VIRTUAL 2021
66th State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida

Information Guide for Virtual/Remote Competition

An in-person cannot and will not be replaced as a long-term solution for the SSEF of Florida. *The intrinsic value of the in-person dialogue, interaction and cultural and intellectual exchange that is afforded by an in-person event cannot be fully realized in a virtual environment.* This year will be ***different*** and hopefully a one-time event.

We are providing this information guide after much deliberation with a Judging Advisory Committee, the SRC, and Display & Safety committees. We have secured a platform – Rocket Judge that will meet our needs for virtual Judging and works with our SSEF dBase. We have tried, but we cannot anticipate all the issues that might arise during the event.

We are seeking the help of our Fair Directors to work with this guide and recommendations so we can provide an equitable and positive experience for our Finalists. Just as you prepare your students for travel to the event, we expect that you will fully comply and prepare your Finalists for this year's virtual event. We appreciate and thank you in advance for all of your efforts involved with your Regional Fair and preparing your Finalists for SSEF and ISEF.

It is expected that any projects in a Regional Fair have ALL paperwork approved for competition using the ISEF/SSEF Rules and Guidelines. **You are encouraged to contact members of the SSEF SRC for any questions/concerns of projects BEFORE your Regional Fair.**

- ***Chairperson*** Sharon Suits (863) 763-4245 or (863) 610-2054 shsuits@icloud.com
- **Hazardous Chemicals and Devices** Raul Montes rmontes345@gmail.com
- **Human Subjects** Joe Scott josephwscott54@gmail.com Note: Joe is also on ISEF SRC
- **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents (PHBA)**
  Will Furiosi william.furiosi@scps.k12.fl.us or Nancy Webster nancy.k.webster@fscj.edu
- **Tissues, Recombinant DNA (rDNA), RNA** Lisa Scott joeandlisascott@gmail.com
- **Vertebrates** Cynthia Letcher letcherc@okee.k12.fl.us
- **Environmental – Water sampling testing** Maia McGuire mpmcg@ufl.edu Also resource for invasive species

Table of Contents

Research Rules/Guidelines – https://sseflorida.com/rules/
Display & Safety Checklist *coming soon*
SSEF Entry Form – *coming soon*
SSEF Release for Virtual Competition - *coming soon*

SSEF of Florida Virtual State Science & Engineering Fair

CALENDAR

In order to keep our SRC Issues to a minimum for SSEF of Florida competition, we are requesting that the Regions only submit projects that meet the SRC Rules and Guidelines. If you have any concerns regarding your projects research protocol, please make contact with our SRC Fire Team BEFORE your RSEF to resolve paperwork issues. Do NOT wait until after your Fair to discover protocol/paperwork issues.

ALSO NOTE: It is essential the Fair Director and the Finalist EMAIL Address be ACCURATE and CONSISTENT throughout this process!!! Remember that all communications will be remote and virtual!

January/February

- Virtual training for uploading Entry Packets to SSEF Google Docs (TBA)
- Virtual training for submitting/uploading Finalists Judging items to Rocket Judge platform (TBA)
- Regional Fairs take place – Submission of ENTRY PACKETS DUE 10 Days after Judging
- SSEF SRC Fire Team to review sensitive paperwork ongoing and make rolling contact with students/Fair Directors to solve and troubleshoot problems (PHBA, Human Subjects, Vertebrates,)
- Volunteer SRC Members to review Region packet as they arrive

February 26th	**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION PROJECTS**
March 1st – March 6th	**SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF ALL PROJECTS**
March 8th – 10th	**DEADLINE FOR RESOLVING ALL SRC ISSUES** *Issues **not** resolved **will Fail to Qualify** for SSEF Competition*
March 11th and 12th	**Fair Directors received Final List of Participants and Certified Abstracts**
March 15th – 19th	**Fair Directors submit/upload all items for individual projects to Rocket Judge platform** **Fair Directors notify SSEF of PLAN for FOCUS Group remote/live Judging – Location/Site – assigned Adult(s)**
March 20th – 24th	**Display and Safety will review Poster and presentation materials submitted to Rocket Judge *platform*** *D & S Guidelines will be provided*
March 25th – 26th	**DEADLINE to fix all problems before Judging**
March 28th – April 1st	**Judging Rounds for Place Awards, Special Awards, and Scholarship Nominations –** *See Judge Schedule*
April 6th/7th	**JASON Colloquium/Opening and Awards Ceremony** *Streaming details TBD*

