

# What is the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair?

**G**lad you asked. The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is held annually in March at Rider University. The Fair recognizes the scientific and engineering achievements of students in Mercer County.

The Fair is the culmination of a student's research and experimentation that may have started up to a year before. It provides a goal to enhance students interest in science and technology. Participants prepare a research paper and presentation board that are judged by professional scientist and engineers.

Prizes are presented at the Fair's award ceremony after judging is complete. The Grand Prize winner receives an all expense paid trip to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. [More about the Fair](#)



## What can you do for the Fair?

- \* Compete in the Fair (students)
- \* Become a Sponsor
- \* Join the Club
- \* Become a mentor
- \* Get out the word out
- \* Help out as a judge



The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is run by the Mercer Science and Engineering Club in conjunction with Rider University. Additional information is available at [www.mercersec.org](http://www.mercersec.org).

# What is the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

**Prior** Students are expected to utilize the scientific method by choosing a topic area, research the topic, develop an experiment or project plan, execute the plan, and create a presentation of the results. This usually includes a presentation board and a research paper that will be judged using a variety of criteria for various awards. Senior Division students will be questioned by judges to determine the scope of the project, the student's understanding of the work and their plans for future work. They may also demonstrate aspects of the project.



and execute their projects for the Fair. The club holds training sessions for teachers and coordinators and it manages the registration process for the Fair. The club handles all aspects of the Fair including registration, safety review, coordination of the judging staff, the award ceremony and fund raising for the events. The club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and it is a registered New Jersey charitable organization.

## Mercer Science and Engineering Club and Rider University

The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is put on by the Mercer Science and Engineering Club in conjunction with Rider University. The club members work with teachers, science coordinators and individuals who help students to prepare

## Affiliated Fairs

The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is affiliated with Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (DCYSC). ISEF is held annually in May with over one thousand students from around the world competing in the event. Major awards include items such as a trip to the Nobel Prize ceremony, college scholarships and trips to NASA Space Camp. Science Service manages both ISEF and DCYSC.



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# So You Want To Compete In The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

**G**reat!  
Do you attend school in Mercer County, NJ?

If so then check out the fair divisions to see if you are eligible to compete in the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair. The Fair is open to all public, private and home school students.

What next? First check with your school, science teacher or science fair coordinator to see if they have a science fair program already. Some schools incorporate science fair projects into the curriculum. Most feed directly into the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair. Next, check out our website for details and see what forms you might require before getting started especially if you are in the Senior Division.

Now get to work. You will need to get your forms signed and application in on time. Then show up at the fair with your research and board presentation. Seniors, professional attire for judging interviews.

## Fair Divisions

**Elementary Division:** Grades 4 - 5

- \* Affiliated with the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (grade 5 only)

**Junior Division:** Grades 6 - 8

- \* Affiliated with the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge

**Senior Division:** Grades 9 - 12

- \* Affiliated with Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
- \* Individual judging interviews

## Important Dates

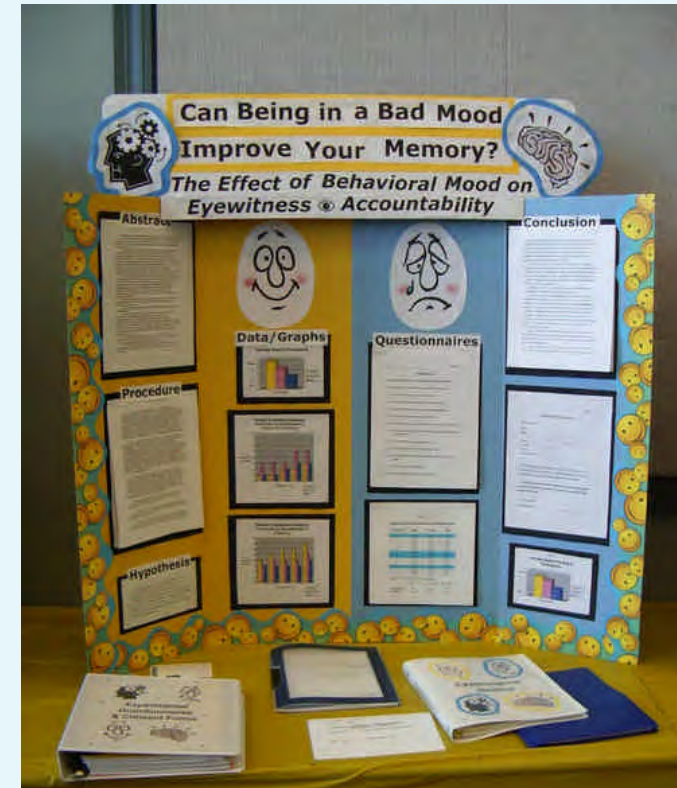
**Getting started:** You can start any time after the prior fair. Check to see what forms must be signed before starting your experimentation.

