

MRSF WEBSITE FAQS

What is the Metro Richmond STEM Fair?

The Metro Richmond Stem Fair affords students a unique opportunity to conduct in-depth research on topics of their interest. This endeavor helps to build a strong understanding of and appreciation for “how science works” and their role in it.

The MRSF is Central Virginia's regional qualifying event for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF, now Regeneration) and the Broadcom MASTERS Competition (Math, Applied Science, Technology, & Engineering for Rising Stars) and is a gateway to considerable financial assistance and intellectual capital for students. Additionally, the experiences and networking opportunities that the students gain on the regional, state and international levels are invaluable.

Started in 1992 by the MathScience Innovation Center, the Metro Richmond STEM Fair (MRSF) is a 2-level juried fair for students in grades 7-12. Students who successfully submit their research paper and advance from the blind screening process are invited to present their projects and interact with a distinguished group of scientists and educators who represent a vast array of STEM-related fields. Students' projects and oral presentations are judged and prizes are awarded from more than 90 STEM organizations. Awards include monetary prizes, trophies, certificates, gift bags, renewable college scholarships and more.

When will the Fair be held for 2021?

The MRSF will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

How will the Fair be conducted virtually?

Individual and group projects selected to participate in the MRSF will use the digital platform zFairs™ to present their projects. Senior Division projects will be presented live to our Fair judges. Junior Division projects will be presented via PowerPoint presentation.

Who is eligible to participate?

All schools (public and private) as well as homeschoolers in the Virginia Department of Education Region 1 are eligible to participate.

Are there categories for projects?

Yes. Categories can be found on the ISEF website [here](#).

Is there a fee for participation?

The MRSF will collect a fee of \$100 per project upon application to the MRSF. Fees can be offset by divisions/schools.

Why is there a fee for participation?

Fees are used for program, administrative, operational and ceremonial costs.

Is there enough time to work on a research project?

Many students begin their work in the fall. The time needed to complete projects is dependent on the project itself and the student.

There are some projects that require approval **before** students can begin experimentation. Each school/district should have a committee in place to review these projects and provide approval on the appropriate ISEF [form](#). Students who are homeschooled may [contact](#) the MRSF for assistance with this process.

How do I get started?

The MSiC has developed a Guide to help you get started. You can find it [here](#).

What forms are needed to participate?

All forms can be found on the [ISEF](#) website.

What is the deadline for submitting a project for possible inclusion in the 2021 Fair?

All projects must be submitted by January 22, 2021. This allows for initial screening and notification of those who will move forward to the actual Fair.