Rules of the 2027 Oak Hills STEM Expo
Must be read by all Student Scientists and Adult Supervisors

This event is sponsored by your Oak Hills Educational Foundation.

1. Safety First! All science fair projects must be supervised by an adult who can be reached by the STEM Expo Committee if necessary. Any project that breaks District policy, and/or local, state or federal laws is not permitted. Any project that involves the use of drugs, firearms, radioactivity or explosives is not permitted. Never eat or drink during an experiment and wear protective goggles if needed to prevent eye injury. Remember to wash your hands after any experiment. Respect all life forms, and do not perform a project that may harm an animal or human. Dispose of waste properly. If there are potentially dangerous parts of your project (chemicals, electricity, etc.), your adult supervisor must be present at all times to assist. If using the internet for researching your project, your adult supervisor must know which websites you will be visiting. Never write to or correspond with anyone without your adult supervisor knowing.

2. (Grades UPK-6) Posters and Displays: Posters must be legible and neatly presented on a display board and, due to limited space, your **display board can be:**

no larger than 36 inches tall by 48 inches wide by 18 inches deep.

The display board must be able to **stand by itself on a table top <u>WITHOUT SUPPORT</u>.** Your full name, grade level and teacher's name must be on the <u>back</u> of your poster display board.

The Judges are expecting to see pictures of your project and process, so please show many pictures on your poster. For 3rd-6th graders, the only item that should definitely be in front of your poster is the data log book or journal you used during your project.

FOR SAFETY REASONS, we must have strict rules regarding display items in front of your posters.

<u>The following display items are NOT ALLOWED at your poster:</u>
hazardous liquids (bleach, ammonia, etc.), glassware, food, mold/viral/bacterial growth in any medium, open flames, wet cell batteries, dry ice, chemicals, sharp objects, syringes, poisonous plants and live animals

Non-toxic liquids are allowed ONLY if they are in fully-sealed PLASTIC.

NO CHEMICAL REACTIONS of any kind will be allowed! (NO volcanoes erupting, bath salts fizzing, etc.)

Remember, our STEM Expo event on Friday evening January 22nd, 2027, may have younger siblings and other guests present in the MPR, so safety is top priority.

*For example, mold on food items can be part of a safe project when the mold is grown outside (not inside the home/school) and if it is properly discarded. Take pictures of the mold for your poster! The moldy items, however, should absolutely NOT be brought to the STEM Expo as part of your display. Use pictures, pictures and more pictures on your poster to show your STEM project and your results.

2. Human Subjects: You may include pictures of yourself (the student scientist) on your poster, however poster displays must never include photographs of faces or names of other people (including friends and family members) or any information that could be in violation of privacy.

3. Be Creative! Buying items from a store is sometimes necessary, but we strongly discourage the use of "ready-to-assemble" models or science fair kits.

4. Awards: Our Judges are Third-party volunteers from the community **(not parents of current students)** with STEM backgrounds who donate their time to benefit STEM education. All decisions of the STEM Expo Judges and Committee are final. Judges are allowed to move a poster from one category to the other if they feel it's appropriate. Posters for UPK-2nd grade will be judged without interviews. Posters for 3rd-6th will be judged with interviews. However, 3rd-6th grade students may choose on the Registration form to "not be interviewed," but by doing this they are no longer eligible for an award. Awards will be announced during the STEM Expo Awards Ceremony on the evening of Friday, January 22nd, 2027.

6. Data Log Books/Journals/References for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders: To impress the Judges, we highly recommend that your poster display includes the data log book or journal that you used during your project. Your data log book, journal or poster must show a list of at least three references you read while doing background research for your project. At least one of the three references should be from a non-internet source (*e.g.* books, documentaries, peer-reviewed articles or an expert interview).

7. Equipment: We are not liable for any lost, stolen, or damaged equipment including computers. Anything of value should never be left alone at your poster display.
Attention 3rd - 6th graders - if you plan to use a computer during your interview with the Judge then please note that THERE WILL BE NO INTERNET ACCESS AND NO POWER SOURCE FOR YOUR COMPUTER. Computers must remain with you, the student scientist, at all times.

All STEM Expo paperwork can be found at the OHEF website on the STEM Expo page:
https://www.ohef.org/stem-expo-2027.html

Questions?
Please contact the Oak Hills Foundation at stemexpo.ohef@gmail.com