

**Not only
does science
begin in wonder,
it also ends
in wonder.**

ABRAHAM MASLOW

*San Luis Valley Regional
Science Fair, Inc.
2021 Annual Report*

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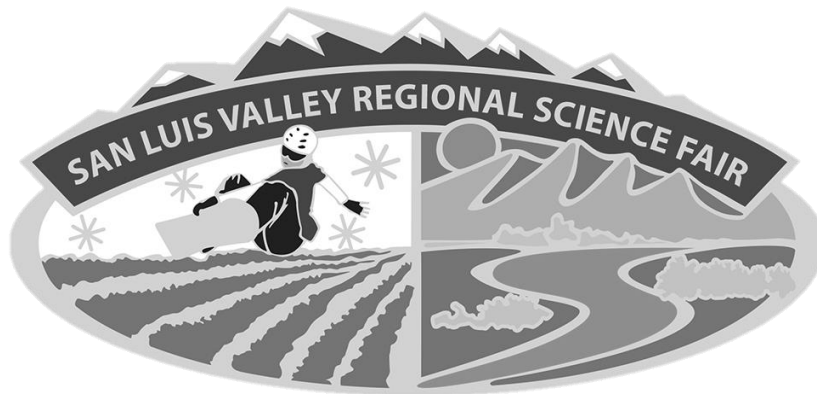
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The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair

From start to finish, and at all levels of participation, the science fair experience is one not only of competition but also of camaraderie, creativity, cooperation, and education. This is the essence of the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair.

Established in 1949, the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization, which holds a regional competition each year. More than 800 students from the San Luis Valley participate in Science Fair at their schools. The purpose of the fair is to stimulate student interest and encourage the students in science and engineering by recognition of their abilities and achievements.

This year's winners were chosen from among 155 exhibits presented by 158 finalists including seven students in teams. These finalists represented ten public school districts, home-schoolers from the San Luis Valley, and students from one private school. More than 150 judges, including professional scientists, engineers, medical professionals, mathematicians, and advanced Adams State University students, interview the students and evaluate their projects before selecting the winners. In addition, there were also businesses, professional societies, and government agencies that provide their own representatives to help judge exhibits based on their criteria. These judges confer the Special Awards, including scholarships, summer internships, cash, medals, and scientific calculators, which represents an aspect of the bestowing organization. Jeff Storm virtually announced the awards via Zoom.

In addition, receiving the rare opportunity to speak with working scientists, SLV Regional Science Fair students participate in three grade level divisions for the grand awards in a number of categories: Behavioral and Social Science, Biomedical Science, Botany, Chemistry, Consumer Science, Earth and Space Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics and Zoology.

Participating in Science Fair is one of the few activities that expect students to integrate virtually all areas of their academic development. They use the library for literature reviews, history and research; the students execute experimentation and generally complete mathematical analysis; they write reports; they utilize artistic styles in the preparation of their presentation boards; and they are expected to orally present their projects to the judges. Awards are also given for technical writing, oratory skills, display, originality, and overall projects. Winning Junior and Senior division projects are awarded trips to the Colorado Science & Engineering Fair, which is held in Fort Collins, Colorado. In addition, the two senior division students with outstanding overall projects are awarded an all-expense paid trip to the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair. The regional fair was held as a virtual fair this past year. Our students participated in a virtual fair for both the Colorado State Science Fair and the International Fair.

Many educational experiences are made available to students who participate in the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair. Recent programs have included Science from CU; the Alamogordo Space Center; Mobil Ed Productions; Physics is Fun; the Denver Museum of Nature and Science; Visible Productions and Mike Mullane (Ret.), NASA Astronaut. Recently the program featured was "Bat Tales" in which students learned about the world's only flying mammals, about the diversity and natural history of these often misunderstood animals, and why bat conservation is important. Museum specimens gave students a close look at several species of bats native to Colorado.

