Summer Project Program

WEEK 10
What to Expect at the LSEF

Once you have your project finished, your report written, your poster display is prepared, and your presentation practiced, you are ready for the Lakota Science & Engineering Fair (LSEF)! This week's information is to help you get a clear picture of what the event will be like and what will be expected of you when you are there.

LSEF 2022 – The third annual Lakota Science & Engineering Fair will be the evening of Friday, January 21 at one of the Lakota school buildings. Exact times and location will be provided closer to the event. Registration for the event will be open soon. Registration for the LSEF event is not the same as signing up for the Summer Project Program, so you will still need to register if you plan to participate.

SET-UP – Participants will be allowed ample time to arrive, check in, and set up their displays before the event begins. At check-in, you will be directed to your assigned location. All participants will have an allocated tabletop and chairs where they can set up. If you have any special needs, like access to an electrical outlet or additional table or floor space, you will have the opportunity to request that during the online registration process. Parents are allowed to help with the set-up but are not allowed to stay once judging begins.
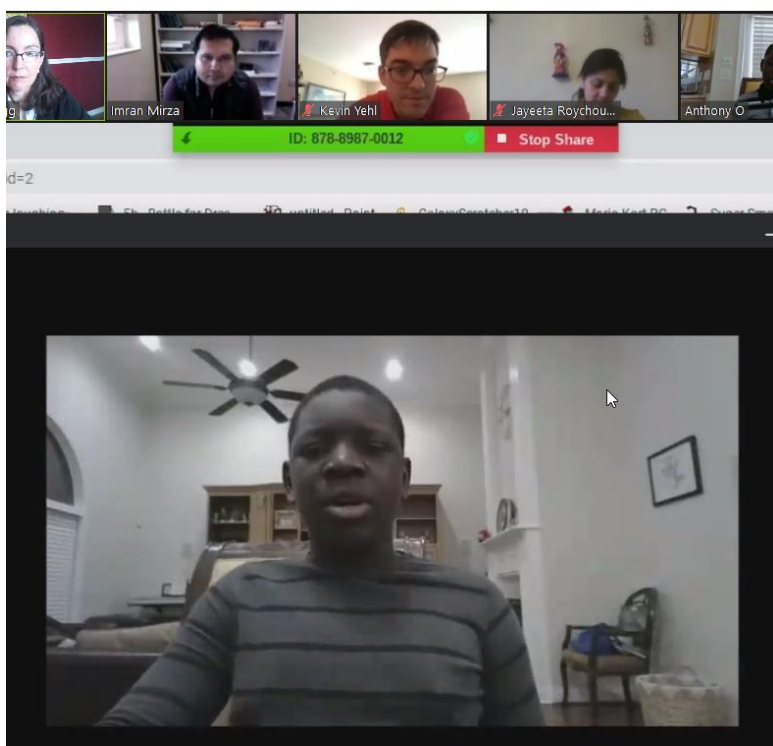
JUDGING – You will be given a judging window of time during which you will be expected to stay with your project and wait for the judges. Each pair of judges will visit multiple projects during that window, so much of the time will just be waiting for your turn. Once the judges come to you, you will give your presentation, and they will ask questions. After that, you can either stay with your project or leave the presentation area to find your parents, but all participants are asked to stay at the event until the end for the presentation of awards.

AWARDS – All judges' scores will be totaled, and awards will be handed out at the end of the event. All projects will be rated Superior, Excellent, Good or Fair based on the average of the judges' scores. All project participants with one of the top three ratings will receive a ribbon, and the top-scoring project in each category will receive a trophy. Trophy categories are based on type of project and age group. You will also receive your judging score sheets, so you can see how you scored in each category as well as the judges' comments.

VIRTUAL EVENT – It is our hope and plan that the event will be in person this year! But if it is determined that we are unable to hold the event in person, we will move to a virtual event, like we had last January. If that is the case, participants will be asked to sign up for a timeslot to join a Zoom meeting with their judges. Timeslots will be offered every 30 minutes through much of the weekend. Participants will dial in to the Zoom at their assigned time and will arrive in a "waiting room" until the judges are ready for them. Once they are admitted, the format will be the same as at an in-person event. There will be quick introductions, then the student(s) will give their five-minute presentation, followed by Q&A from the judges. When they are done with questions, the student(s) can drop off the Zoom, and the rest of the time will be used by the judges to discuss and score the project. Awards will be handed out during an award pick-up event within a few days after the event.

BEYOND THE LSEF – All projects that receive the top rating of "Superior" are eligible to move on to the regional competition at the University of Cincinnati (Southwest Science & Engineering Expo,) and projects that receive a Superior rating at that event are eligible to move on to the state competition in Columbus.

We hope you have enjoyed working on a science or engineering project this summer, and we really hope to see you at the LSEF in January! We will notify you via email when registration is open for the event.

As always, please contact us at LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com with any questions!