



ISEF-Affiliated

Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair

March 8, 2024

Sponsorship—Vital to Fair Success!

Do you want to increase the number of schools and students involved in hands-on science in the greater Bay Area focused on innovation and entrepreneurialism?

Would you like to increase student access to information on options, standards and requirements in Contra Costa’s science, technology, engineering, and math STEM-related career fields?

Do you want to help promote STEM concepts in Contra Costa to help close the achievement gap, and implement hands-on approaches to learning aligned with Common Core & Next Gen Science Standards?

Would your organization benefit from reaching more than 200 students and their families while helping to develop a seamless transition for middle and high school students to post-secondary education, training and careers in STEM?

If you answered YES! to any of the questions above, then the ISEF-affiliated Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair welcomes your involvement! Please indicate your interest below and mail with your business card:

Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair

c/o April Treece, Bay Area LEEDS | 2244 Oak Grove Rd., #31342 | Walnut Creek, CA 94598

FAX: 925-672-7019 | Ph: 925-672-3759 | Email: apriltreece@ba-leeds.org

Or, you may also go online to sign up as a supporter and use PayPal here: [Science Fair Sponsorship](#)

My organization would like to be a sponsor through a financial contribution. I understand that as a sponsor my organization’s logo will be present on Science Fair materials and I will also obtain additional publicity associated with the fair. Sign me up as a:

- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|---------|
| <input type="radio"/> Presenting Sponsor: | \$10,000 | <input type="radio"/> Bronze Sponsor: | \$1,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Platinum Sponsor: | \$7,500 | <input type="radio"/> Community/Small Business Sponsor: | \$500 |
| <input type="radio"/> Gold Sponsor: | \$5,000 | <input type="radio"/> Individual Sponsor: | \$100 |
| <input type="radio"/> Silver Sponsor: | \$2,500 | <input type="radio"/> Other: (Insert Amount) | _____ |

- My organization would like to volunteer as a member of the organizing committee.
- My organization can provide e-mentors to students who need help answering questions about their science fair projects.
- My organization can provide judges for the Science Fair. Please indicate how many you can provide here:

- My organization would like to offer students special recognition at the Science Fair Awards Ceremony, including such things as certificates, medals, scholarships, cash, or summer jobs—to honor high-quality science connected to your interest.

2023 CCCSEF Sponsors included: Chevron, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Corteva, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Henkel, Contra Costa County Water & Waste Water Agencies, Contra Costa County Supervisor District V Federal Glover, and Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club (to mention a few).



A PROGRAM OF:
Bay Area LEEDS
2244 Oak Grove Rd., #31342
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit #83-3965064

Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair Overview for 2024

About the Fair

Contra Costa businesses joined with K-12 educators to establish this ISEF-affiliated Science & Engineering Fair in Contra Costa County in 2006. Now in its nineteenth year, the Fair has weathered the pandemic, but not failed. Before this ISEF-affiliated event, Contra Costa students interested in competing in the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) were required to compete in the Bay Area-San Francisco Science & Engineering Fair. By creating a Contra Costa fair, the region moved from less than 50 students participating in 2005 to more than 100 last year. All school districts with the exception of West Contra Costa are eligible to compete in the Contra Costa event.

An ISEF-affiliated science fair is a science competition that is a member of the ISEF network. These competitive events exist in every state in the U.S. and 40 countries. All ISEF-affiliated science fairs register with Society for Science & the Public and must consist of at least five participating high schools or 50 students in 7th -12th grades. Fairs are conducted at local, regional, state, and national levels.

Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair (CCCSEF) names up to three high school projects as “best in fair” and those senior division winners will represent the county at the International Science & Engineering Fair held each spring. Up to 3 CCCSEF “best in fair” projects at the junior division level (grades 7 & 8) also have an opportunity to compete for a spot in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, a week-long STEM national competition for middle school students held in October. Select projects (both from junior and senior division) also go on to compete in the California State Science Fair which is held in late April/early May. There are a number of other special awards that are conferred each year acknowledging the incredible science displayed by our CCCSEF students.