Virtual State 66th Science and Engineering Fair of Florida - 2021
Project Material Requirements & Guidelines

We have consulted with a Judging Advisory Committee as well as with the SRC and D&S Committees to establish the project materials that will be used during judging at the State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida in 2021. These guidelines have been established to address a judging process that will occur remotely and through the platform Rocket Judge. The International Rules & Guidelines and the SSEF of Florida Rules Supplement/Addendum remain as the guides for what is eligible and allowable.

The APPENDIX provides complete instructions with format requirements and recommendations as well as sample templates for completing the SRC Paperwork Submission for review and eligibility and the Project submissions for Judging.

I. PAPERWORK SUBMISSION FOR ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

Finalist Entry Packet

A. The SSEF of Florida **ENTRY PACKET** will be submitted/uploaded in pdf format as a complete single document for each Project Entry to a shared SSEF google drive and placed in folders assigned to your Region - JR/SR. This takes the place of mailing hard copies of your Entry Packets. This must be completed by 10 days after the Regional Fair Judging Day and no later than February 26th. NO Entries will be accepted after February 26th. Instructions for this will be provided before your RSEF takes place.

B. This **SSEF ENTRY PACKET** will include all paperwork required for each research project. This includes the **SSEF ENTRY FORM**, **RELEASE FORM**, **FINAL ABSTRACT**, and minimally, all projects must have **Checklist Forms 1, Student Checklist Form 1A, Project Plan/Summary and Approval Form 1B.** Any additional forms required based on type of research are to be included in number order. Continuation Form #7 must also have required documents attached.

- **Official Abstract approved by SRC (250-word format)**

The abstract summarizes the information contained in the rest of this document. An abstract includes: (a) the research question or engineering problem, (b) procedures used, (c) data, (d) interpretation and (e) conclusions. It also may include any possible research applications. It should be limited to these essential elements.

- **Regulated Research Institutional Setting Form 1C (if applicable)**

In 2020-2021, when many Regulated Research Institution laboratories and facilities are closed to student researchers, the SSEF/ISEF SRC has suggested that a Form 1C be used when support from mentors and those in a laboratory setting has been provided, even when the student received this support remotely. This can also include situations in which a high school teacher is supporting laboratory activities on behalf of a remote student to help clarify the student's involvement in each step of the project.

- **Continuation Form 7 (if applicable)**

  Any project that is a continuation of a previous year's work must document that additional research is new and different on Continuation Form 7 – attach required past years' abstract(s) to Form 7 for upload. Note that projects that were conducted between January 2020 and March 2020 that competed at an ISEF-affiliate fair, may not be presented in 2021 without meeting the continuation criteria.

C. **The SRC will review all Projects to confirm eligibility for competition**. Fair Directors and students will be contacted if there are any problems that need to be resolved. There will be a short turnaround time allowed for this. **Projects determined not eligible by the SRC will fail to qualify for participation in the SSEF of Florida.**

D. Projects competing at a Regional Fair should ALL be approved for eligibility in order to receive a bid to the SSEF of Florida and/or ISEF.

E. It is expected that any projects in a Regional Fair have ALL paperwork approved for competition using the ISEF/SSEF Rules and Guidelines. You are encouraged to contact members of the SSEF SRC for any questions/concerns of projects BEFORE your Regional Fair.

