

EXPLORERS OF THE UNKNOWN

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR



STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

JUMP CODE: OSGI
REGISTER BY
FEBRUARY 2, 2026.



STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

**WELCOME TO THE
29TH ANNUAL LPS - LES - ZOETIS
SCIENCE FAIR 2026!**

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Sandhills Global Event Center | Currency Pavillion

4100 North 84th Street

5:00-7:30 p.m.

NOTE: REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

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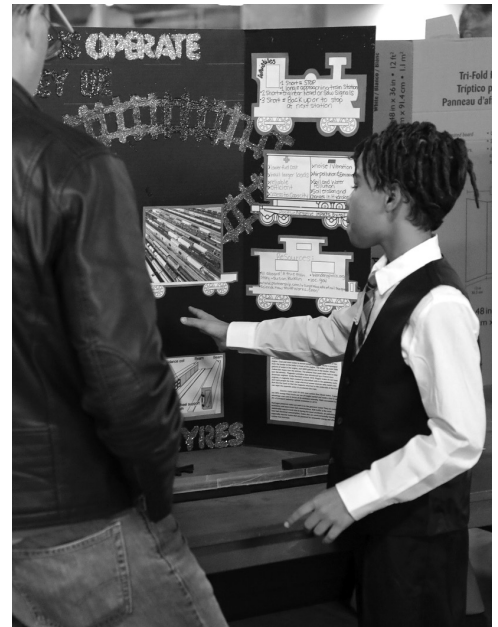


SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a BIG topic that covers a range of ideas for using our resources in an environmentally responsible manner. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “to pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.” Sustainability is vital for the future of the earth, and it is better achieved through science.

Projects that align with the sustainability theme will focus on reducing non-renewable natural resource use, and can cover topics such as energy, transportation, waste, environmental management, sustainable agriculture, and environmental science, among others.

Those students who choose to do a sustainability themed project will be eligible to receive a “Going Green” ribbon for their project. This green ribbon is in addition to whichever ribbon the project receives based on score. If you would like to be eligible to receive a “Going Green” ribbon, please be sure to check the box on the registration form indicating that you have opted to do a sustainability project.



FAQS

INFORMATION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Date of Fair: Thursday, March 5, 2026

Location: Sandhills Global Event Center
Currency Pavillion
4100 North 84th Street

Important Dates

and Times: **Monday, February 2, 2026**
Student registrations due

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Student check in and set up at the event center from 4:15-5:00 p.m.
Judging Time—immediately following announcements at 5:30 p.m.

What is provided? Table space, approx. 3’x4’
T-shirt for each participant
Certificate and ribbon for each participant

NOTICE! **No outside food or chairs may be brought into the Event Center.**
Make certain you share this with your students!

- 1. Who can participate in the fair?**
Any Lincoln Public School student in grades five through eight can participate in the science fair.
- 2. How can I support the science fair?**
You are a **key** promoter of the science fair. Keep encouraging your students to participate and complete a project. Write reminders on the board to remind them of time lines or suggestions of possible topics.
- 3. What else can I do?**
As a promoter, talk to your students’ parents about the fair. Include brief reminders in your weekly/monthly newsletters regarding the science fair. You might organize an informational meeting so that your parents can learn about the fair and receive answers about how they can help.



SCIENCE FAIR RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Project must be written in the form of a question and approved by a teacher.
2. Students may work individually or with a partner.
3. Project must have a display which is no larger than 4 feet in length and 16 inches in depth. Note: Any student who qualifies for free and reduced lunch and wishes to enter, may apply for a display board to be supplied to him or her at no cost.
4. Project must show evidence of a search for background ideas.
5. Project may not endanger humans or animals. All live animals must be kept inside a cage or suitable container. Animals will be handled only by their owner, not visitors. All cats and dogs must be licensed.
6. Commercial kits, laser pointers, and open flames are not allowed at the fair.
7. DANGEROUS OR COMBUSTABLE CHEMICALS may not be displayed. Rockets or engines MUST NOT contain fuel. All chemicals displayed must have the contents clearly marked on the container. No mercury thermometers or instruments may be used or displayed at the fair.
8. Only supplies needed for projects are allowed. No chairs may be used for seating in the isles. Sandhills Global Event Center requires us to abide by the fire code. Chairs are a safety hazard and block walkways. Extra seating will be available. Bring an extension cord if electricity is needed.



JUDGING PROCESS ON FAIR DAY

1. Each project will be reviewed by at least two different judges. Judges will be teachers, administrators, and community members.
2. **Judging will begin at the conclusion of opening announcements.**
3. Judges will have a folder with assigned judging forms included.
4. The judging form is divided into several subsections each with differing point totals. Judges will read the descriptors and choose the one that fits best for the project.
 - Knowledge demonstrated by the student and thoroughness of their display represents 70 percent of their score. The technical portion of the display represents 30 percent of their score.
 - Judges are encouraged to add additional comments to the judging form. A sample judging form is found on the following pages. Please review this carefully.
5. Judges may share with the students the score they have received but this should not be expected.
6. A group of volunteers will review each judging form at the conclusion of the science fair. They will be checking for accuracy of points awarded and will enter the total score on the master data list.
7. Judging forms will be returned to the student along with their certificates and ribbons. These will be sent to your building in a timely manner through school mail.

