



IDSEF 2024 Quick Reference Sheet

Important Pre-Fair Dates

Date	What's Happening	What it Means
September 1, 2023	zFairs Registration Opens	Students and teachers can officially begin registering to participate in the 2024 IDSEF competition. Go to https://stem.idaho.gov/idsef for more info.
October 6, 2023	Support Grant Opens	Public school educators can apply for up to \$1000 to support student research for IDSEF. Visit https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/idsef-support for more info. First come, first served (until funds exhausted).
November 24, 2023	zFairs Registration Closes	The last day for a student participant (or team of participants) to sign up as such in zFairs (https://id.zfairs.com). Students don't need to have everything sorted with their project or research plan at that point, but we won't be accepting any completely new participant registrations after it closes.
December 1, 2023	Forms Deadline	The last day for students to finalize their research plan/project summary and get their required ISEF forms into zFairs prior to beginning their experimentation. This allows our IRB & SRC the opportunity to review the projects that require pre-approval early enough for students to have sufficient time to finish their project. If a student makes a good-faith effort to submit all their required forms by this deadline but it turns out that there are minor adjustments needed before their project can receive pre-approval, we will happily provide feedback and allow for those fixes to be made.
December 31, 2023	Support Grant Closes	Only complete applications received prior to this deadline will be eligible to receive funding.
February 18, 2024	All Materials Deadline	The last day for student participants to submit the rest of their final project paperwork and materials (including their project abstracts). Allows time for SRC to review all projects prior to competition. If the SRC identifies minor clerical issues that prevent them from approving a project, we will try to get in touch and allow an opportunity to correct them. However, it's unlikely that we will have the freedom to offer that flexibility if there are substantial compliance issues at this point. For this reason, it's very important for everyone involved in a project to be fully versed in the ISEF rules and guidelines .

Idaho Science & Engineering Fair Event Info

Date	Time	Location
Saturday March 9 th , 2024	Approx. 8am-6pm Mountain Time Specific Times TBD (Agenda Shared Prior to Event)	Boise State University (BSU) Student Union Building (SUB) Jordan Ballroom 1700 W. University Dr., Boise, ID 83725



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will this year's IDSEF be sending students on to the international competition?
Yes, IDSEF continues to be officially affiliated with the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF). This year we will send up to 5 projects to represent Idaho at the ISEF competition in Los Angeles, CA (May 11-17, 2024)
Is there funding available to support teachers and students in developing IDSEF projects?
Absolutely. As in past years, the STEM Action Center is providing Classroom Support Grants to Idaho public educators (grades 9-12) looking to offset the costs associated with their students' IDSEF research projects. Eligible educators may request between \$100-\$1000 each, and awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis until available funds are exhausted. Find the application here: https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/idsef-support (it closes on December 31, 2023)
Has the amount of classroom support funding been cut or reduced this year?
Nope! The STEM Action Center understands the expenses associated with leading students through authentic research and design processes. Even though we've shifted to a first-come-first-served model this year to expedite the award process, we have set aside more money for support grants this year than has been awarded in any of the last 3 years!
Why is there only one statewide fair this year? / What happened to the regional fairs?
This has been a year of transition and restructuring at the STEM Action Center. Various staffing/budget shifts limited the capacity to manage the logistics of 3 separate regional fairs. Consolidating to a single location was necessary to ensure that we would not have to go a year without an IDSEF competition. We recognize that regional fairs are more accessible, and it is an active priority to return IDSEF to a region-focused model as soon as feasible!
Why is the statewide fair being held in Boise?
Historically, most IDSEF participants hail from either northern or eastern Idaho. But, with the consolidation to one statewide fair, holding the event in either of those regions would have caused serious travel barriers for the region not selected. Boise was the most centrally located area with the travel access, lodging, and event-space capacity to hold IDSEF.
Why is the statewide fair being held on a Saturday?
Availability of venue. We wanted to hold IDSEF on a Friday (as has been done in past years). However, securing a venue large enough for the event required us to move to a weekend. In recognition of the fact that most educators normally attend during the school day and will not be paid over the weekend (and in lieu of paying for a substitute), the STEM Action Center will be providing a stipend of \$100 to any sponsoring public educator traveling to the event with their student(s). More info on this will be shared with educators registered in zFairs as we near the competition.
Is there any funding to cover lodging and travel to Boise for the statewide IDSEF competition?
Yes! The STEM Action Center will reimburse the travel costs of public school participants in accordance with agency/state travel policies (see: https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/travel). For reimbursement, it is vital that you select the most cost-efficient method of travel—this may mean a rental van or bus for large groups. We will also provide lodging overnight on March 8 th for participants traveling more than 50 miles away from the event. Hotel blocks have been reserved so that you do not need to find lodging. Info on how to reserve rooms will be provided by email to teachers who are registered in zFairs. Participants are assumed to be flying/driving home the evening of the 9 th after the event. If this is unfeasible, please contact us right away.
Is there a middle school fair this year?
Unfortunately, no. Last year the Eastern Idaho Science & Engineering Fair piloted a middle school component. However, it was not feasible to run it alongside the statewide IDSEF event this year. We hope to see a middle school event return and expand statewide when IDSEF returns to a regional model in future years.
How does someone volunteer as an IDSEF judge? What are the requirements?
We need more judges for IDSEF! To qualify, a judge must meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A graduate degree in a field closely related to the category they seek to judge OR a baccalaureate degree and 3+ years of experience in a field closely related to the category they seek to judge No relationship with a student participant or sponsoring educator that could create a conflict of interest Anyone interested in serving as an IDSEF judge should send an email to idsef@stem.idaho.gov to let us know.
Who do I contact with if I have other IDSEF-related questions?
For travel, lodging, zFairs, and other general items; contact Halle Holdaway (idsef@stem.idaho.gov) For rules, IRB/SRC approval, sponsorship opportunities, and support grants; contact Nate Dean (nate.dean@stem.idaho.gov)