



REGISTRATION DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 16

The Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair is almost here! We have extended our deadline to February 16th. Our new ability to receive instant registration through our online registration has really helped organize and manage our multitude of registrations so far. But we're not done yet! Submit your registration today! We want to see what you can do!

Project boards do **NOT** need to be completed until the actual Fair registration day, April 1 & 2, 2016. Please feel free to contact the Coordinator, Nadia Compton, at ncompton@sacSTEMfair.org with any questions or concerns about the registration process!

We look forward to seeing you at American River College on April 2 for the Fair!

[Register student project for the Competing Division](#)
[Register student project for the Showcase Division](#)

STUDENT FAQs - REGISTRATION & THE EVENT

1. HOW MANY TEAM MEMBERS CAN I HAVE? You can have up to 3 people on a team. These team members can be from other schools and different grades within your division. However, you must make sure your teachers know that you are registering with a student from another school if you are participating through your science or engineering class. If you want to participate with a student in another grade, be careful because you will be judged by the oldest in the group. You cannot compete with a middle school and high school mixed team.

2. HOW DOES A TEAM SUBMIT THEIR REGISTRATION? The Student Leader on a team will submit the entire on-line registration. Once the project is fully submitted, the students should download and submit the parental/student consent forms signed for all members. If the Coordinator does not receive these, she will contact the students to get them.

3. I SUBMITTED MY PROJECT, BUT I HAVE CHANGES TO MY DESCRIPTION. WHAT DO I DO? If you would like to change anything about your project, but you have already COMPLETELY submitted it, please contact Nadia, at ncompton@sacSTEMfair.org.

4. HOW MANY PROJECTS CAN I ENTER INTO THE FAIR? CAN I ENTER WITH TWO project and what materials you will most likely need for your display. [Find it here.](#)

The Student handbook contains the information you need. It begins with science project outlines, goes into engineering project outlines and on page five you will find the engineering rubric. You can [find it here.](#)

6. WHAT SHOULD THE DISPLAY CONSIST OF? WHAT SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED? The best place to start to answer this question is to read our Items not allowed at your Display document. See the Rules & Regulations for more specifics. However, the big no-no's are anything potentially dangerous - hypodermic needles, diseased organisms, etc. - anything of great monetary value, anything large enough to infringe on another exhibitor's space, and live plants & animals.

7. I RECEIVED AN EMAIL ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL FORMS, WHAT DO I DO? The request for additional forms means that something was missing from your submission. If you fill out the forms sent to you in the email and send them back, your registration will be complete! You can send them back via email, fax, or mail -please feel free to call the office at 916-441-3150 if you have any questions! [Email us.](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 16 - Student Project Registration Deadline**
- February 26 - Registration deadline for the Fair's College and Career Expo, presented by the US Army**
- March 1 - Volunteer & Judge Registration Deadline**
- April 1 - Project Set up & Judge Orientation at American River College**
- April 2 - Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair and College & Career Expo at American River College**

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We'd like to extend a special **THANK YOU** to our most recent sponsors for this Fiscal Year, Beckman Coulter, US Army, and ASCE Sacramento Chapter.



ASCE Sacramento Chapter has supported the Foundation and the Fair in a multitude of ways for years. We're extremely appreciative of all your organization does for the students!

We would like to welcome the Beckman Coulter Foundation and the US Army as new sponsors! The Beckman Coulter Foundation will be supporting the Foundation by providing a very generous sponsorship and encouraging employees to volunteer. The US Army will be supporting the College & Career Expo, as it's presenting sponsor in addition to providing a generous sponsorship to the Fair. We look forward to future support from these great organizations!

CALL FOR JUDGES AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are still in need of volunteer judges to support the Sac STEM Fair. [SIGN UP TODAY](#)

The Sac STEM Fair thrives on volunteers! We need YOU! [SIGN UP TODAY](#)

4. ... **TEAMS?** Each student can only enter one (1) project into the competition. A student can compete individually or s/he can compete on one team. No student can enter more than one project.

