

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - OSEF 2020

Hello OSEF Teachers,

Wow, what a week! Just like where you are, it has been a wild ride the last few days for the OSEF Team. In light of the decisions, policies and procedures being set by the University, we have made the decision for OSEF to be held as a virtual fair. The OSEF Team is very committed to providing you and your students the opportunity to participate in the quality presentation and judging experience that you have come to know in the traditional face-to-face science fair. This is a very fluid time and we ask for your patience and cooperation as we move forward into this new virtual format.

### Senior Division projects (9-12) –

- **Dates** - The senior division has earlier due dates that we need to meet. We will conduct a virtual fair consisting of online Zoom interviews with the student researchers the week of **3/23 – 3/27**. We currently have a total of 60 projects in the Senior division. It is our goal to have a **minimum** of 2 judges per category.
- **Required Items** - Each project will be required to submit the following items to me via email no later than **Wednesday, March 18:**
  - One page Abstract (this may be as a Word document or the on the official ISEF Abstract form.)
  - One (1) single JPG image of the project display board.
  - When submitting the items, please name your files in the following format: Abstract\_School name\_Student last name (in the case of a team project, it should be the last name of the team leader) For example:  
Abstract\_Glendale\_Norgren
  - These items will made available to the judges in advance of their interviews.
- **Judge Interviews for Senior Division:**
  - Judge Interviews will be scheduled during the week of **March 23 – 27** and will be conducted on a web conferencing platform called Zoom.
  - Students will need to have access to the Internet and on a device (computer, laptop, tablet, phone) that has microphone capability. Video is not required but can be used if the student has that capability.
  - Students will be assigned interview times and it will be the responsibility of the teacher to notify the Fair Director of extraordinary conflicts that cannot be accommodated. It will be expected that each student will make every conceivable effort to cooperate with the assigned interview time. Interview times will be scheduled during between 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Central Time.
  - In the case of Team projects, all members of the team need to be present at the assigned interview time. With the online interview process, team members would not need to be physically in the same location for the interview, just logged in from where ever they are, at the correct time to the online interview session.
  - Each interview will be limited to 15 minutes. The student will be given the opportunity to provide a VERY brief overview of their project (the elevator version, 3 min. max). Students will not be allowed to use PPT or other similar presentation platforms. The student must rely on their verbal description and

interview discussion. The remainder of the time (approximately 12 minutes) will be for conversation between judge and project researcher(s).

- **Judging Evaluation**

- Students will be evaluated using a numerical scoring sheet. (a sample copy will be forwarded to you in a follow up email.)
- Placement winners will be determined by the average of judge scores.
- Judge score sheet will include a recommendation by the judges whether the project should be considered for Grand Awards.
- Grand Awards and Alternate Grand Awards will be determined numerically from the evaluation sheets. There will not be an additional round of judging. The OSEF Committee will serve as the final review and tie breaker for Grand Awards.

**Junior Division projects (5-8)** – The junior division judging will begin **March 30 and run through April 17**. We currently have 122 projects in the Junior Division. The same procedure and judging described above for the Senior Division will be used for the Junior Division.

**Special Awards Judging** –Where possible special award judging will occur as part of the placement judge interview session. If necessary, additional interview times will be scheduled for those projects that meet the criteria for particular special awards.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we work to provide a quality judging and learning experience for your students. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have.

*Michelle Norgren, M.S.Ed*

Director and Principal Investigator

VESTA National Center

Bond Learning Center 110

2401 S. Kansas Expressway

Springfield, MO 65807

Office: 417.837.2514

Cell: 417.207.9066

Fax: 417.837.2505

Email: [michellenorgren@missouristate.edu](mailto:michellenorgren@missouristate.edu)