



To Our Prospective Judges:

The Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair (FWRSEF) is the longest continually operating science fair in the United States, bringing together several hundred student exhibitors from a ten-county area of north Texas. We support our mission of promoting interest in science and engineering by offering significant educational opportunities to our participants.

The 70th annual Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be a VIRTUAL fair. We are pleased to extend to you an invitation to serve as a Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair Judge.

As a FWRSEF judge, you will serve as a member of a small judging panel evaluating one of the fifteen categories of virtual posters and presentations. Students in two Divisions (Junior, for grades 6-8, and Senior, for grades 9-12) will be invited to present their projects to the judging panel through submission of a "virtual" poster and other supporting documentation, as well as "in-person" presentation via Zoom to describe their work directly to the FWRSEF judging panel.

This year's category judging will consist of 2 separate events:

1. Preliminary review for both Divisions.

Available to all FWRSEF category judges from Feb 12 through Feb 21, 2021.

This activity is to be completed individually and at your own leisure during the open period. Website URL with login instructions will be announced after judges have been assigned. This is the opportunity for the FWRSEF judges to familiarize themselves with the website and the projects assigned to your panel, as well as all other projects that have been submitted in all other categories and divisions. This last feature is analogous to being able to "walk the floor", as was available in all previous in-person events.

2. Actual day of category judging for both Divisions.

February 22nd from 8am to noon.

The judging panel meets by means of a Zoom meeting and individual students will be invited to join the meeting to present their projects. Admission of students to the meeting will be strictly controlled through a pre-determined schedule; only one presenting student will be admitted to the room at any time. The student will be logged off after the presentation is finished or when the allotted time is exceeded. A new student will then be invited into the judging room. Category judging finishes with caucusing to determine the top 3 ranking in each category.

Every category in each division will have a category chairperson. Contrary to other years, due to the virtual nature of this year's event, each category chairperson will be asked to submit a telephone number where that person can be reached via text message. This method of communication will only be used in case of issues with the judging. Normal FWRSEF communication will be conducted via E-mail.

In the afternoon, a separate panel will select the best-of-fair presentations from the individual category winners. This will also be conducted via a Zoom meeting. You may indicate separately if you would like to be a member of the Best-Of-Fair panel. Additional instructions and schedule information about the 2021 Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be emailed with your confirmation letter prior to the fair.

This year's event is going to be supported by extraordinarily strong technical support teams. These teams will cover issues such as website use, data base entries, Zoom support, as well as other support for any anticipated technical issues that may arise. As a token of our appreciation, every participating category judge will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card.

Please reply to this invitation by completing the attached judge's information form and returning it via e-mail by January 31, 2021. Student participation has increased, as has the need for judges. If you know someone who would be interested in serving as a science fair judge, please feel free to forward this invitation and information form for their use, or the info is available on our website at <https://www.fwrsef.org/>.

Your voluntary contribution of time and effort is indispensable to the success of the Fort Worth Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Quality judging, together with personal feedback to participants, has encouraged science education among the teachers, parents, and students. Your participation will help to continue this fine tradition.

Sincerely,

Jan de Nijs	Paula Hahn
Judging Chair	Special Awards
Fort Worth Regional Science & Engineering Fair	

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