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## GSEF Attendance Policy

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### General Attendance Policy

Please do not register for this event unless you can commit fully. All exhibitors are expected to attend the entire event, including morning and afternoon judging sessions on Friday and the Saturday Attended Public Viewing and Awards Ceremony. Thursday evening early setup is optional.

No exceptions will be granted for conflicts with other events or activities, including academic or athletic competitions, social events such as weddings and proms, family or group travel commitments, or cultural events such as art shows, concerts, or performances. Students and their families must decide together which events will take priority. We realize that these other events are important to you and that some of you will have to make hard decisions about which event you want to attend. Notify us immediately if you have been selected for GSEF but you decide not to participate.

Exceptions may be granted only for serious medical situations, such as scheduled chemotherapy or dialysis, and for certain religious prohibitions, such as observant Jews who cannot travel on the Sabbath. Notify us early.

### Judging

Judging outside of the officially scheduled periods is prohibited. Morning and afternoon judging involve different judge teams and are for different purposes and awards.

### Team Attendance

If the exhibit is a team project, all members must register and pay the registration fee. Teams may be represented at GSEF by one or more members; however, individual judges have the freedom not to consider a team if they haven't had the opportunity to meet and interview all members. If the project advances to ISEF, all members must attend the international competition.

### Awards Ceremony Attendance

Any student who misses the Awards Ceremony will be ineligible for the major and special awards, including scholarships, internships, ISEF Trips, Grand Awards, the Pinnacle Award, and large monetary awards. This is out of respect for the award sponsors, who often wish to present the awards in person and to have publicity photos taken with the winners they interviewed on Friday. The absent student may still be eligible for "honors" and some unsponsored awards, provided the substitute policy (below) is followed.

### Substitute Policy

No substitutes are permitted during judging.

A student who cannot attend the entire Awards Ceremony may designate another student exhibitor to come to the stage at the time the absent student's name is called and to accept unsponsored awards on the absent student's behalf. The substitute's photo will be taken with the award, and if the photo is published, it will bear the name of the winner. Parents and teachers may not collect awards on behalf of students. GSEF does not record the names of substitutes, nor is GSEF responsible for the substitute's handling of the award after acceptance. If the absent student wins a monetary award, the substitute must get the tax paperwork to the winner to sign and return to GSEF within ten days. Awards unclaimed at the ceremony will be forfeited.

### Exhibit Removal

Exhibits may not be removed until after the Awards Ceremony. Some awards are distributed by placing them on exhibits while the Awards Ceremony is being conducted. If an exhibit is removed early, honors ribbons and certain other awards will be forfeited.