



**Fox Mill Elementary School
Science Fair Packet 2026**

ABOUT THE 2026 FMES SCIENCE FAIR

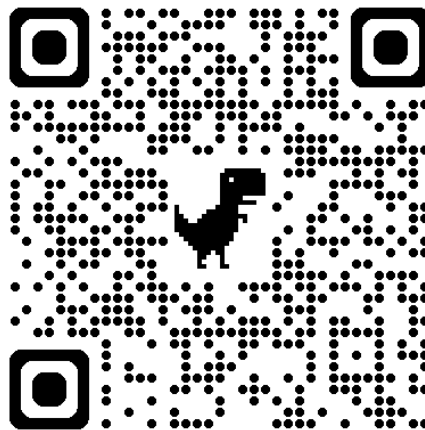
DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

TIME: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?: All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are invited to present a project, but participation is completely optional. Students may work in pairs if they wish!

WHAT WILL THE DAY LOOK LIKE?: All participants will arrive at school by 8:30 am to set up their projects in the gym. They will present their projects to all FMES classes from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. All K-6th classes will have timed visits so that the school community can learn from students' work. Families are also welcome to attend. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) professionals from the Fairfax County community will also be sponsoring tables to share about their jobs and encourage a lifelong love of STEAM!

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TO PARTICIPATE?: In this packet, you will find guidelines and support for selecting and creating a science fair project that promotes learning and fun. If purchasing a trifold for your project presentation presents a financial barrier, please reach out to parent project lead Katie Brown at kathryneganbrown@gmail.com. We wish you all the best in your discovery process! Parents and caregivers: please visit [this link](#) to sign up your student for the 2026 FMES Science Fair. You can also scan the QR code below:



SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT STEPS

1. Choose a topic. Be sure it interests you! Don't pick one because you think it will be easy. Talk it over with your parents/caregivers and, when you have decided, complete the information in the registration link provided on the first page.
2. State your purpose as a question. What is it that you want to discover by doing this project?
3. Research your problem. Look at any books/websites that might help you, make observations by simply looking at things, talk to people, and find out as much as possible about your topic. Write down any ideas you have and where you got them. Also, keep note of all information needed for citing your resources.
4. Form a hypothesis. What do you think is going to happen? Based on what you know or found out from step #3, what do you think the results of your experiments will be? After doing the experiments, it may turn out that your guess was wrong. It is okay if this happens.
5. Plan your project. How will you test your hypothesis? What experiments will you do? How will you measure the results? Where will you keep your information? Be sure to keep notes and write down everything you do and what happens.
6. Collect all your materials. Find a place to keep things where others won't bother them. Let other family members know what you are doing so they do not throw your materials away by mistake.
7. Conduct your experiments. Remember, the more times you do an experiment the more reliable and accurate the results will be. Do each experiment at least three times and get an average of the results for any graphs you are creating. Use something to measure your experiments: a ruler or yardstick if you are measuring distance, a clock to measure time, etc. Check the measurements to be sure you are correct.
8. Record your data. As you do your experiments, you will want to write down what you saw or found out. Organize this information in an orderly manner. Put the date, time, and any other useful information. Write your measurements clearly.
9. Draw conclusions. What did you learn from your experiments? Have you proved or

disproved your hypothesis? You made a guess about what you thought would happen. Now tell what really *did* happen. It's okay if your guess turned out to be wrong.

10. Prepare your titles, charts, graphs, drawings, and diagrams. Make them large enough to see, neat, and colorful.
11. Construct your science fair display. You can purchase a trifold cardboard display board online or at most office supply stores.
12. Prepare and practice your presentation. Be able to talk about what you used, what you did in your experiments, and what you found out. Know it well enough that you don't have to read it from the display.
13. Plan a timeline so you don't leave everything until the last minute. If you need help, tell your parents/caregivers and your teacher—the earlier the better.
14. Relax and enjoy yourself. You will do a GREAT job!

