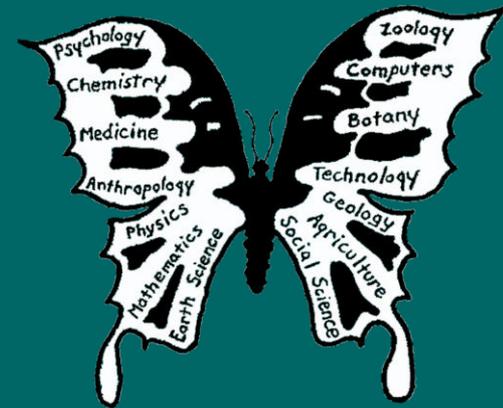
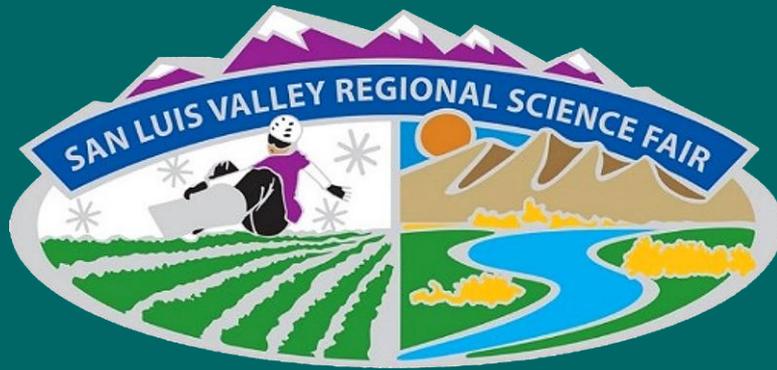


SLV Regional Science Fair JUDGE ORIENTATION



77th Annual SLV Regional Science Fair

Thursday and Friday, February 26th & 27th, 2026

Adams State University, Plachy Fieldhouse

Judge Registration at <https://co-slvrfs.zfairs.com/>

Project Categories

1. Behavior and Social Sciences
2. Biomedical Sciences
3. Botany
4. Chemistry
5. Consumer Science (Elem and Jr only)
6. Earth and Space Sciences
7. Engineering
8. Environmental Sciences
9. Mathematics and Computer Science
10. Physics
11. Zoology

PRELIMINARY Projects by Division and Category - SLVRSF 2026

Division	Elementary	Junior	Senior	Total
<i>Behavior Sciences</i>	7	9	12	28
<i>Biomedical Sciences</i>	6	13	6	25
<i>Botany</i>	4	10	6	20
<i>Chemistry</i>	16	18	4	38
<i>Consumer Sciences</i>	0	17		17
<i>Earth & Space Sciences</i>	5	4	3	12
<i>Engineering</i>	10	13	6	29
<i>Environmental Sciences</i>	5	6	3	14
<i>Mathematics & Computer Sci</i>	3	5	3	11
<i>Physics</i>	10	13	8	31
<i>Zoology</i>	7	11	3	21
Grand Totals	73	119	54	246

77th Annual SLV Regional Science Fair

Thursday and Friday, February 26th & 27th, 2026
Adams State University, Plachy Fieldhouse

Thursday, 2/26, from 1pm – 7pm

**Project Preview and
candidates for Paper Award**

We will meet briefly to orient folks at 12:50pm, and you will then head to your categories and review the projects (*no students present*), review the Display Board, and identify/select Research Papers for consideration of Paper Awards

Guidelines for Project Preview on Thursday

- Take a quick look at all of your assigned projects to get a feel for their scope and how they compare to each other.
- Review the project display board. Are you able to quickly understand the experimental design and results?
- Examine the Research Paper, journals, and lab notebooks for organization and clarity.
- Make a note if you feel the Research Paper is of high enough quality to be considered for a Paper Award (1st Place and Honorable mentions are given for each Division).
- Write down your questions and compliments on the scoring sheet for use during oral interviews on the second day.
- Write constructive criticism on the comment sheet affixed to the table in front of the project and initial the sheet.

Friday, 2/27, from 9am - ~3pm

Interviews with Students

9am–12:45pm for Elementary Divisions (two shifts)

09:00-10:45 Biomedical Science, Botany, Earth & Space Science, Environmental Science, Physics, Zoology.

