2027 Northeast Regional Science & Engineering Fair (NEGA RSEF) Suggested Timeline

ALL Information and updates will be on our website: https://gystc.org/oconeerivergystc/negarsef/

Companion Document with all information, forms, and rules for students and parent/teacher support

Our NEGA RSEF serves the following counties only: Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Franklin, Greene, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Walton, White

Month	Items To Be Completed

Early 2026	• Students are more than welcome to begin their project and experimentation up to 12 months in advance of the NEGA RSEF
	• Be sure research plan & project paperwork is completed and signed BEFORE experimentation begins. Projects involving human participants, vertebrate animals or potentially hazardous biological agents will definitely need SRC & IRB approval BEFORE experimentation.
	  ○ You are more than welcome to set up your own local Regional Scientific Review Committee & Institutional Review Board.
	  ○ Our Regional Scientific Review Committee & Institutional Review Board are more than happy to sign off on forms BEFORE students begin experimentation.

August/September 2026	☐ Choose 3 project topics - GSEF Project Categories ☐ Conduct a small amount of preliminary research on each. ☐ Choose one topic by the end of the month.

October 2026	☐ For your chosen topic develop a testable research question, or well defined research problem.
	☐ Develop your research plan.
	☐ Choose the category you would like to enter your project in:
	  ☐ Project Categories
	☐ Guidance on use of AI - Be careful!
	☐ *****Any project forms that need SRC or IRB approval from the Regional SRC or IRB are due to Alec Johnson at alec.johnson@negaresa.org by Friday, October 23, 2026 to be reviewed and signed by our regional team. These include projects involving any of the following must receive official approval from a Scientific Review Committee (SRC) / Institutional Review Board (IRB) before experimentation/survey/data collection begins:**
	  ☐ **HUMAN PARTICIPANTS (including surveys)**
	  ☐ **VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (including pets)**
	  ☐ **POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (including samples swabbed from common surfaces)**
	  See rules regarding these projects to learn more.
	☐ **Review: common pitfalls and rules violations of projects here!**
	☐ **Review rules: International Rules 2027 - with highlights.pdf**
	NEW for 2027 Regional Competitions - Middle School has a different path for forms! Please communicate this with your students and teachers so that they choose the right path from the start!

	Middle School (Grades 6-8) ☐ Middle School Science Fair Project Approval Form NEW! ☐ This form will be used in lieu of traditional ISEF forms for Junior Division (grades 6-8) ONLY. The form must be completed prior to experimentation. ☐ Page 1 is ONE PER STUDENT. Page 2 is ONE PER PROJECT. Pages 3-4 are required for projects involving human participants, vertebrate animals, PHBAs, or hazardous chemicals, activities or devices. **Once all necessary forms are completed and submitted, you may begin experimentation or designing/building.**	**High School (Grades 9-12)** ☐ Complete all necessary forms. View the Required Research Forms Guide & Checklist here. ☐ Be sure to use the GSEF Required Form Guide ☐ FORMS ☐ Official GSEF Abstract Form ☐ [Form 1] - Checklist for Adult Sponsor ☐ [Form 1A] - Student Checklist ☐ Research Plan/Project Addendum Instructions ☐ [Form 1B] - Approval Form ☐ [Form 2A] - Student Support Disclosure ☐ [Form 2B] - Qualified Scientist ☐ [Form 2C] - Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting ☐ [Form 3] - Risk Assessment ☐ [Form 4] - Human Subjects ☐ *Sample Informed Consent Form* ☐ [Form 5A] - Vertebrate Animals ☐ [Form 5B] - Vertebrate Animals (Regulated Research Institution) ☐ [Form 6A] - Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents ☐ [Form 6B] - Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue ☐ [Form 7] - Continuation/Research Progression Projects **Once all necessary forms are completed and submitted, you may begin experimentation or designing/building.**
November	☐ Complete experimentation or design/testing. ☐ Record your work in logbook ▪ **Example Logbook should include:** • Table of Contents • Hypothesis • Materials List • Planning of Procedures • Reference page with resources • Research- (5 or more entries is a good number to shoot for) • Entries recording the progress of experimentation or design/testing ☐ Draw conclusions from experimentation or design/testing. ☐ Use the Judging Criteria linked here to develop your project. ☐ Develop a tri-fold board display. Be sure to abide by the Display & Safety Regulations linked here.	

December	• Compete in school level/district level fairs. • District Science & Engineering Fair winners refine their projects for Regional Science & Engineering Fair.

January	• Registration for NEGA RSEF opens **<u>January 4 & closes January 22, 2027</u>**
	  ○ Registration cost of **$10 per student** for the regional fair
	  ○ Registration cost of **$49 if project** is chosen to move forward to the state-level Georgia Science and Engineering Fair
	  ○ More information on payment coming in January.

February/March	• **Saturday, February 6, 2027** - Northeast Georgia Science & Engineering Fair @ Piedmont University in Demorest, GA ○ In case of inclement weather, we will hold the competition on the following Saturday, February 13th • **February 9, 2027** - GSEF Registration due from Regional Competition winners • Regional Science & Engineering Fair winners refine their projects for Georgia Science & Engineering Fair
April/May	• **April 1-3, 2027 -** Georgia Science & Engineering Fair @ The Classic Center in Athens, GA • **May 8-14, 2027 -** International Science & Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, CA