II. Project Presentation and Documents to Submit for Judging

See Appendix 1 for suggested Best Practices/Guidelines for the Video/Audio Presentation

The 66th SSEF of Florida will be using the platform Rocket Judge for virtual/remote Judging. The Fair Director will be given a timeline and instructions for doing the upload directly to Rocket Judge for their eligible Finalists. **The upload to Rocket Judge for Judging will include the following for each project:**

1. The **LINK** for the Video/Audio Project Presentation which is to be a slide deck with video/audio presentation. There are suggested templates and recommendations and/or guidelines for the slide deck/slideshow. *See Appendix 2*
2. A **POSTER** (8 ½ x 11 landscape)- this takes the place of a display board. Suggested templates and the guidelines are provided.
3. The **CERTIFIED SSEF ABSTRACT** – these will be sent to the Fair Director after SRC approves the project
4. If applicable, **FORM 1C** – Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form
5. If applicable, **FORM 7**, Continuation Project with **previous year(s**)' Abstracts

The Fair Directors for each Region will be responsible for uploading their SSEF Finalists presentations and documents to Rocket Judge for Judging.

Requirements for Video/Audio Slideshow Presentation (LINK)

- Use any software tools that can be easily uploaded to the platform Rocket Judge using a LINK
- A LINK to the Video/Audio slideshow presentation must be provided
- The Project Presentation slide deck must be a single PDF document limited to **no more than 12 slides/pages.**
- The presentation **maximum is 10 minutes**
- All text should be readable easily when viewing the entire page at once. The smallest allowable font size of body text is 14 pt. Exception: You may use a smaller font size, down to 10 pt., for figure captions or photo credits.
- All Project Presentation elements must conform to D&S rules as if placed on a physical poster for display to judges and the public. Passing a Display & Safety inspection will be required to compete.

Requirements for Documents to be submitted

The following documents will be uploaded to Rocket Judge in pdf format. They are to be separate documents for access in the platform.

- A **POSTER** (8 ½ x 11 landscape)- this takes the place of a display board. Suggested templates and the guidelines are provided in Appendix 2.
- **Official Abstract approved by SRC (250-word format)**

  The abstract summarizes the information contained in the rest of this document. An abstract includes: (a) the research question or engineering problem, (b) procedures used, (c) data, (d) interpretation and (e) conclusions. It also may include any possible research applications. It should be limited to these essential elements.

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III. Display & Safety

Display & Safety Checklist will be sent soon

Display & Safety inspections will include a review of the submitted POSTER and materials and enforcement of the display guidelines. This includes providing appropriate credits for photographs, graphs and other visuals and in having any permissions of individuals depicted in the presentation/documents.

IV. Judging – 66th Virtual SSEF of Florida – 2021

ROUND 1: Virtual/Remote Judging of Video/Audio Presentations
March 28th – March 30th

- SSEF Judges will be assigned a Category. Rocket Judge will randomly assign Judges to projects. Each project will be Judged at least 3 times and scores will be submitted for the Collaboration Session.
- March 30th – 6:00 PM – Category Judges will meet in assigned rooms on Rocket Judge to determine the FOCUS Group (1/2 the Category) for Round 2 remote/live Judging.
- March 30th – 9:00 PM – Fair Directors/Focus Group Finalists will be notified for Round 2 Judging.
- The ORBIT Group will NOT participate in remote/live interview Judging.

ROUND 2: Remote/Live Judging for FOCUS GROUP in each Category
April 1st, Thursday 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

- Fair Director needs to make a PLAN for these interviews for the FOCUS Group Finalists to be able to participate – just as they would for travel to SSEF
- **Fair Director/Designated Teacher will need to provide a location/site where students can participate live through Rocket Judge**
- For secure/safety/troubleshooting, it is expected that this assigned adult is available to assist and communicate with SSEF. This assigned adult is not to interact with the Judging Interviews
- The ORBIT Group will not be notified or participating in interviews
- 2 to 3 SSEF Judges at a time will be assigned Projects for remote interviews
- Finalists being interviewed may have their log book and any products/devices needed to further explain their project and show the Judges. A display is not necessary as Judges will have access to all documents from Round 1
- Rocket Judge will provide the Judges and Finalists their interview times by email
- Judges will meet in Category Rooms to rank projects for Category Place Awards

ROUND 3: Best of Show Judging
April 1st, Thursday 1:30 PM

- Judging Captains for each Category will meet in rooms to determine winners using data from Rounds 1 and 2.
- Finalists will NOT BE PRESENT for Round 3 Judging.