The judges' interviews and the educational programs allow the students to interact with professional scientists and engineers and with each other. Many students have said that having the chance to meet and speak with their peers about their science projects is the most beneficial aspect of the SLV Regional Science Fair.

Scholarships from Adams State University and other organizations are also presented. Adams State University awards \$3,000 in scholarships for outstanding science fair participants who have a desire to further their education at ASU. The San Luis Valley Research Center - Colorado State University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - offers a \$900 summer internship to a San Luis Valley student, in grades eight through twelve, who shows excellence in the field of potato research, from the Botany category. A family scholarship was established several years ago that is awarded to a graduating senior student that will be attending Colorado State University and majoring in a field of science.

The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair is devoted to increasing the academic involvement and excellence between all fourth through twelfth grade students in our region. Student winners from each category are presented monetary awards. There are also many local and national awards that are presented to deserving student participants. With the help of our local sponsors and contributors, the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair is able to present \$28,000 (either in monetary awards, scholarships, all-expense paid trips to the international fair or material awards) to the outstanding students of our region.

Organization

The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair would not be possible without the dedication and tremendous efforts of many committed individuals, as well as public and private organizations, school districts, Adams State University, government agencies, corporations, professional associations, and local businesses. These groups sustain the Fair through their financial and resource support, special awards, and most importantly, through providing dedicated volunteers to serve on the Fair's working committees and/or Board of Directors. Many of these businesses not only make monetary donations, but also allow their employees to serve as judges for the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair. Prior to this regional event, many local school fairs are conducted throughout the region. Each of these fairs is supported by hardworking and dedicated educators at the local school level. Before a student's project is accepted at the Regional Fair, it requires the encouragement and support from individual teachers, science fair coordinators, and parents to help the student see their project from conception to the finished exhibit. The success of the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair is dependent on all of these dedicated individuals.

To organize and stage the Fair every year requires a great effort by many people, but it also offers many personal challenges and rewards. To witness the level of achievement, pride, and excitement of these bright young people in their scientific endeavors is one of the rewards that all volunteers of the Fair share. It also speaks of the high level of students' aptitude and enthusiasm for science in the San Luis Valley.

Mission Statement

The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair is an organization that:

- Honors winners from local San Luis Valley school fairs at an annual Regional Science Fair
- Sends finalists from the Regional Science Fair to the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF)
- Provides two overall winners at the Regional Science Fair with an all-expense paid trip to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)
- Encourages students to pursue careers in science, technology, mathematics, or engineering
- Provides a forum for developing academic skills, such as conducting an independent scientific investigation, writing a research paper, speaking, preparing an organized display, and becoming familiar with the scientific method.

The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair supports local school fairs by:

- Providing a forum where local fairs can influence policies, rules, and by-laws of the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair
- Providing rules and requirements for participation in all fairs – Regional, State, and International.
- Coordinate mentors
- Provides judges and critique at local school fairs.

Impact Statement

The following represent some of the impacts the San Luis Valley Regional Fair has had on the San Luis Valley:

- Awareness, appreciation, and recognition of the importance of science in our society, livelihoods, academic achievement and lifelong success
- An increased awareness of academic competition and the importance of science among Valley educators
- An increased quality of educational activities in all schools in the region
- An increased usage of libraries and the Internet
- An increased exposure to robotics, holography, pathology, space art, moon geology, and the scientific method to the general public.

* * *

All these years later, I still love that butterfly logo as it symbolizes discovery, growth and change. Years later, I still follow the science fair (through the Valley Courier mostly) and actively participate as a judge at the Ohio State Science Day (Ohio's State Fair). Over the years, I have judged fairs in Texas and Massachusetts as I reside there. I have always been impressed that the SLV Regional Science Fair does a great job with the number of awards and acknowledgment it gives to its participants; our future. The quality and depth of work the students do is amazing. I feel fortunate to have been able to be a part of the SLV regional Science Fair; and again, the fair does an exceptional job of providing students with the opportunity to show that science is alive and done extremely well even in rural areas of the world.