**Applications** are due in February.

**The Fair** is held in early March.

**Intel ISEF** is held in May.

*Check our website for details about this year's fair.*



**What goes into an award winning project?** First a good idea. Then good research and experimentation. And finally a board that presents your results like this one. Note the research paper and research results book too.

# Keep The Fair Going! Sponsor The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

In 2003, the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Keeping the Fair running each year takes money in addition to a lot of effort and dedication.

The Mercer Science and Engineering Club provides the manpower and direction but it is our many dedicated individual and corporate sponsors that provide the funds to hold the fair each year.

The Mercer Science and Engineering Club is a 501(c)(3) organization and a registered New Jersey charity. The club is run by volunteers so all contributions are used for the Fair.

The Fair expenses are extensive but they can be divided into a number of major categories starting with the ISEF affiliation costs. The cost of running the fair itself that includes items such as table rental and insurance. Finally there is the cost of awards including the Grand Prize



winner's trip to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. There are also minimal costs for support events such as teacher training sessions.

It is the Club's goal to send more than one winner to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. We are able to send up to three students each year.

## Why be a sponsor?

To increase the interest and awareness of science and technology in future engineers, doctors, and scientists of course. The way to increase the number of college graduates with the needed technical degrees for research and industry is to start when they are young. That is where the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair comes in.

Contributions are tax deductible and we present our sponsors on our website and in press coverage of the fair. Annual sponsorship is the way to reward students.

Contact us if you are interested in being a sponsor. You can find our annual report, budgets and other important details on our website: [www.mercersec.org](http://www.mercersec.org).

## Sponsorship Levels

<b>Diamond:</b>	\$8000	or	more
<b>Platinum:</b>	\$3600	to	\$7999
<b>Gold:</b>	\$1800	to	\$3599
<b>Silver:</b>	\$600	to	\$1799
<b>Bronze:</b>	\$300	to	\$599
<b>Friend:</b>	up	to	\$299

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# Become Part Of The Solution! Join The Mercer Science and Engineering Club

**T**he Fair does not run itself. It takes a lot of work year round to prepare and hold the fair. Our judges need technical expertise but club members just need desire to support the goals of the Fair.

<sarcasm>Right</sarcasm>. They also need the drive to make the Fair happen and the time to make it work. We can make use of almost any type of expertise from organizational skills to fund raising contacts.

The Club's work is distributed among members. Check out our by-laws on our website for a formal distribution of work. In practice, everyone helps out especially during the week of the Fair. There is a lot to be done from setting up tables to printing out entry and award certificates. We coordinate the judges and run the award ceremony.



We also hold teacher training and information sessions that cover all aspects of the competition including how to prepare and support students and how to integrate projects into the curriculum.

The Club membership is open to all adults who are not related to students or schools that will be participating in the Mercer Science and Engineering Fair. We want those people to help out the students through teaching, mentoring and support. Club members can be judges but judges do not have to be members of the club. The Club also handles the ever present fund raising chores.

So, are you interested? Give us a call or drop us an email note. We would love to talk you into joining. It is fun and very rewarding.

