

# Suggested Project Timeline

## Sacramento Regional STEM Fair

### Expanded Information per Monthly Groupings:

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#### **AUGUST - SEPTEMBER**

Think of a topic that interests you or that is relevant to you and develop a question or a solution to a problem. *Remember: STEM is in everything! For example, if you love art, you could research how the chemicals in paint react or how they make the artificial colors.*

Begin researching your topic. Be sure to record and cite your sources!

Keep a notebook to record notes throughout your project, including references for your bibliography, observations, measurements, sketches and diagrams. Narrow down your topic to one that you can experiment with.

By late September, you should have completed your initial research, identified your topic and conducted specific research on your topic.

#### **OCTOBER - NOVEMBER**

Plan for your experiment! Draft out what steps you will take in your experimentation and make a list of what materials you will need.

Purchase the materials for your experiment - make sure to have enough for a few trials! Be sure to list out your safety procedures as well because you will need it for your STEM Fair registration. Make a hypothesis and record it!

After you've come this far, go online and fill out your **Project Registration**. *Be sure to keep an eye on your email - this is how we will contact you if we have any questions or to inform you if we are missing anything!*

#### **PROJECT REGISTRATION MUST BE SUBMITTED...**

Complete your Project Registration online or submit a paper copy. You **MUST** submit your paperwork **PRIOR** to experimentation. If you do not have the paperwork in before you start your experiment, you may be disqualified from winning awards and prizes! We suggest submitting your paperwork in **NOVEMBER** so that you can get it out of the way and off your plate!

#### **DECEMBER - JANUARY**

Perform the procedures you developed in October and November. Record all observations and data in detail in your notebook. When you are experimenting be sure to collect both quantitative (numbers and measurements) and qualitative data (descriptive observations).

#### **DECEMBER - JANUARY cont'd**

We suggest that you videotape and photograph your experimentation. This way if you have materials that are not allowed at your project display during the Fair, you are able to still showcase the work you performed.

Analyze your data and draw conclusions. This is where you reflect on what happened during experimentation – what did you observe? What does it mean in the real world? Would this work or affect other areas of the world?

#### **JANUARY - FEBRUARY**

Before you begin any display work, make sure to review the [Items Not Allowed at your Display List](#) and the [Display Guidelines](#). Make sure that your display board fits in the dimensions provided because you will be limited to those guidelines.

Prepare your 2-3 minute presentation. Take a look at our "Project Tips/Interview" section on the Student & Parents page. *Remember: your judges will be scientists and engineers; you do not have to explain every tiny detail to them.*

#### **FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

This is the **FINAL DEADLINE** for **Project Registration**. There will be NO extensions for 2019. If you submit your project registration after this date, you will not be eligible to compete.

#### **MARCH**

Make sure to review the online information packets that are posted close to the date of the Fair. These contain information pertaining to timing, parking, student check-in, activities for the day and more!

#### **MARCH/APRIL (DATE TBD)**

Student Project Check-in and Drop-off will be held on site from 5PM-8PM. Stop by tonight to make your event day **SUPER** easy!

#### **MARCH/APRIL (DATE TBD)**

Join us for the Sacramento Regional STEM Fair! Student Project check-in and drop-off opens again at 6AM if you were unable to make it Friday night. You **MUST** have your project set up by 8:00AM and remember to attend student orientation!