AREAS OF SCIENCE OR ENGINEERING FOR PROJECTS

- plants and seeds
- animals
- life cycles
- body structure
- the five senses
- health and nutrition
- air
- water
- weather
- the earth
- ecology
- above and beyond the earth
- geology
- compost
- energy efficiency
- renewable energy
- recycling
- sustainability
- nature of matter
- energy
- light
- sound
- simple machines
- technology
- magnetism
- static electricity
- current electricity
- chemistry
- design solutions
- efficiency



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Which type of water evaporates the quickest: salt, tap, or fresh?
- Can more drops of water be placed on top of a penny or a dime?
- Which type of cloth will dry faster: cotton or polyester?
- What kind (shape) of sail will make a boat go the fastest?
- Which design of paper airplane will fly farther?
- Through what surfaces will a magnet attract?
- Which materials are conductors of electricity?
- How does temperature affect the rate of evaporation?
- How does the size of a sponge affect the amount of water absorbed?
- Does the size of a ball affect the rate of fall?
- How does wetting the paper affect its strength?
- Which paper has the fastest capillary action?
- Which will develop faster; salt crystals or sugar crystals?
- Which soil has the best water retention?
- Which solids decompose faster?
- How do plants affect erosion?
- How does temperature affect the speed of molecules?
- Which rocks are attracted by a magnet?
- What factors affect water erosion?
- Which rocks conduct electricity?
- How is the distance a rock rolls in a stream related to the rounding of its edges?
- How does composting aid the environment?
- Which biodegradable objects break down into compost faster?
- Does turning compost accelerate decomposition?
- How can water flow be used to produce energy?
- How is solar energy captured?
- How do wind turbines create clean energy?
- Which lights are most energy efficient?
- How much salt will a plant be able to tolerate and still grow?
- Which kind of seed will sprout more quickly?
- What is the best surface for lifting fingerprints?
- How does the sprouting time for a seed change with planting depth?
- Which packaging method best reduces the growth of mold or fungus?
- How does gravity affect the direction that a seed grows?
- How does caffeine affect plant growth?
- Which materials are the best filters for water?
- How does the size of a fruit affect the number of seeds it contains?
- How does an individual's foot length relate to his/her height?
- How does exercise affect blood pressure?
- How does human weight change with time of day?

For more ideas, visit Science Buddies at: <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/>



SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION JUDGING FORM
Zoetis - LPS - HALEON Science Fair
Lincoln Public Schools

Student Name(s): _____ Project #: _____

Topic: _____ Final Score: _____

SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT (Verbal Presentation)

a. Knowledge of Scientific Fact or Theories

- 23-25** Knowledgeable, shares information freely, good understanding of topic, able to answer questions.
- 20-22** Provides explanation of some facts and shows general understanding of topic.
- 17-19** Provides some facts with prompting.
- 15-16** Minimal information shared on topic.

Comments	___/25
-----------------	--------

b. Planned and Organized

- 14-15** Understands and utilizes a methodical scientific approach (e.g. Scientific Method, engineering design process, obtain-evaluate-communicate information, using computational and mathematical process, etc.) to complete project.
- 11-13** Demonstrates some evidence of a planned and methodical approach.
- 8-10** Exhibits limited understanding of the approach to planning and organizing or requires prompting.

Comments	___/15
-----------------	--------

c. Explains Graphs, Charts, and Display

- 9-10** Is able to explain graphs, charts, or other visual aids as they pertain to the project.
- 7-8** Is able to explain graphs, charts, or other visual aids with prompting.
- 6** Gives limited explanations to graphs, charts, or other visual aids.

Comments	___/10
-----------------	--------

THOROUGHNESS OF DISPLAY (Visual Presentation)

a. Scientific Method and Sources of Information

- 18-20** Display accurately reflects the use of the Scientific Method (hypothesis, procedure, results, conclusion) **and/or** includes detailed sources of information (demonstrations, research reports from first hand or published sources-such as observations of nature).
- 16-17** Display accurately reflects some evidence of the Scientific Method **and/or** includes detailed sources of information.
- 14-15** Display reflects limited evidence of the Scientific Method **and/or** includes limited sources of information.

Comments	___/20
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FILL OUT PAGE 2 OF FORM

Points Earned - Page 1: ___/70

THOROUGHNESS OF DISPLAY (continued)

b. Accurate and Complete Visual Aids

- 9-10** Display includes two or more of following: graph, chart, photograph, illustration, or model that accurately reflects project.
- 7-8** Display includes one of the following: graph, chart, photograph, illustration, or model that accurately reflects project.
- 0** Display does not include a visual aid.