5. **WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION ABOUT ENGINEERING PROJECTS?** We like to recommend the Science Buddies website -they tell you how to begin an engineering

Fax: 916-442-4182. Mailing address: 455 Capitol Mall, Ste 500 Sacramento, CA 95814

8. **WHERE CAN I GET ADDITIONAL FAIR INFORMATION OR PROJECT ADVICE?** Check out the Resources web page for some project advice and help. Please don't hesitate to call us at 916-441-3150 or email us at ncompton@sacSTEMfair.org.

CONTACT US WITH MORE QUESTIONS - WE WILL POST THEM ONLINE TO HELP OTHERS!

PIN CONTEST

Do you consider yourself somewhat of an artist? If so, we want you to help us design our 2017 STEM Fair pin! Each year, the NorCal STEM Education Foundation provides pins to participants at the Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair to commemorate the event. These pins travel with the winners who go on to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and are traded among competitors from all over the world! Imagine YOUR design traveling to Europe, Asia, even Australia!

The contestants for the Pin Design Competition will be featured on-site at this year's Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair and the winner will be named at the Awards Ceremony that evening.

All you have to do to enter is [submit your contact information and design here](#).

All designs should be scalable (submitted in EPS format). Designs will be displayed in color in two sizes for voting. Designs will be displayed on one side of one 8 ½ by 11-inch piece of paper. Designs will be shown in a print area of 4x6 and a pin preview thumbnail of 1 ½ by 1 ½ inches. Winning pins will be manufactured no larger than 1 ½ x 1 ½ inches. Pin designs should state "2017" and "Synopsys Sac Regional STEM Fair."

The chosen pin is subject to change to reflect the name of the 2017 Fair.

Individual submissions only. Contest is limited to students in grades 5-12 that reside in the NorCal STEM Education Foundation's service area. To view our service area, [visit our website](#).

Here are some of our past pins for inspiration!



JOIN US AT THE COLLEGE & CAREER EXPO AS AN EXHIBITOR!

Be a part of the 2016 College & Career Expo ... Inspire, Engage, & Support

The NorCal STEM Education Foundation invites local and regional partners to attend and exhibit at the College & Career Expo in tandem with the Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair! All exhibitors are



ARE YOU A STATE WORKER LOOKING TO DONATE THROUGH "OUR PROMISE"(formerly CSECC)?

The donation website for "Our Promise" has been taken offline, but state employees can still make their donations the old-fashioned way! The Sacramento Regional Science & Engineering Fair Foundation (dba NorCal STEM Education Foundation) hopes you will elect to donate to our organization! We've even prepared the form for you with our information to make it simple. [Use the Our Promise form with our information here](#).

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION SIMPLY BY SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES

Do you shop at Raley's, Bel-Air, or Nob Hill? If so, please join the Extra Credit program for the Sacramento Regional Science and Engineering Fair Foundation. [See instructions on how to sign up here](#). It's all online and just a few simple clicks to support the Foundation!

FEATURED EXHIBITORS

Thank you to our registered exhibitors! The California Sunlight Corp, California Northstate University, and Computer Information Science Department, Sacramento City College have signed up to exhibit at the College & Career Expo in 2016!



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SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT VARIABLES IN YOUR SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT

Written by: Science Buddies, A Foundation Partner.

Scientists use an experiment to search for cause and effect relationships in nature. In other words, they design an experiment so that changes to one item cause something else to vary in a predictable way.

These changing quantities are called variables. A variable is any factor, trait, or condition that can exist in differing amounts or types. An experiment usually has three kinds of variables: independent, dependent, and controlled.

The independent variable is the one that is changed by the scientist. To ensure a fair test, a good experiment has only one independent variable. As the scientist changes the independent variable, he or she observes what happens.

The scientist focuses his or her observations on the dependent variable to see how it responds to the change made to the independent variable. The new value of the dependent variable is caused by and depends on the value of the independent variable.

TO READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE, PLEASE VISIT: www.sciencebuddies.org

welcome - STEM exhibits and showcases are encouraged.

The College and Career Expo will be held April 2, 2016 from 2PM to 5PM at American River College.

Exhibits are always open to the public and be visited by the region's students, parents, teachers and more! Join us for the event - a great way to reach out and market! The attendees will include the participating STEM fair students, teachers and parents as well as the public - that's over 1,500 people! Bring your hands-on activities and showcase your support for STEM education.

