

Qualifications for Judges

The most important qualification for any judge is the willingness to commit the time and energy to honor the hard work of the students and to encourage their further interest in science, math and engineering. Judges who wish to participate in the CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium (CJGSS) may register to judge in middle school and/or high school, depending upon qualifications.

Eligibility Criteria for Judges at High School Fairs

The CREST-Jane Goodall Science Symposium follows the rules governing participation in Intel ISEF. Judges should have an MA, MS, or Ph.D. in the category in which they choose to judge, or in a closely related field. Professionals at the Bachelor's level with three or more years of relevant experience are also eligible to serve as high school judges. In cases where eligibility is questionable, the Judging Coordinator will make the decision.

Eligibility Criteria for Judges at Middle School Fairs

The West Linn-Wilsonville Middle Science Fair (*a program of the CJGSS*) follows rules governing participation in Broadcom Masters. Judges should have some undergraduate coursework in the selected category, or experience in a related field. Additional experience or higher degrees are desirable. Graduate students in science or science education are eligible to judge middle school projects. Advanced high school students may serve as non-judging interviewers for middle school students.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

Potential judges who mentor or know students with projects in a particular category are strongly encouraged to register to judge in a different category or division (HS or MS). During judge orientation, if any potential conflicts of interest still exist, judges affected are asked to disclose to the team any such relationship. The team will decide what to do to minimize these issues.

If you are a parent volunteer, please let the other judges in your category know. You may not judge in a category in which your child is competing. If you are acquainted with another student in the category, please let the head judge know. Parents are not allowed to stay and be Finalist judges or judge Best of Fair.

Judge Organization

Judges are organized into Category, Special Awards and Finalist teams.

Category Judges

Judges will be assigned to a category by the Judge Coordinator. They will interview participants within their selected category and deliberate on category winners under the guidance of a Category Head Judge.

Special Awards Judges

Judges will have a list of criteria for Special Awards sponsored by a wide range of organizations. They will be surveying projects throughout the fair for eligibility for these special awards, and deliberate on award winners under the guidance of a Special Awards Head Judge.

Finalist Judges

Once the winners of each category are determined, the Category Head Judges become a panel of Finalist Judges. They review the winning projects in all categories and select "Best of Fair" winners. Being a Finalist Judge requires extra time and effort beyond that needed to serve as a Category Judge.

Judging Process

Teams of approximately 4-10 judges are assigned to evaluate the projects in each category. There is a head judge in each category whose responsibility it is to make sure all projects are judged and the workload is spread evenly among the group.

- After a brief morning orientation, proceed to the project display area to review exhibits and prepare questions. Students are not present during this period.
- We provide a catered lunch; judges seem to prefer to eat with their teams and discuss strategy for the afternoon's interviews.
- After lunch the students will be standing at their project boards, ready to be interviewed. Our goal is for every project to have a number of interviews - no fewer than 4 - and to receive a feedback sheet with comments from the judges.
- After students leave, Category judges convene to deliberate on category placement awards and other special awards, and fill out Judge feedback comments for each student.
- Deliberations typically take about an hour, sometimes less. When category placement awards are determined, the Category Judges are excused with our thanks.
- Head judges remain and deliberate to make a final determination on the "Best of Fair" winners (the best of the best).