Importance of Science & Engineering

Contra Costa students in Grades 7-12, through CCCSEF, are able to pursue their interests in science and engineering. Middle and high school teachers are encouraged to assist students in their pursuit of this goal. The Fair helps stimulate interest and enthusiasm in science. It also provides the opportunity to give public recognition to students for their achievements and to encourage them to enter careers related to science or engineering. Additionally, it affords parents and the community an opportunity to examine the products of scientific investigation and the communication skills of students in our schools today.

Students, guided by their teachers and others, develop original scientific experiments, both in-school and during outside-of-school time, by using the scientific method and applying their knowledge and critical thinking skills. They creatively work their ideas into project form and present their work (through poster and individual interviews) to more than 100 judge-volunteers from business, industry and community. Students display their science representing a variety of topics from biology, behavioral sciences, and math/computer sciences to engineering, physical sciences and environmental.

The fair would not be possible without the tremendous commitment of time and talent provided by the faculty and staff of Los Medanos College in Pittsburg.

Success of CCCSEF Reaps Rewards for Contra Costa Students

In 2011, CCCSEF was proud to be the first California science fair in the 60-year history of ISEF to bring home the Gordon E. Moore Award and \$83,000 for its students who received CCCSEF “Best in Fair” designation. In 2012, each of our three students going on to compete at international won recognition, including two third place \$1,000 awards and a 4-year \$60,000 scholarship. CCCSEF was also honored to have one of its 14 students who went on to the California State Science Fair competition win 2012 Project of the Year along with a \$5,000 award. More recently in 2018 two students won Best of Category awards, totaling \$9,000. In 2019, two middle school students won the privilege as Top 30 finalists for Broadcom Masters national science fair to attend formal events in Washington, D.C.

Importance of CCCSEF Business Sponsors & Volunteers

The fair would not be possible without the commitment from local industry sponsors. Sponsors in 2023 included:

Bio-Rad Laboratories (founding members)
Chevron (founding members)
Morgan Stanley
Henkel Corporation
Supervisor Federal Glover District V
Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Galaxy Press
Contra Costa Water & Wastewater Agencies
Corteva Agriscience

The monetary resources provided help to cover the costs of implementing the three-day CCCSEF competition for more than 150 students, and also provides an all-expense paid trip for up to three senior project winners to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair held in May each year—a mandatory part of being an ISEF-affiliated science fair. CCCSEF judge volunteers, numbering more than 120 annually, are from business and industry, and give one full day of their time to review science fair project boards and interview individual students about their displayed science. Of course, an army of volunteers from business and the community make the three-day event possible.

Special Awards are also conferred on student competitors thanks to the generosity of business, professional and/or educational organizations. These awards may include, but are not limited to, monetary grants, scholarships, subscriptions, summer internships, books, tour of facilities, equipment grants and scientific field trips, to mention a few. In 2019, 27 local, regional and national organizations provided more than \$8,700 in cash and other recognition to CCCSEF participants.

Structure of CCCSEF Competition

Students are judged in both junior and senior division in each of six categories including: 1) math & computer sciences; 2) biological—includes biochemistry; biotechnology; microbiology; zoology; medicine & health; and botany; 3) physical—includes chemistry; earth & space; and physics; 4) behavioral/social sciences—includes gerontology; 5) environmental sciences; and 6) engineering.

Student participants earn the right to compete in the CCCSEF by submitting a formal application which is reviewed and approved by the CCCSEF Scientific Review Committee/Institutional Review Board before entering the fair. Distinguished SRC/IRB members represent a full range of expertise and provide an invaluable service to the Science Fair.

In addition, more than 120 volunteers from Contra Costa industry and post-secondary education institutions judge the SRC/IRB-approved projects using pre-selected criteria which includes creative ability, scientific process & engineering goals, thoroughness, skill, clarity and demonstration of knowledge. Students compete in either junior or senior division by category for the following CCCSEF-conferred awards:

First Place Blue Ribbon (one given in each of 6 categories by Division)

Second Place Red Ribbon (unlimited number given)

Third Place Green Ribbon (unlimited number given)

Fourth Place Yellow Ribbon (unlimited number given)



A project of Bay Area LEEDS

Linking Education & Economic Development Strategies

For more information, go to www.ba-leeds.org or contact April Treece, Fair Director, at (925) 672-3759 or apriltreece@ba-leeds.org