11:00-12:45 Behavioral & Social Science, Chemistry, Consumer Science, Engineering, Math & Computer Science

9am – 2:45pm for Junior/Senior divisions (lunch at noon)

- Special Awards interviews will take place simultaneously within this time frame (excluding student lunch-times)
- ~30 top Winners from Junior and Senior Divisions selected as Finalists for the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF) in Fort Collins on April 9th-11th, 2026

Guidelines for Friday Interviews

- Arrive early and plan to stay throughout the entire interview period.
- Pace yourself, but be aware of your interview load. Try to keep interviews between 8-10 minutes for each student or team.
- For team projects, ask questions to determine the level of involvement of each team member (*equal contribution to the project and presentation is expected*).
- Revise your scores as many times as you need to achieve consistency within your own evaluations... Other judges may score projects differently than you, but that is OK
- Please don't give all of your projects the same score! 😊
- If you have questions or concerns about a project, confer with your Team Leader... Don't hesitate to ask questions.
- Judge the "best" and encourage the rest.

Guidelines for Friday Interviews, cont.

- Look for evidence of experimentation, engineering process and problem-solving, data-set analysis, mathematical computation, and/or software creation and use (not “book report” research or model demonstration).
- Look for solid scientific design, execution, analysis, and logical conclusions appropriate for their age level.
- Look for creativity, innovation, and novel approaches to problem-solving, particularly in Junior and Senior Divisions. At the Elementary level, look for expansion or modifications to classic “canned” projects that indicate deeper levels of thinking on the part of the student(s).
- Some students at the Junior and Senior Divisions may incorporate statistical measures and testing... These attempts are often their first experiences using such tools, so their explanations may be rudimentary... But they need to explain in their own words why their use was justified, and what the statistical tool and results indicate...
- We understand and expect that the students will be receiving help with their experiments... However, they should demonstrate ownership and command of their presentation and project.

Determination of Grand Awards, Best of Fair, CSEF, and ISEF Finalists

- Grand Awards are given for each Category - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place, and Honorable Mention(s).
- Judges confer with the category Team Leader to make decisions regarding project placement for Grand Awards.
- Team Leaders from each Category then convene for discussion to determine Best of Fair for each Division
- In Junior and Senior Divisions, Team Leaders will gather for final interviews and make decisions for CSEF Finalists, two ISEF Finalists, an ISEF Alternate, and an ISEF Student Observer (8th or 9th grade)
- Score sheets should be returned to the Team Leader for disposal.

Creating a Positive Judging Experience

1. Put the students at ease – be genuine & smile.
2. Congratulate and encourage them about their project.
3. Recognize that some students may be shy, or speak English as a second language.
2. Actively listen.
3. Ask students specifics about their project, not just “what they did”.
4. Ask students enough questions to ensure that they understood their project – when you have reached the limits of student’s knowledge, end that line of questioning.
5. Let the students show their stuff – let them teach you something.
6. Try to remember how it felt to be their age, and the nervousness associated with that.
7. End the interview on a positive note.
8. Record constructive criticism in comment area of the feedback sheet.

Behaviors for Judges to Avoid

1. Displaying boredom.
2. Tallying score sheets while students are actively conversing with you.
3. Making assumptions about their ability level.
4. Cutting them off mid-sentence.
5. Belittling the student or their project.
6. Spending their interview time talking about yourself.
7. Asking personal questions about the student.
8. Negatively criticizing or devaluing the student's work.
9. Comparing their projects to others you've seen in competitions or scholastic events.
10. Writing negative comments on the student's feedback sheet.

As a Judge, what should I expect from students?

- Appropriate dress and behavior for their age level
(*younger students may be "squirmier" than older students*)
- Preparation for the fair and the ability to clearly and concisely explain their projects
- Ability to answer questions about their projects at levels appropriate for their ages and grades
- Pride in their projects and accomplishments
- A wide variety of project quality and sophistication
- A wide range of confidence, nervousness, and stress
(which you can help ease with your demeanor)

Judging Interview

Personalize Your Language

- I liked...
- I enjoyed...
- I noticed...
- I feel that...
- I recommend...
- A technique I have used...
- I understand that...

Possible Judging Questions

- What is the most important thing I should know about your project?
- How did you get your idea?
- What was your question?
- What were your results?
- What was your control?
- Did you run into any problems?
- What skills did you develop?
- What are your unanswered questions?
- If you continue your project, how would you proceed?
- Did you have fun? What did you learn?

*THANK YOU for your
commitment and willingness to
help guide our young scientists and
engineers!!*

Loree' Harvey 719-580-3316

SLVRSFDirector@gmail.com

Fair Website: SLVRSF.org

Registration: <https://co-slvrslf.zfairs.com/>