

# Alachua Region Science and Engineering Fair (ARSEF)

## **Purpose**

1. To stimulate students' interest in mathematics, science, and engineering.
2. To provide an educational experience through student discourse with the judges and the public.
3. To give public recognition to talented students for the work they have done.

## **Participation**

1. All schools are encouraged to participate in the regional science fair.
2. Projects for the regional science fair are chosen at each participating school.
3. Home school students may participate through their zoned school.

## **Judging Procedures**

### **Round 1 - Morning Session**

The objective is to rank the projects that are to receive Place Awards for each category in the junior and senior division.

1. Categories that have less than five projects will be combined with other categories.
2. The state science fair's suggested criteria for judging will be used: creativity, scientific thought and engineering goals, thoroughness, skill, and clarity. For team projects, teamwork criteria will also be considered.
3. An effort will be made to judge each project at least 3 times.
4. Judges in each category will rank the projects for place awards.
5. Place awards will be given as follows:

Place Awards	
Number of projects	Number of awards
1 to 10	3
11 – 15	4
16 – 20	5
20 or more	6

6. If the best project for a category does not merit state science fair status, then no 1<sup>st</sup> place award will be given. Those projects may receive a second or 3<sup>rd</sup> place award. Therefore, judges will be asked to give 1<sup>st</sup> place awards only to those projects that are meritorious of representing Alachua Region at the State Science and Engineering Fair.

## **Round 2 - Afternoon session**

The objective is to choose 30 projects that will represent Alachua County at the State Science and Engineering Fair (SSEF). Only one Junior team and one Senior team project may be chosen for SSEF.

1. First place recipients in round one will automatically represent Alachua County at SSEF.
2. For subsequent place award recipients, round two judges will receive a list of candidates, their categories, and place award.
3. Judges will evaluate the projects independently according to the criteria.
4. Judges will evaluate the projects using a point system. After one hour of judging, the groups of judges will assemble to discuss the projects for 30 minutes.
5. Their private and independent results will be submitted to an ARSEF representative.
6. If a judge recommends a lower ranked project over a higher place project in the same category for SSEF, the judge will be asked to write a brief explanation that may be shared with the students and their parents.
7. First place award recipients and projects that receive the highest scores in round two, up to the 30 allotted projects, will represent Alachua County at the SSEF. This includes one Junior and one Senior team project.

## **Best of Show – Afternoon Session**

The objective is to choose the two best junior and senior projects.

Two first place award recipients that receive the highest scores from the Senior Division in the Round 2 judging will represent Alachua County at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).