Comments

___/10

TECHNICAL SKILL (Visual Presentation)

a. Exhibit 'Catches the Eye' and Focuses Attention of the Visitor

- 5** Display 'grabs' your attention and interest.
- 4** Display is neat and organized but not 'eye-catching'.
- 3** Display is organized but lacks neatness.
- 2** Display is unorganized and appears put together quickly.

Comments

___/5

b. Words are Spelled Correctly.

- 5** All words are spelled correctly.
- 4** 1 or 2 words are misspelled.
- 3** 3 or 4 words are misspelled.
- 2** 5 or more words are misspelled.

Comments

___/5

c. Labels are Neat and Easy to read.

- 5** Labels are attractive, neat, and easy to read.
- 4** Labels are fairly easy to read.
- 3** Labels are difficult to read.
- 2** Few or no labels present.

Comments

___/5





ORIGINALITY

a. Original and Unique Ideas for Topic and Display

- 5** Unique and original topic and display.
- 3-4** Original topic and/or unique display.
- 1-2** Some originality in topic and display.

Comments

___/5

RIBBON EARNED - EXPERIMENT					
PURPLE	BLUE	RED	WHITE		
					
90-100 Points	80-89 Points	70-79 Points	69 or Below		
				Points Earned - Page 2: ___/30	
				Points Earned - Page 1: ___/70	
				Total Points: ___/100	

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION JUDGING FORM
Zoetis - LPS - HALEON Science Fair
Lincoln Public Schools

Student Name(s): _____ Project #: _____

Topic: _____ Final Score: _____

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Verbal Presentation)

a. Knowledge of Scientific Concepts & Engineering Challenge

- 23-25** Knowledgeable, shares information freely, good understanding of the challenge or innovation for which they are designing including the audience for whom they are designing.
- 20-22** Provides explanation of some facts and shows general understanding of topic and intent of design.
- 17-19** Minimal information shared on topic and/or design.
- 15-16** Unable to explain concepts and intent.

Comments

___/25

b. Planned and Organized

- 14-15** Utilizes and communicates a planned and methodical engineering approach (e.g. Engineering Design Cycle, Design Thinking Model, Engineering Notebook, etc.)
- 11-13** Demonstrates some evidence of a planned and methodical approach.
- 8-10** Exhibits limited understanding of the approach to planning and organizing or requires prompting.

Comments

___/15

c. Explains Graphs, Charts, and Display

- 9-10** Is able to explain graphs, charts, or other visual aids as they pertain to the project.
- 7-8** Is able to explain graphs, charts, or other visual aids with prompting.
- 6** Gives limited explanations to graphs, charts, or other visual aids.

Comments

___/10

THOROUGHNESS OF DISPLAY (Visual Presentation)

a. Engineering Methods - Design Cycle OR Design Thinking Model and Sources of Information

- 18-20** Display accurately reflects the use of the engineering method (ask, imagine, plan, create, test, improve, share, OR explore, investigate, create, launch, reflect) **and/or** includes detailed sources of information.
- 16-17** Display accurately reflects some evidence of an engineering method **and/or** includes detailed sources of information.
- 14-15** Display reflects limited evidence of an engineering method **and/or** includes limited sources of information.

Comments

___/20

FILL OUT PAGE 2 OF FORM

Points Earned - Page 1: ___/70

THOROUGHNESS OF DISPLAY (continued)

b. Accurate and Complete Visual Aids

- 9-10** Display includes two or more of following: graph, chart, photograph, illustration, or model that accurately reflects project.
- 7-8** Display includes one of the following: graph, chart, photograph, illustration, or model that accurately reflects project.
- 0** Display does not include a visual aid.

Comments

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___/5





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PURPLE	BLUE	RED	WHITE		
					
90-100 Points	80-89 Points	70-79 Points	69 or Below		
				Points Earned - Page 2: ___/30	
				Points Earned - Page 1: ___/70	
				Total Points: ___/100	



BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESOURCES

Use this form to record your sources of information. You may need to make additional copies.
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Publisher _____
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Encyclopedia:

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Title of Article _____
Title of Encyclopedia _____
Edition _____ Date of Publication _____

Encyclopedia:

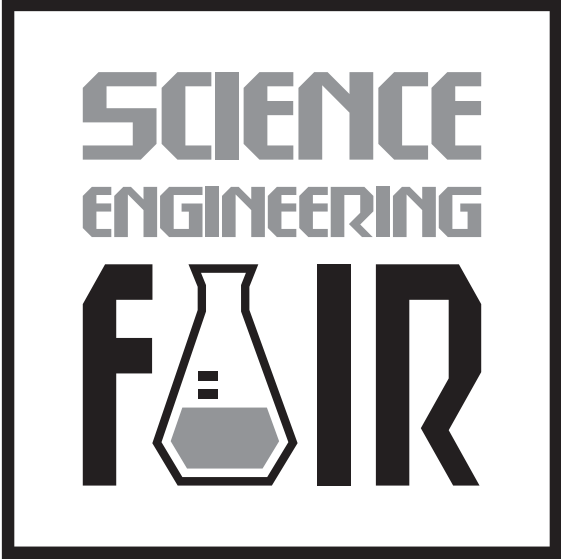
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