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# JUDGES NEEDED

## for the 77<sup>th</sup> Georgia Science & Engineering Fair

The Georgia Science & Engineering Fair is Georgia's premier forum for middle and high school students to showcase their original research, compete for awards, and interact with top scientists from around the state.

We need about **300 professionals and graduate students** with expertise in **science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM)\*** to serve as volunteer judges who will evaluate middle and high school students' research, provide feedback, and select award winners.

Volunteers will judge in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and/or Senior Division (grades 9-12). Judges must have a minimum of a Bachelor's in a STEM field or significant research experience in a relevant professional setting. See following page for details.

*\*Volunteers with expertise in any of GSEF's [STEM categories](#) are needed and appreciated. Areas where we typically have a higher need for more judges are: **engineering, environmental science/engineering, and the physical sciences.***



FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

at

THE CLASSIC CENTER

ATHENS, GA

*See following page for schedule details.*

Please sign up by

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

Later applications will also be accepted and appreciated, especially in higher need categories.

*We hope receive most judge sign-ups by February 20 so we can forecast coverage and recruit additional judges as needed.*

## Why be a GSEF judge?

Investments in the education and support of our nation's most promising young researchers are necessary to solve the challenges before us in areas such as energy, healthcare, the environment, and global security. By joining the GSEF judging team, you will be helping Georgia's talented youth gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue STEM careers and make unprecedented advancements toward a better world.

**SIGN UP TODAY:**  
[bit.ly/judge2025gsef](http://bit.ly/judge2025gsef)



For more information, visit  
[www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gsef](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gsef)  
or contact Laura Brewer at  
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GSEF is a program of the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel and an Official Affiliate of the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair.

## JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS

### SENIOR DIVISION (Grades 9-12)

- doctorate or other terminal degree (PhD, MD, DDS, DVM, etc.); or
- substantial research experience in a PhD program in a STEM discipline; or
- bachelor's or master's degree and a minimum of six years of professional experience in a relevant discipline

### JUNIOR DIVISION (Grades 6-8)

- any of the Senior Division qualifications (left); or
- research experience in a relevant professional or industrial setting; or
- graduate standing in a discipline related to a [GSEF Project Category](#) or in a relevant education program; or
- significant progress toward, or completion, of an undergraduate degree in a STEM field with significant experience working with youth in STEM (additional info will be requested)

## ROLES & TIMES

The following is an overview of the GSEF judging process; adjustments may be made closer to event. Junior Division judges interview students in grades 6–8, and Senior Division judges interview students in grades 9–12. Senior Division judges are assigned as Tier I, II, or III, depending on prior judging experience and preference. Judge applicants are asked to select the Division(s)/Tier(s) you are qualified for and interested in judging; you will be assigned based on your preference and where we most need your help.

### JUNIOR DIVISION

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Needed: 125

Junior Division judges include first-timers as well as many experienced judges. After checking in, you will have training and orientation, during which you will receive a text or email link to the GSEF judging web app (no download required). The app will provide a list of specific projects to judge, usually all in one category. After training you will have lunch (provided) and head for the exhibits. Interview a student and score the project in the judging app. Once you have interviewed and scored all of your assigned projects and submitted all Comment Sheets, you are free to leave (or, see the Help Desk for more project assignments).

### SENIOR DIVISION, Tier I

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Needed: 175

Tier I judges range from first-timers to those with over 20 years of judging experience. They judge Senior Division, grades 9–12, during Round 1. After checking in, you will have training and orientation, during which you will receive a text or email link to the GSEF judging web app (no download required). The app will provide a list of specific assigned projects for you to judge, usually all in one category. You will be introduced to the Tier II judge to whom you will report. You will have 90 minutes to preview your projects while the students are away and to make notes for your interviews. While previewing, you will also be alert for Special Award candidates. After lunch (provided), the students arrive for Round 1. Interview a student and score the project in the judging app. When you have interviewed all your students, meet with your Tier II to discuss your top projects. Your Tier II judge will dismiss you once they have everything they need from you. Please keep your cell phone on until at least 6:00 PM, in case we need to clarify anything.

### SENIOR DIVISION, Tier II

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Needed: 15-20

Tier II judges have judged at least 3 years. Tier II and III judges meet together at 9:00 AM and then join the Tier I judges for additional instruction. You will be assigned a group of Tier I judges (you will be responsible for collecting all their paperwork after judging). You will have 90 minutes to preview all exhibits in your category. While previewing, you will also be alert for Special Award candidates. Tier II judges have a variety of different tasks during the Round 1 interview period; some also perform Tier I interviews. After Round 1, you will meet with your Tier I judges to discuss their top projects. During Round 2, you will interview the top projects and pare the list down to your own Top Projects short list. After Round 2, discuss this list and your Best in Category choice(s) with your Tier III. Turn in any remaining score or Comment Sheets. Your Tier III judge will dismiss you once they have everything they need from you. Please keep your cell phone on until at least 9:00 PM, in case we need to clarify anything.

### SENIOR DIVISION, Tier III

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Needed: 10

Tier III judges have at least 4 years of Tier II experience. Tier II and III judges meet together at 9:00 AM and then join the Tier I judges for additional instruction. After orientation, you will preview all exhibits in the Senior Division, looking for exhibits that fit the criteria of Special Awards. During judging, you will discreetly talk with students, including those you suspect may end up on the Top Projects lists, and conduct interviews for some Special Awards. You may be asked to assist or fill in for a Tier I or II judge during Round 1 or 2 or be assigned other responsibilities. You are responsible for ensuring your Tier IIs have turned in all materials before you dismiss them. In the evening, you will discuss the Top Projects and Best in Category suggestions and select winners.

### Junior Division Category Leader

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM (in addition to Tier I or Junior Division judging time)

Needed: 20

These are Tier I or Junior Division judges who are also responsible for helping select Best in Category for a Junior Division category.

### Special Award Judge

12:30 PM – 5:30 PM (varies)

Needed: 20

Special Award Judges judge for a specific sponsored award on behalf of its sponsor. If the sponsor plans to send a judge to interview and select their winners, this should be indicated on the Award Sponsorship Form; Special Award Judges do not need to fill out a Judge Application unless you would also like to sign up for regular Junior/Senior Division judging. Upon arrival, you will receive an information packet and instructions for the specific award(s) you will be judging, as well as any nominations submitted by other judges during previews. Interview students who may be contenders for your award and enter winning projects on your Special Award Selection Form. Bring the form to the Help Desk before leaving. We may call your cell after you leave if we have any questions about your selection.