Congratulations to all the participants and thank you to all the enthusiastic science teachers, volunteers and those who donate to keep this as a vital way of giving students the opportunity to challenge themselves to be curious about science and expand their ability to stretch their imagination.

-Cliff Percy, Monte Vista High School Alumni

Top Winners of the 2021 San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair

COLORADO AWARD WINNERS

The following students were chosen to represent the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair at the Colorado State Science Fair:

Senior Division

Chinmay Jayanty – Sargent High School	Camille Rawinski–Monte Vista High School
Augustus Miller –Monte Vista High School	Carlos Ochoa-Marquez–Monte Vista High School
Madison Miller– Monte Vista High School	Marissa Martinez – Monte Vista High School
Ashlyn Rockey – Sargent High School	Grace Goodland – Monte Vista High School
Urianna Acosta – Monte Vista High School	Chloe Hindes – Monte Vista High School
Hayden Poe - Justice & Heritage Academy	

Junior Division

Jakoby Ross – Monte Vista Middle School	Emma Sewell – Sargent Middle School
Ellaree Rocky – Sargent Middle School	Durant Gilleland- Centauri Middle School
Aleigha Sanchez – Sierra Grande Middle School	Logan Futrell- Monte Vista Middle School
Alycia Martinez Chavez – Sargent Middle School	Makayla Brown – Sargent Middle School
Rut Trujillo Abeyta – Justice & Heritage Academy	
Presley Wilson and William Wilson - Sangre de Cristo Middle School	

Regeneron/ISEF WINNERS

The following two students were chosen to represent the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair:

Chinmay Jayanty – Sargent High School	Camille Rawinski–Monte Vista High School
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Alternate Regeneron/ISEF WINNER

Chloe Hindes – Monte Vista High School

Junior Observer Award

Jakoby Ross – Monte Vista Middle School

TEACHER AWARDS

The following teachers were chosen to attend the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair:

Loree Harvey - Monte Vista High School
Rafe Paulson – Sargent High School
Lorraine Glidewell – Monte Vista Middle School

SCHOOL AWARDS

The following School Awards are based on the total tabulations of all Grand Awards received by their students:

Small Elementary School	Sierra Grande Elementary
Large Elementary School	Bill Metz Elementary
Small Middle School	Sargent Middle School
Small Middle School	Sierra Grande Middle School
Large Middle School	Centauri Middle School
Small High School	Sargent High School
Large High School	Monte Vista High School

ASSIGNED WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Fair Director: Lucy Adams

The Fair Director is actively involved in all working committees hereto mentioned and is an ex-officio member of the SLV Regional Science Fair Board of Directors. Lucy will remain on the board of directors and is currently training a new Fair Director, Ronna Cochran for the 2021-2022 year.

Awards Ceremony: SLV Regional Science Fair Board of Directors
Joy DiCamillo
Judy Prester
Tayler Rocha

Display and Safety: Dr. Curtis Crawford

Finance: SLV Regional Science Fair Board of Directors

Publishing: Joy DiCamillo and Judy Prester

Registration: SLV Regional Science Fair Board of Directors

Regular Judging: Diana Jones - Judge Coordinator

Room Setup: SLV Regional Science Fair Board of Directors
Monte Vista High School
MESA/Science Club
ASU Facilities

Scientific Review Committee: Dr. Larry Sveum - Chair
Curtis Crawford- DVM
Ms. Jody Oaks
Dr. Neil Rigsbee
Dr. Marty Jones
Ms. Loree Harvey

Website Committee: Julie Messick
Tayler Rocha

- *Because of COVID , a virtual fair replaced our physical fair.*

Highlights of the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair for 2021

2021! What a year it has been. The San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair had its 72nd birthday. This regional science fair is one of the oldest in the country. Thank goodness for the foresight and intuition that Adams State professors and community people had so many years ago.

Two students were awarded the honor of attending the Regeneron ISEF this past spring. The ISEF fair was held as a virtual fair in May. One student was awarded the honor attending the Regeneron ISEF as a student observer in the ISEF fair.