SPECIAL AWARD JUDGING
Wednesday March 31st 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

- Any Judges for Special Awards may view the Virtual Video/Audio Presentations to determine their winner(s).
- ALL projects will be available for viewing – FOCUS and ORBIT Groups
- Winners must be submitted by 4:00 PM, Wednesday, March 31st.

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION AWARD JUDGING

TBD - Pending the offerings of Scholarship Nominations, students will have to submit an application by a required deadline. Remote/Live Interviews will then be scheduled through Rocket Judge with the Finalists who applied and the Scholarship Judge.

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT VIDEO/AUDIO SLIDES RECOMMENDATIONS

Record a video/audio using your slide deck (maximum 12 slides and duration 10 minutes) explaining your project. The target audience for this video is the Judges.

Use the Presentation Templates provided to help guide you through this presentation. **These are not requirements.** However, the Judging Advisory, SRC, and Display and Safety Committees have approved the content/guidelines provided here.

Best Practices

Dr. Maia McGuire, SSEF Judging Captain

You are asked to prepare a recorded presentation (video/audio) using a slideshow that will be viewed by judges. This information will give you suggestions about what you should talk about and highlight during your Presentation for Judge Review. Be sure to meet the requirements for a maximum of 12 slides and duration of 10 minutes. You should practice and time your presentation several times before you actually record it.

Content

What should your presentation contain? *(Note that my examples are completely made up and should not be interpreted as being "good!")*

1. I suggest you start by introducing yourself and your project. For example, *"My name is Chris Smith and I would like to tell you about my science fair project, 'Do red flowers attract more insects than yellow flowers?"*
2. Next, explain why you chose to do this particular project. *"I was walking through a park in my neighborhood and noticed that there were lots of butterflies and other insects visiting certain flowers. I wondered if flower color might have anything to do with this. I did some research and could not find an answer to my question, so I decided to do my science fair project on this topic."*

   You might want to provide a justification here—why is the answer to your question important? *"I've heard that bee populations are in trouble and I'm wondering if it would be beneficial for us to plant more yellow flowers instead of red flowers."*
3. For the first two bullets, I suggest just using a single slide that has your project title, and maybe a photo of you and a photo related to your project—in this case maybe a red flower, a yellow flower and a butterfly?
4. Now it is time to talk about your project. You do not need to talk about your materials—and may not have time to get into much detail about your methods. You want to focus on the key points of your project.
   a. What was your hypothesis/goal?
   b. What did you do (Procedure)? How did you test your hypothesis? Talk about how many, what size, what color, what time period, etc. Don't include brand names. If you use scientific names, use the common names first *"My project involved the tropical sage plant. The scientific name of this plant is Salvia coccinea."* If you have a picture of your experimental setup, or diagrams, showing what you did, this is the place to include those. You may need to use multiple slides here to present everything that you want to share.

c. What did you find out (Results)? If you took measurements over time, explain what trend you saw. This is where you can show graphs/tables and even photographs to explain your results. Make sure that these are large enough to be easily seen by the judges (I suggest only having one graph or table per slide).
d. What does that tell you (Conclusions)? Did your results support your hypothesis/goals? What does that mean for the environment/people/economy, etc?
e. What did you learn? Sometimes you may discover that your experimental design had a flaw, or that you need to do a different type of testing, or more tests before you can answer your question. You might have ideas for a continuation project. You can share those with the judges here.
f. Conclude by thanking the judge for their time.