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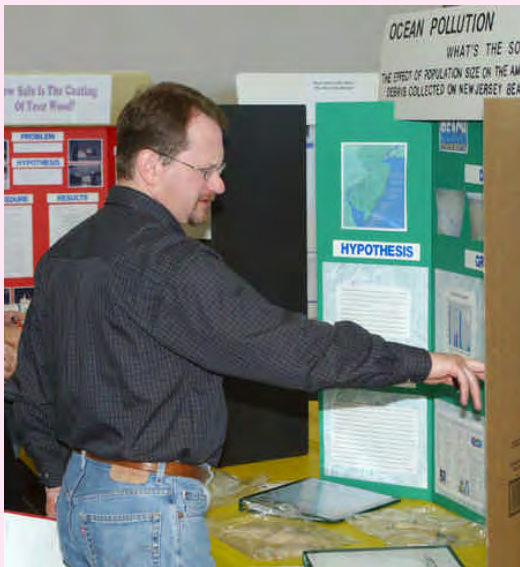
# Become a Mentor

## Help Students Reach For The Stars

**D**o you have the time and the will to be a mentor? Many students would love the opportunity to work with an expert in their field of interest.

As a mentor you can provide a student with something that is hard to find, a person that shares their curiosity and interest in tantalizing technical topics. You bring experience that can amaze and astound.

Buttered up yet? Actually, being a mentor is extremely rewarding. Teaching is a noble profession but it is really fun when you have an interested student. You may also be able to provide a student or students with access to tools, research and facilities. Maybe you can swing an internship at your company or institution?



The Mercer Science and Engineering Club does not have a formal mentoring program but we do help match interested adults with students or teachers. Many students start their projects in the summer often as part of an internship.

The amount of work varies depending upon what you can provide. It may be providing an introduction to a topic area or interaction with the student may be throughout brainstorming, project development and creation of the presentation.

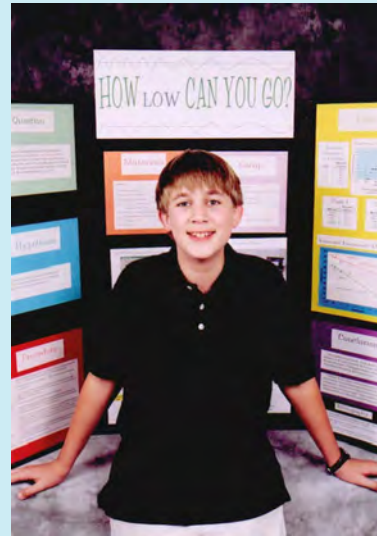
Let us know if you are interested and what your area of expertise is. If we don't match you up this year you might be interested in being a judge at the fair.



# Let Everyone Know About The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

**G**et the word out. The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is coming. Tell your kids, your school, your colleagues. Put it in your school newsletter.

The Mercer Science and Engineering Club does its best to let every student in Mercer County know they can participate in the Fair but we can use your help. If students know about the Fair they usually want to participate. We just need to let them know.



## Come visit the Fair

Did you know the Fair is open to the public? You can check out the projects after the award ceremony. You can also visit during the week. Want to bring a class or group of students in. No problem. Let us know and we can help.

## Check out our website

Our website contains all the information students, parents, and teachers need so let them know about [www.mercersec.org](http://www.mercersec.org). It is just a click away on the web.



## Who should know about the Fair

<u>Who</u>	<u>Why</u>
Students	compete or visit Fair
Parents	application due dates
Teachers	support students, integrate into curriculum
Schools	article in newsletter, hold school science fair
Newspapers	article about the Fair



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# Be A Judge At The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair requires many judges to handle each division and category. That judge might be you.

The club organizes local scientists, engineers, mathematicians, doctors and more. If you have the experience we can make use of it. The only restriction is that you cannot be associated with any student in the division you will be judging.

So how much time is involved. Actually, not very much. The Master Judge will contact you before the fair to provide you with directions on how the judging process works and to work with you to



determine what division and category you will be judging.

Judges will have access to projects Sunday evening after the projects are setup to familiarize yourself with the projects. Monday morning is the actual judging. Senior Division judges will be able to interview students at their projects. The club handles correlation of the results. Everyone is invited to the award ceremony Tuesday night. Check out our website for details if you are interested.

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