

Ridge Science Fair 2026

Project Instructions

Important Dates:

- **Register by Friday, February 13th**
- **Science Fair Family Night: Thursday, February 26th, 6-8 pm.** All families are welcome to attend and check out all the projects. There will also be raffles, guessing games, volcano demonstrations and other surprises!
- **Science Fair Student Day: Friday, February 27th:** Students visit the Science Fair with their classes during the school day. Parents can volunteer to chaperone their child's class - sign up to come.

Project Setup:

- **Project Drop Off:** Projects can be dropped off by parents/students at the front entrance of Ridge on Thursday from 3-4 pm. Please be sure ALL components of your project are clearly labeled.
- Set up your project with supplies for both days. Provide enough additional supplies for Friday in a bag/box placed beneath the table and labeled with the student's name, grade and project title. At the end of the evening Science Fair, please set up your project for the next day.
- **Project Pickup: Friday, February 27th at 3:00 pm. ALL projects must be taken home or discarded by participants.**

Project Restrictions: NO Slime, NO Spills, NO Breakables, NO Volcanos.

Please note that projects will be set up throughout the school and children will have the opportunity to interact with them. **Please do not include materials that are valuable, irreplaceable or dangerous.**

ALLERGY ALERT: For interactive projects or any project that will include materials kids can touch, please DO NOT include common allergens such as nuts, dairy or gluten products.

If you choose to use these types of items in your project, consider including photos of your work instead.

Getting Started:

- First, take a look at the guidelines below.
- Then, take a look at the project recommendations. Project recommendations are grouped by grade/level. Choose the level that works for you! Remember, we would rather have you keep it simple and participate than get overwhelmed and skip it!
- Please note, **there is no formal presentation component to the Science Fair** (but feel free to show off your work to your classmates while touring!) Try to make your project as clear as possible so that visitors understand your fabulous work!
- **All participants will receive an official Ridge Science Fair medal!**

Important Guidelines:

- Projects can be done independently or in small groups (up to five participants). Be sure to include your name(s), grades(s), and teacher(s).
- Space Limitation: Your project should fit on half of a 6-foot-long table.
- Written Display: Explain your project in writing on a poster, cardboard tri-fold (available at CVS, craft or office supply stores) or some other type of vertical support that fits on the tabletop. For new writers and readers, parents may assist as needed, but please be sure that the words and

ideas are your child's.

- **For interactive projects, please write down simple steps so that everyone knows how to interact with your project.**
- **Living Things:** Do not bring live animals to the Science Fair for display. Experiments should not cause animals stress or harm living creatures in any way. Animal dissections are not permitted.
- **Safety:** Electrical projects must use batteries as the source of electricity; **outlets are not available.** All containers must be made of unbreakable material (no glass).
- **No slime or goo projects:** This is due to safety concerns (borax may cause burns if not diluted properly) and to encourage exploration of other topics.
- **If you create something messy, please contain it in a disposable metal pan that contains the mess and include paper towels for inevitable spills.**

A quick reminder: Why are we doing this??

- To build curiosity about how things work
 - To help students learn about how science relates to the world around them
 - To introduce students to the many amazing fields of science.
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Tips & Helpful links for parents:

- Encourage your child to think, make mistakes, and learn!
- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible - provide support and encouragement as needed - you know your child best - but be sure that the work is their own.
- Emphasize the PROCESS rather than the final product.
- Don't overcomplicate it. Encourage participation over perfection.
- See attached for online resources to help get your child started.

Just can't keep your hands off of their incredible creations?! Volunteer to make decorations or show off your own demo at the event! (Email us at ridgesciencefair@gmail.com)

Please consider volunteering to help students interact with projects. Look out for the parent sign-up sheet as the event approaches.

Are you in?? Great!

- Start brainstorming! Decide if you want to work independently or as a group.
- Sign up using the Google Form
- Things to consider:
 - Will your project be interactive? (Make sure you've included step-by-step instructions!)
 - Will your project be messy? (Don't forget to include supplies to contain and clean it!)

HAVE FUN! We can't wait to see you at the event!

Questions? Contact ridgesciencefair@gmail.com

Science Fair Committee 2026: Madhuvika Murugan & Lynne Weber

ONLINE RESOURCES

Science Buddies:

This website is filled with lots of great project ideas. Try the Topic Selection Wizard to help your student identify projects based on timeline, grade and interests.

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project-ideas/elementary-school>

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/topic-selection-wizard/background-info>

Science Fair Central:

<https://sciencefaircentral.com>

A collaboration between Discovery Education and the Home Depot filled with project ideas, steps, and presentation tips.

Common Sense Education:

Includes a range of resources, particularly for older children.

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/lists/helpful-resources-for-school-science-fairs>

Super Science Saturday

Ridgewood's own "Super Science Saturday" website! Check out the KidZone for project ideas and additional resources.

<https://www.supersciencesaturday.org/>

Consider exploring the Ridge Library or the Ridgewood Public Library for additional resources!