Project VIDEO/AUDIO Slideshow Presentation Guidelines/Recommendations: Science Project

Record a video/audio using your slide deck (maximum 12 slides and duration 10 minutes) explaining your project. The target audience for this video is the Judges.

1. Introduce yourself. What were you trying to find out?
    - What made you want to research this problem?
    - Include a description of your purpose, your research question, and/or your hypothesis/goals.
2. What is your research question?
    - Explain what is known or has already been done in your research area. Include a brief review of relevant literature. If this is a continuation project, a brief summary of your prior research is appropriate here. Be sure to distinguish your previous work from this year's project.
3. Explain your methodology and procedures for carrying out your project in detail.
    - What did you do?
    - What data did you collect and how did you collect that data?
    - Discuss your control group and the variables you tested.
    - DO NOT include a list of materials.
4. What were the result(s) of your project?
    - Include tables and figures which illustrate your data.
    - Include relevant statistical analysis of the data.
    - What is your interpretation of these results?
5. What conclusions did you reach?
    - What do these results mean? Compare your results with theories, published data, commonly held beliefs, and expected results.
    - Discuss possible errors. Did any questions or problems arise that you were not expecting? How did the data vary between repeated observations of similar events? How were results affected by uncontrolled events?
6. What application(s) do you see for your work?

Project VIDEO/AUDIO Slideshow Presentation Guidelines/Recommendations: Engineering Project

Record a video/audio using your slide deck (**maximum 12 slides and duration 10 minutes**) explaining your project. The target audience for this video is the Judges.

1. Introduce yourself. What were you trying to find out?
    - What made you want to research this problem?
    - Include a description of your purpose, your research question, and/or your hypothesis/goals.
2. What is your engineering problem and goal?
    - What problem were you trying to solve? Include a description of your engineering goal.
    - Explain what is known or has already been done to solve this problem, including work on which you may build. You may include a brief review of relevant literature.
    - If this is a continuation project, a brief summary of your prior work is appropriate here. Be sure to distinguish your previous work from this year's project.
3. Explain your methods and procedures for building your design.
    - What did you do? How did you design and produce your prototype? If there is a physical prototype, you may want to include pictures or designs of the prototype.
    - If you tested the prototype, what were your testing procedures? What data did you collect and how did you collect that data?
4. What were the result(s) of your project?
    - How did your prototype meet your engineering goal?
    - If you tested the prototype, provide a summary of testing data tables and figures that illustrate your results.
    - Include relevant statistical analysis of the data.
5. What is your interpretation of these results?
    - What do these results mean? You may compare your results with theories, published data, commonly held beliefs, and/or expected results.
    - Did any questions or problems arise that you were not expecting? Were these problems caused by uncontrolled events? How did you address these?
    - How is your prototype an improvement or advancement over what is currently available?
6. What conclusions did you reach?
    - Did your project turn out as you expected?
    - What application(s) do you see for your work?

APPENDIX 2

A **POSTER**

This POSTER takes the place of the display board normally used during Judging. This is to be a document (81/2 x 11 landscape) uploaded to your profile for Judging. Judges will have access to this as a reference. It is expected that your video/audio slideshow will have most of this same information.

Suggested **POSTER TEMPLATES** *atta**ched***

Your Title

Problem

Describe the problem you are addressing or the area of concern you are investigating.

Hypothesis

State your hypothesis or your goal

Procedure

Succinctly describe what you did.

Data

Place your data, any pictures you consider relevant, charts, tables and statistics.

Assumptions/ Limitations

Outline the assumptions you were operating under that could be problematic and any limitations to your experimentation that could have influenced the outcome.

Results

Enter your results

Conclusion

Explain what your results mean.

Future Studies

Describe where you would like to take your research if you could continue it..

Bibliography

List your most important references.

Title

Introduction and Objective

Results

This center section is for graphs, data, images, flow charts, stats etc. This should be aligned to tell your story.

Materials and Methods

Conclusion or summary

Assumptions and Limitations

References