The exhibit space includes an open-air space approximately 10'x10' in size - you will have

plenty of room to involve students and parents in your demonstrations! You can even reserve multiple exhibit spaces. All exhibitors will receive a listing in the program, a feature in our newsletter, and recognition on our website. Nonprofits and state organizations receive free exhibit space! [Sign up today! Registration closes on February 26!](#)



OTHER COMPETITIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Featured Scholarship: SAFE Credit Union

SAFE is accepting scholarship applications from outstanding students. If there's an exceptional college-bound student in your household and you live in Sacramento, Contra Costa, Placer, Nevada, Yolo, Amador, Solano, San Joaquin, Sutter, Butte, El Dorado, or Yuba counties, he or she may qualify to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from SAFE Credit Union.

Ten \$1,000 scholarships are available. Applications will be reviewed by a panel of judges, and finalists will be chosen based on the following criteria: academic achievement, financial need, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and community involvement.

Scholarship applications are available online, at all SAFE branches, or by calling SAFE at (916) 979-7233 or (800) SEE-SAFE.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **Monday, March 7, 2016** and addressed to:
SAFE Credit Union
Attn: Marketing
2295 Iron Point Road, Suite 100
Folsom CA 95630-8765

Featured Scholarship: University of California, Davis Young Scholars Program

Participants in the Young Scholars Program will work one-on-one with research faculty and research groups in state-of-the-art laboratories for six weeks. Each student will work on an individual project and prepare a journal quality paper and symposium presentation about their work. At the same time, each student will experience the climate and culture of living and working on a university campus.

To be eligible to participate in the UC Davis Young Scholars Program for the summer of 2016, an applicant must currently be enrolled as a sophomore or junior in high school. In addition, the applicant must be at least 16 years of age on June 19, 2016 but not 18 before July 30, 2016.

Online applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM, March 17, 2016

WORKSHOP AT THE FAIR: SAFE CREDIT UNION BRINGS REAL LIFE TO YOU!

SAFE Credit Union will be hosting their "Reality Fair" at the 2016 Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair hosted by American River College! During the Reality Fair, students will be given a "background" (what kind of job you get, will you have kids?, a spouse?, etc.), then students will be sent on their way to budget and "buy" a car, housing, entertainment, babysitting (if necessary), and other essentials using their "monthly income" that was previously established for them in their "background." Its lots of fun and highly educational!

The workshop takes approximately two hours, and space is limited, so look out for the email announcing sign-ups soon!

Applicants do **NOT need to be registered for the 2016 Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair to participate. Space is limited!

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS: OWLPK SCIENCE FAIR KITS

The Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair has received in-kind donations from OWLPKs - a great organization and we are offering the donations to students as scholarships for their Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair projects!

OWL PAK - What is it? Everything you need to create your project board for the STEM Fair. The trifold board, photo paper, vinyl lettering, scissors, markers, glue and more! Get your board supplies delivered right to you!

How to apply: Please send Nadia a request at ncompton@sacSTEMfair.org. Please include your need, your grade, and your school & teacher's name.

Applicants **MUST be registered for the 2016 Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair. Supplies are limited!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Foundation is supported by our dedicated volunteers. They provide a broad source of expertise, talent, and people-power for our programs. We welcome all enthusiastic volunteers who believe that STEM learning is not only an enjoyable experience, but also necessary for today's youth.

Make an exciting difference in the educational future of local 5th to 12th grade students by volunteering for the Synopsys Sacramento Regional STEM Fair in 2016! Volunteers can assist with judging, registration, crowd control, food services, awards, and much more.

We've made it simple - you can sign up on-line to be a volunteer and only commit to hours that work for you. Check out the Volunteer Guide (<http://www.sacstemfair.org/judges-volunteers.html#generalvolunteer>) to view what duties you can sign up for or [sign up here](#).

We appreciate any time you would like to devote and we would like to invite you to visit the STEM Fair as well as the College & Career Expo. Students can volunteer at the Fair to fulfill community service requirements for many area middle and high schools, too!