than 2 minutes and you are not allowed to increase the clip speed.

No file chosen

Digital Board: ★

Only the official TXSEF poster template will be accepted. To download the template click [HERE](#). Do not change the size of the poster template or add additional slides/pages.

- Read the template directions fully before creating the poster.
- All completed templates must be submitted in **PDF** format. No other versions will be accepted.
- You must include your OFFICIAL approved abstract which can be found in Scienteer.

No file chosen

Upload up to four individual pages of lab notes. (OPTIONAL)

Items	Action
No Items have been added. Click on Add Item below.	

Once finished with submissions, select “save and go to cart”

Payment Instructions:

- Once finished with submissions, select Add to Cart.
- Review and Checkout.

[Home](#) / [Carts](#) / [2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair](#) / [Confirmation](#)

Review and Checkout

Title	Category	#	Cost	Details
Are dogs dangerous?	Senior Division > Animal Sciences	7817	\$50.00	TXSEF Participation Fee

Total: \$50.00


Payment by School or District: THERE WILL BE NO ONSITE PAYMENT

- If the school pays participation fees for finalists, stop here and then inform your teacher that the TXSEF registration is complete so the school can pay the participation fees.
- Any district, school or regional fair paying on behalf of finalist(s) will need to reach out to TXSEF at txsef_registration@tamu.edu and include a full list of all students from the district competing in TXSEF. **Please allow 1-2 business days to receive requested invoices.**
- Although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front.
- **Final deadline to pay is April 28, 2023.**

Payment by Parent or Guardian:

- If the school does not pay participation fees, have a parent or guardian pay the participation fee with a **credit card**.
- Although payment prior to fair is encouraged, we will not require payment up front.
- **Final deadline to pay is April 28, 2023.**

Total Amount Due: \$50.00

 **Pay by Credit Card**

Billing Information

Enter your payment details below.

Cards Accepted



Credit Card *

 Secure

<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
First Name		Last Name	
<input type="text"/>			
Card Number			
<input type="text" value="Select"/>	/	<input type="text" value="Select"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expiration Month	Year	Security Code	



Billing Address *

<input type="text"/>	
Street Address	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select"/>
City	State / Province / Region
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
Postal / Zip Code	Country

Back

Process

Avoid Duplicate Charges - Click Process Only Once

Select **Process** the payment **which will submit your TXSEF Registration** and click **OK**. *Note that you will not be able to make changes, once submitted.*

The screenshot shows the TXSEF registration page for Kelly Moran. A modal dialog box is displayed in the center with a yellow warning icon. The text inside the dialog reads: "Please note this will submit your Application. You will not be able to make changes. Press OK if you would like to proceed. Press Cancel if you would like to keep making changes." Below the text are "Cancel" and "OK" buttons. In the background, the "Total Amount Due" is \$50.00, and the "Pay by Credit Card" option is selected. The "Process" button is visible at the bottom of the payment form.

Invoices and Payment Confirmation:

Finalists will be able to view the registration invoice and confirmation of payment received by selecting "Invoices" from the menu on the left side of the screen. The invoice and application can be printed from this screen. If finalists have any questions or concerns, please contact: txsef_registration@tamu.edu

The screenshot shows the TXSEF registration page for Kelly Moran, specifically the "Invoices" section. The page displays "Invoice # 5" with a "Thank you" message and contact information. Below the message are buttons for "Back To List", "Print Invoice", and "Print Invoice and All Applications". The "Payment Status" is "Paid". A table lists the invoice items:

Date	Details	Amount	Notes	Action
2/26/2022	Senior Division > Environmental Engineering	\$50.00	TXSEF Participation Fee	Print View
2/26/2022	Payment	\$50.00	Paid with Visa ending in [REDACTED] Response from Processor: [REDACTED]	
Total:		\$0.00		

Registration Assistance

For any questions about TXSEF registration that is ***NOT*** related to payment or Scienteer, use the live chat feature. The chat box is located in the bottom right-hand corner of the registration website. Representatives are available to answer questions Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (CST). Finalists waiting until the last minute to register risk not completing registration before the deadline, which will automatically disqualify their TXSEF participation.

The screenshot shows the TXSEF registration website. The header includes the TXSEF logo and navigation links: HOME, MY ACCOUNT, TXSEF PROJECT BOARD TEMPLATE, and STUDENT LOGIN. The main content area displays the user's profile information for the 2023 Texas Science & Engineering Fair. The sidebar on the left contains links for Home, My Applications, All (1), Incomplete (1), My Profile, Change Password, and Log Out. The main form fields include:

- Scienteer Email Address: icrane@scienteer.com
- Last Name: Crane
- First Name: Ichabod
- Secondary Email: (with a note that many students are unable to receive all email to student school email accounts)
- Student Contact Number: (with a note to provide a phone number for emergencies)
- Home Mailing Address: (with a note to provide a street address)

 A red arrow points to a blue circular chat icon in the bottom right corner of the page, which is part of the Platform Support chat box.

For other TXSEF inquiries, contact the appropriate division below:

- General Information: txsef@tamu.edu
- Display & Safety: txsef_ds@tamu.edu
- Scientific Review Committee: txsef_src@tamu.edu
- Payment Process: txsef_registration@tamu.edu
- For Scienteer, your **TEACHER** must contact: support@scienteer.com