The 2021 Regional Fair had a total of 158 students that participated this past spring. There were a total of 155 projects at the fair. Six public high schools, eight public middle and seven public elementary schools participated in the fair this past year. One private school participated in the elementary, middle and high school divisions this year along with one home school student.

Twenty one junior and high school students were awarded the honor of attending the Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair. The CSEF was held as a virtual fair this past spring. In the senior Grand Awards one second place, one third place, and three honorable mention awards were received by our students. At the junior high level, we had four third places and two honorable mentions.

Eight of our students placed in the special awards. Three of our high school students received scholarships.

The website, SLVRSF.org has material for our teachers, parents and students linked on it. There is also a registration form for our judges. Student registration for the 2022 fair will be available at a later date. One may also find the Board of Directors, the mission statement and history of SLVRSF on the website.

New contributors and visitors to the site are able to view information on how to donate/contribute to the fair. Additional support to the SLV Regional Science Fair can be given by using GoodSearch, GoodShop, Razoo and AmazonSmiles. Links may be found by visiting our website at:

SLVRSF.org

Another great year for the San Luis Valley Regional Science Fair!



At this time I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for supporting our valley students with their science discoveries, over the years and encourage you to continue these endeavors. Thank You- Lucy Adams

I have participated in the Science Fair from my fourth grade and learned something every year. This year is, however very different from my previous years. My experience this year was both amazing and disappointing. I learned a lot at the regional fair, but I was also somewhat disappointed that it was virtual. I was happy to be awarded the opportunity to represent SLVRSF at the International Science and Engineering Fair. My family and I went out and celebrated after the online awards ceremony.

During the State Fair, the interview process was an interesting experience. At the State Science Fair, the science presentations happened on zoom which wasn't as much fun as in-person. I was interviewed by NREL Scientists and professors from CU Boulder. Some of their questions made me think about the larger picture in the renewable energy area.

At the International science fair, I liked it a lot more because it was a week-long event full of scientific presentations and an excellent online game that let me explore the main campus virtually.

I was a little concerned in the beginning about the fair due to the pandemic situation. I was disappointed that all the fairs were virtual. I missed the interaction of students and judges and all the fun events at State and International fairs. Kudos to the board and the team who worked and organized flawlessly our regional fair. It gave me the confidence to face state and international fair judges.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent SLVRSF at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Sincerely
Chinmay N. Jayanty

Throughout the uncertain times of COVID-19, my science fair experience was the best one yet for my 2020-2021 junior year project. I put in the most work I had ever done for a science fair project, and it paid off. I ended up winning best of fair at regionals, then moving on to state, and ISEF. I ended the fair year by getting 4th place at internationals. At regional, state, and international levels, each of the fairs were interactive, accepting, and a fun experience. Even though we couldn't be in person, science fair was still incredible and I loved it either way. I appreciate all of those who helped to make these opportunities possible. It means so much to me and all of the other science-loving students.

Sincerely,
Camille Rawinski - Monte Vista High School

Science fair was a little different last year because of COVID we weren't able to present in person which initially was kind of disappointing. However, I was able to learn how to present my project in a different way so I got a lot of experience with technology. My project was so much fun! I learned how to do arduino coding and applied that to a 3D model that I designed and printed at the high school. Since my project was engineering, I was able to problem solve in a lot of different ways and learned a lot from the things that didn't work like I'd expected. It was exciting to share everything I learned with the judges and it felt good to see my hard work pay off during the awards. My chin hit the floor when I was chosen for the International observer award! I never thought a 6th grader could get something like that so it felt really good. It was a very motivating experience and I am ready to continue my project this year!

Jakoby Ross - Monte Vista Middle School

2021 Contributors

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Alamosa Elks Lodge
Alamosa Kiwanis
Alamosa State Bank
Alpine Veterinary Hospital
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Blanca Peak Dental Center
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Center CD
Center Kiwanis
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Del Norte Bank

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Johnson Foundation

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