SCIENCE FAIR RULES

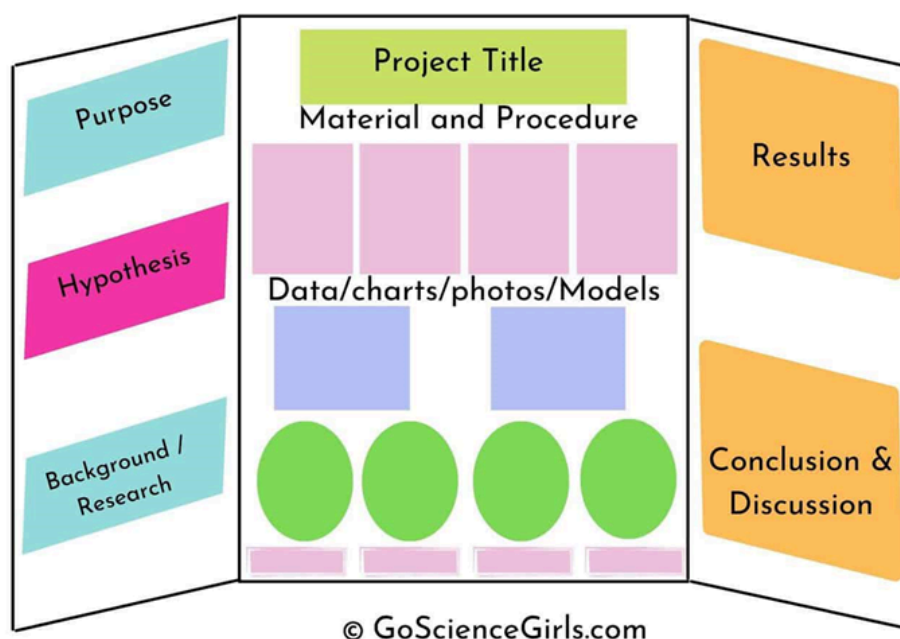
Awww, you mean there are rules?

Of course there are, silly, this is planned by adults!

1. Number one rule: think safety first before you start. Make sure you have recruited your adults to help you.
2. Never eat or drink during an experiment and always keep your work area clean.
3. Wear protective goggles when doing any experiment that could lead to eye injury.
4. Do not touch, taste, or inhale chemicals or chemical solutions.
5. Respect all life forms. Animals are not allowed to be used in experiments. Do not perform an experiment that will harm a person.
6. All experiments should be supervised by an adult.
7. Always wash your hands after doing the experiment, especially if you have been handling chemicals.
8. Dispose of waste properly.
9. Any project that involves animals, drugs, firearms, or explosives is NOT permitted.
10. Any project that breaks district policy and/or local, state, or federal laws is NOT permitted.
11. Use safety on the Internet! NEVER write to anyone without an adult knowing about it. Be sure to let an adult know about what websites you will be visiting or have them help you search.
12. If there are dangerous aspects of your experiment, like using a sharp tool or experimenting with electricity, please have an adult help you or have them do the dangerous parts.

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT TRIFOLD PRESENTATION CHECKLIST

1. Project Title – Include the title of your project as well as your name and grade.
2. Purpose – State the purpose of the project in the form of a question.
3. Hypothesis – State the hypothesis (an educated guess that answers the project question/purpose; it is an educated guess about what you think will happen when you complete your experiment).
4. Background/Research – Include any background information that you collected about your topic, such as books or articles or conversations you had with experts. Please cite your sources.
5. Materials – List the materials and supplies used in the project, including quantities.
6. Procedure – Please list in numbered sequence and describe the steps you took to complete the project. Please include drawings or photographs that help clarify your procedure so that another person could carry out your experiment.
7. Data/Results – Tell what you learned from the project. Present data, tables, and graphs as necessary that show the outcome of your experiment.
8. Conclusion and Discussion – This is a brief statement explaining why your project turned out the way it did. Compare your results to your hypothesis: did your findings support your hypothesis or not? What do you know now that you didn't know before you completed your project? What do you want your audience to know?
9. Acknowledgments – We encourage you to thank everyone who helped to make your project successful!



SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT WEBSITES

As you start to think about your science fair project, pay attention to the topics that interest YOU. This is YOUR project, and it should be fun! Here are a few websites with ideas to get you started.

1. Science Buddies - <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>
2. Science Fair Central - <https://sciencefaircentral.com/>
3. Science Fair Projects World - <https://www.sciencefair-projects.org/>
4. Jet Propulsion Laboratory - <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/activities/science-fair-project/>

SCIENCE FAIR ORAL PRESENTATION

It is normal to be intimidated at the thought of speaking in public or to a teacher/judge. Just imagine they are a fellow scientist who is excited for you to share what you have learned.

Relax, smile, and have fun. Remember, you are the expert! 😊

- o Look sharp, feel sharp, and you will be sharp. Dress in clothes that help you feel confident that day, be polite, and speak clearly. Don't forget to look at your audience.
- o Introduce yourself. Point to the title of your display. Tell your audience why you chose to study this subject.
- o State the problem that you researched (your question). Tell people about your hypothesis (what you thought might happen).
- o Talk about what you learned while researching your topic.
- o Talk about the sources (books, websites, and interviews) that helped you understand your topic.
- o Explain the steps you took to conduct your experiment. Be sure to mention all the materials involved and point out any pictures you took.
- o Show your audience the graphic organizers you made, like your tables and charts. Remember to point out the labeled parts of your graph or table to show that you know what it represents.
- o Be sure to explain what your data means. Make sure you can read your graphs and tables. Let people know if you were surprised by the results, or if you knew what would happen because you studied about it.
- o Make sure you sound like an expert on your topic. Always use appropriate vocabulary, especially referencing the scientific method (Problem, Hypothesis, Procedure, Results, and Conclusions).
- o Ask your audience if they have any questions.