



AZSEF

ARIZONA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

PROJECT TIMELINE FOR EDUCATORS

USE THIS ROUGH GUIDELINE TO FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF STUDENT PROJECTS.

JULY - AUGUST:

Teacher Focus: Plan your approach

Decide:

- Will you do a classroom fair or school-wide fair?

Check in with admin about:

- Dates
- Space (cafeteria, classroom, library)

(Optional) Volunteer to be the science fair coordinator. Set a tentative fair date (late Jan–early Feb works well)

Keep it simple: Your fair can be as small as your own classroom.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER:

SPARK CURIOSITY

Student Focus: Wonder & explore

- Do simple activities:
- Observations
- Mini experiment
- Start science journals—what do you wonder about?

Familiarize yourself with science fair rules and required forms—some must be completed before experimentation begins; visit the Arizona Science and Engineering Fair website for guidance.

Science Fair Task:

- Let families know:
 - Students will be doing a science project this year
 - Share a rough timeline

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER:

PROJECT PLANNING

Student Focus: Choose a research topic

Help students choose testable questions

Guide them to plan:

- What they will test
- What they will measure

Science Fair Task:

- Decide:
 - Will all students participate or optional?
- Send home a project info sheet
- Begin a simple student sign-up/interest list

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER:

PLAN & PREPARE

Student Focus: Get ready to investigate

- Students finalize their plan
- Identify materials needed

Science Fair Task:

- Help students gather materials (classroom supplies, home items, or small purchases)
- Guide basic safety conversations
- Ensure students complete any required forms, including those that must be submitted before experimentation begins
- Visit Arizona Science and Engineering Fair website for guidance on forms and requirements



AZSEF

ARIZONA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

PROJECT TIMELINE FOR EDUCATORS

USE THIS ROUGH GUIDELINE TO FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL
COMPLETION OF STUDENT PROJECTS.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER:

INVESTIGATE!

Student Focus: Do the experiment

Students:

- Test their idea
- Record observations
- Take pictures

Science Fair Task:

- Check in on progress (quick weekly check-ins work great)
- Start thinking about:
 - Tables / display space
 - How projects will be presented (poster boards, etc.)

DECEMBER - JANUARY:

ANALYZE & CREATE DISPLAYS

Student Focus: Make sense of results

Students:

- Look at their data
- Draw simple conclusions
- Start creating their poster or presentation

Science Fair Task:

Confirm:

- Fair date
- Location
- Recruit judges (other teachers, staff, volunteers, parents)
- Decide: Will you give awards? (optional!)

JANUARY - FEBRUARY:

HOST YOUR SCIENCE FAIR!

Student Focus: Present their work

Run your science fair:

- Set up tables
- Create a simple judging or feedback form
- Celebrate all students!

Important:

Your fair can be:

- A classroom walk-through
- A grade-level showcase
- Or a full school event

FEBRUARY - MARCH:

ADVANCEMENT TO REGIONAL & STATE

If your school participates in regional/state fairs:

- Identify top projects from your fair
- Support students with next steps
- Help families with registration for
- Arizona Science and Engineering Fair

Reflect & Celebrate

- Celebrate student growth and effort
- Reflect:
 - What worked well?
 - What would you change next year?

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JENNIFER PETERSEN AT PETERSENJ@AZSCIENCE.ORG