



## FAIR BASICS

**Eligibility** Students in grades 4-12 whose school or home is within a 75-mile radius of Evansville, Indiana are eligible to participate in the POTT FOUNDATION TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR. Participants in grades 9-12 must also follow ISEF rules and required forms, found at [www.usi.edu/science/fair](http://www.usi.edu/science/fair).

**Sponsorship** The University of Southern Indiana, the Robert and Elaine Pott Foundation, Science Education Foundation of Indiana and local industry, businesses and organizations sponsor the POTT FOUNDATION TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR with awards and general funds.

**Divisions** The science fair has two age brackets: Junior Division (grades 4-8) and Senior Division (grades 9-12). Students can enter into one of thirteen categories at the regional level. The INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) guideline and rules provides a detailed description of each category, plus additional international competition categories. Visit [www.usi.edu/science/fair](http://www.usi.edu/science/fair) for your personal copy of this important resource. All high school participants must complete the ISEF forms in addition to the POTT FOUNDATION TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR entry form.

### ***Animal Sciences***

Study of animals- animal genetics, physiology, circadian rhythms, etc.

### ***Behavior and Social Sciences***

Human and animal behavior, social and community relationships.

### ***Chemistry and Biochemistry***

Study of nature and composition of all matter and the laws governing it.

### ***Earth and Space Sciences***

Geology, mineralogy, physiography, oceanography, meteorology, climatology, astronomy, speleology, seismology, etc.

### ***Engineering***

Technology, civil, mechanical, fuels, aeronautical, chemical, electrical, materials, plastics, etc.

### ***Environmental Sciences***

Study of pollution (air, water, and land) sources and their control; ecology.

### ***Mathematics and Computer Sciences***

Development of formal logical systems or various numerical and algebraic computations - calculus, geometry, probability, study and development of computer hardware, software, engineering, graphics, etc.

### ***Medicine and Health Sciences***

Study of disease, health and aging of humans, animals and other living organisms.

### ***Microbiology and Molecular Biology***

Biology of microorganisms, bacteriology, virology, protozoology, fungi, bacterial genetics, yeast, etc.

### ***Physics***

*Theories, principles and laws governing energy and the effect of energy on matter.*

### ***Plant Sciences***

Study of plant life.

### ***Team Projects***

Study conducted by **two or three** students in any discipline. NOTE: Only the first place team project advances to the Indiana State Science Fair, but all team projects are eligible for all other special awards.

### **Selecting the correct category is very important.**

Judging is based on the disciplines within the category. If you place your project in zoology when it is actually an engineering project, it will be judged as a zoology project. There are instances where projects may overlap two or more categories. In these cases, discuss the category selection with your advisor and use your best judgment or contact the POTT FOUNDATION TRI-STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR office so we can assist you in selecting the most appropriate category.