



Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair

March 14, 2025

Special Awards

The Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair (CCCSEF) is designed to support the use of hands-on science & engineering projects in middle and high school classrooms throughout the county. CCCSEF honors outstanding student projects both in junior division (grades 7 & 8) and senior division (grades 9, 10, 11 & 12).

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

Student participants are seventh through twelfth graders who earn the right to compete in the CCCSEF by submitting a formal application and having it reviewed and approved by the Scientific Review Committee/Institutional Review Board of the Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair. More than 140 volunteers from Contra Costa industry will judge the projects using pre-selected criteria which includes creative ability, science thought & 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 (no more than one given in each of 6 categories)
Second Place	Red Ribbon (unlimited number given)
Third Place	Green Ribbon (unlimited number given)
Fourth Place	Yellow Ribbon (unlimited number given)

Special Awards may also be presented by a business, professional and/or educational organization. Special awards may include but are not limited to monetary grants, scholarships, subscriptions, summer internships, books, tours of facilities, equipment grants and scientific field trips, to mention a few.

There are two ways in which an individual organization can confer a Special Award at the Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair for student science fair projects:

1. Identify an award in your organization's name to be added to the CCCSEF-conferred award winners based upon the formal CCCSEF judging process. This would mean that, in addition to CCCSEF announcing the student winner by division/by category/by place, the CCCSEF would also announce your organizational award for "best in category." This means that you agree to rely on the CCCSEF judging process to determine the recipient of the Special Award in your name.
2. Identify an award in your organization's name and provide your own criteria **and** judges to determine the award recipient from your organization.

The CCCSEF judging process will be held on Friday, March 14 from 7:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Students will **be available for interviews** from noon to 2:30 p.m. You may make arrangements with CCCSEF to send your judging team to review all science fair projects of interest to you. CCCSEF will set up interviews with students whose projects you're interested in considering for an award and assist your team in way needed for you to determine your organization's award recipient(s). We will organize an awards event and will work with you to be sure your team is able to formally present award winners with suitable recognition. If you would like some assistance in determining appropriate special awards for your organization, please contact April Treece, 925-672-3759.

Examples of Special Awards include:

ADA Foundation For the best exhibit with application to dental research. Award of \$1,000 MI046 Inhibition of HIV Production in Genetically Generated HIV Model Through HIV TAT TAR RNA Binding Domain

(over)

Examples of Special Awards (continued)

Agilent Technologies Paid summer internship at an Agilent Technologies site. Each internship not to exceed eight weeks. Paid Summer Internship BI062 The Effects of Oxidative Damage on Protein Translation Efficiency

Albany College of Pharmacy of Union University The Albany College of Pharmacy-Biomedical Sciences Excellence Award is presented to selected individual(s) demonstrating outstanding achievement in the area of biomedical sciences at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Scholarship Award of \$5000 per year for four years CH051 Cyanide Detection Using a Myoglobin Biosensor

American Geological Institute AGI is pleased to recognize three projects that best reflect the study of Earth and the mission of AGI. Founded in 1948, AGI strives to increase public awareness of the vital role of the geosciences to mankind and society.

American Meteorological Society For the best exhibits in the area of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Hydrologic Sciences
First Award of \$1,000 | Second Award of \$500 | Third Award of \$250 | Honorable Mention Award

American Physiological Society For the best projects in the physiological sciences which include cellular physiology, animal physiology and neurophysiology

American Society for Microbiology For the most outstanding project in the Microbiological Sciences, a \$1000 scholarship award; a one year student membership in the Society (including monthly membership magazine "ASM News" and access to Members-Only web resources); and the book "Intimate Strangers" inscribed personally from the President of ASM.

Bureau of Reclamation/U.S. Department of the Interior For exhibits related to water resources development and management, including hydroelectric and electric power generation, engineering design, construction materials, irrigation, water management and conservation, water quality, fisheries and aquatic ecology and wetlands.

First Award of \$500 and a matching \$500 award to the winner's school
Second Award of \$300 and a matching \$300 award to the winner's school
Third Award of \$200 and a matching \$200 award to the winner's school
Honorable Mention Award

Coalition for Plasma Science (CPS) These awards will be given to the two best projects in the broad area of plasmas. Topics include (but are not limited to) plasma-related topics in lighting, display, materials processing, space physics, terrestrial phenomena (lighting, aurora, etc.), fusion, and basic plasma science. Criteria include overall scientific merit, understanding of problem, and approach to the topic.

Drexel University For projects in the categories of Computer Science, Engineering, Medicine and Health and Physics. Tuition Scholarship of \$105,000
Scholarships are renewable for up to 5 years pending maintenance of a 3.0 GPA and full-time status. Each scholarship is valued at \$105,000. Scholarships will go into effect upon admission to the University.

Florida Institute of Technology Florida Tech tuition scholarship of \$40,000 to be distributed over 4 years, renewable annually.

Geological Society of America The Society will award prizes for science and engineering projects investigating the earth and related sciences. The winners and their schools will receive a free subscription to "GSA Today", the GSA monthly newsletter. Projects will be judged on their demonstration of a high level of understanding of earth science concept(s), how the earth is a system, and use the innovative methods to explain concepts.

Ricoh The Sustainable Development Award, first presented at the 2005 Intel ISEF, will go to the entries, selected from among all award categories, whose principles and technical innovations offer the greatest potential for increasing our ability to grow environmentally friendly and socially responsible businesses. The award combines a hosted trip to the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan and \$50,000 in scholarship awards to be shared by two finalists or a team. Honorable Mention Award of \$5,000

Showboard, Inc. For the best use of scientific method on a project display board taking in to account structure, scientific method, titles and overall appearance of project display First Award of \$1,000 | Second Award of \$100 | Third Award of \$50