

## FACT SHEET

### 2018 California Science & Engineering Fair

#### 67<sup>th</sup> Annual State Fair

**Overview** In 1952, the first large Science Fair west of the Mississippi River was held in Los Angeles at Exposition Park. Sponsored by the *Los Angeles Times*, the first State Science Fair attracted 237 students representing all counties south of Bakersfield. Since its inception, the fair has continued to grow, and now serves as the ultimate science fair competition in the State of California. At the 2017 State Science Fair, 927 students representing 33 counties participated. The event, now known as the California Science & Engineering Fair, continues to bring together some of the brightest of the state's students to present original science research projects and to compete for the fair's highest honors and awards.

**Objectives** The fair is designed to recognize the research efforts of California student scientists; stimulate interest in science as a career; and give students the opportunity to meet and interact with professional scientists and peers with similar interests.

**Eligibility** Middle and high school students who had the top projects selected by affiliated county or regional science fairs in their category qualify to apply to compete at the State Fair. California students in the top forty of the Regeneron Science Talent Search also qualify for entry. Students may download applications and information packets from the California State Science & Engineering Fair web site at [www.californiasciencecenter.org/CSSF/](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/CSSF/).

Entries must be received by the California Science Center by the deadline as noted in the application. Deadlines vary depending on date of county or regional science fair.

#### Divisions

Junior: Grades 6 - 8  
Senior: Grades 9 - 12

#### Project Categories

- Aerodynamics / Hydrodynamics (*Jr. Division only*)
- Alternative Energy (*Jr. Division only*)
- Applied Mechanics & Structures
- Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Biochemistry / Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Cognitive Science (*Jr. Division only*)
- Computational Systems & Analysis
- Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Electronics & Electromagnetics
- Energy & Power (*Jr. Division only*)
- Environmental Engineering (*Jr. Division only*)
- Environmental Science (*Jr. Division only*)
- Mammalian Biology (*Sr. Division only*)
- Materials Science (*Jr. Division only*)
- Mathematical Sciences
- Microbiology (General)
- Microbiology (Medical) (*Jr. Division only*)
- Pharmacology/Toxicology
- Physics & Astronomy
- Plant Biology
- Product Science (Biological) (*Jr. Division only*)

- Product Science (Physical) (*Jr. Division only*)
- Zoology

**Organizers** The California Science Center, a state agency, and the California Science Center Foundation, a non-profit, host the California Science & Engineering Fair and have for decades. The event is organized by the California Science & Engineering Fair Board, made up of Science Center staff and dedicated volunteers.

**Donors** The presenting sponsor of the 2018 California Science & Engineering Fair is Northrop Grumman Corporation with additional support from Chevron Corporation, Gilead Sciences, Inc., THE MUSES of the California Science Center Foundation, and The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. Northrop Grumman and THE MUSES also contribute by providing volunteers to staff a range of positions, from registrars to category judges.

**Judges & Judging** Nearly 400 research scientists, engineers, and college professors volunteer to serve as science fair judges. In 38 separate panels, judges interview students and evaluate projects to select category winners. After all category awards are determined, representatives from each panel meet to review the top projects and to select the Science Fair Project of the Year.

**Awards** A total of more than \$60,000 in cash prizes will be awarded this year at the California Science & Engineering Fair. Awards include those given to the top four winners in each category and division, along with project, student and

teacher of the year awards. In addition, cash prizes will be given away to winners of special awards funded by private organizations, corporations and universities. Special award recipients are determined by representatives from participating corporations and organizations. In addition, several top winners in the Senior Division will be qualified to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and many top winners in the Junior Division will be qualified for the Broadcom MASTERS national competition.

**Science Fair Project of the Year** A \$5,000 cash prize goes to the Project of the Year in the Senior Division and a \$2,500 prize in the Junior Division. Every 1<sup>st</sup> place winning project in each category is reviewed in order to select the best project in each division.

**Science Fair Student of the Year** A \$1,000 cash prize is presented to the high school senior who, in the opinion of the judges, best exemplifies the qualities necessary for success in science. Judges consider factors such as academic excellence, the ability to communicate, a well-rounded background and the desire to contribute to the community.

**Science Fair Teacher of the Year** A \$2,000 cash prize goes to the California Science & Engineering Fair Teacher of the Year in the Junior and Senior Divisions. Judges consider factors such as the ability to inspire students with and without science backgrounds and the steps taken above and beyond normal teaching duties to motivate students.