

**2017**  
**4-H S.T.E.M. Fair**  
**Rules and Regulations**

1. Each student exhibitor must be pre-registered. Pre-registration includes the registration form and the \$5.00 check or money order (per participant) by the deadline (March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017).
2. S.T.E.M. fair begins at 6:00 pm. Exhibitors can arrive no earlier than 5:30 pm to set up.
3. All exhibitors must follow the Official 4-H S.T.E.M. Rules and Regulations. Any discretion will be dealt with by the S.T.E.M. committee.
4. Only research based projects will be judged.
5. Individual and Teams (defined as 2 people) are allowed. Youth in the competitive categories must use the scientific method as the basis for their project. The project should include the ***title, abstract, experimental design, problem & hypothesis, data (includes charts and graphs), and conclusion.***
6. Judging categories will be based on current grade of the participant.
7. The 4-H S.T.E.M. Fair Committee may refuse permission to exhibit for reasons of safety, sanitation, or best interest of the Fair.
8. Decisions of the judges are final.
9. Measurements can't exceed 29w x 24d x 48h. Projects must be free standing. A Table covering can be used.
10. Water and gas outlets are not provided. Electrical outlets are limited. Please use battery operated exhibits if possible.
11. Items that are relevant to the project can be on display. Any liquid or food must be sealed.
12. The following items are **NOT ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES, BUT CAN BE USED IN YOUR AT-HOME EXPERIMENT:**
  - Live animals – can not be harmed
  - Chemicals
  - Needles, syringes or other sharp instruments

- Controlled substances such as poisons, drugs, explosives, hazardous devices, or weapons
- Dry ice or other solids that will vaporize cannot be displayed.
- Open flames or highly combustible materials
- Tanks, full or empty, used for storage of combustible gases or liquids
- Unshielded belts, chains, pulleys or other hazardous moving parts
- Unshielded high voltage equipment, large vacuum tubes, ray-generating devices, bare wires and knife switches carrying current at more than 12v or exposed sparks
- Awards, medals, business cards or other personal marketing information
- Open cell batteries may not be displayed

### **Special Notice Regarding Science Fair Projects**

1. S.T.E.M.Fair judges will be instructed to overlook the use of esoteric or sophisticated equipment and instrumentation and judge the merits of each project based on the degree of student involvement in the research as well as the degree to which the student actually was responsible for the idea and design of the study.
2. The judges will interview all students. Those who are using research tools not normally in use in the public/private/home schools will be questioned concerning the students' level of understanding of such tools.
3. Students are encouraged to rely on their own creativity. There are unlimited possibilities for exceptional research projects that can be conducted using inexpensive or even homemade equipment and instruments.
4. Students using special techniques or tools will not receive either preference or penalty

### **Need assistance with your project?**

Check out the Washington County 4-H STEM Fair Website:

<https://washington.ces.ncsu.edu/stemfair/>

**OR**

Contact the Extension office for more information on:

- How to do a STEM Fair Project
- What topics are appropriate
- Rules and Registration
- Any other question or concern!

#### **Washington County:**

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