

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hillsborough Regional STEM Fair



EVENT DETAILS

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Location Tampa Convention Center
333 South Franklin St
Tampa, FL 33602

We are looking for volunteers to support the upcoming Hillsborough Regional STEM Fair! We need judges for grades 6–12 to help evaluate student projects, as well as volunteers to staff the FWEA vendor table, where you'll guide students through fun, hands-on STEM activities. If you're passionate about inspiring the next generation of innovators, we'd love to have your help!

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO:

Danielle Mercer, danielle.mercer@freese.com

REGISTER ONLINE & FIND MORE EVENTS

www.fwea.org, then click on events tab

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August 20, 2025

Dear Hillsborough Regional STEM Fair Judge,

Hillsborough County Public Schools extends a cordial invitation to you to serve as a judge for the Junior/Senior Division of the 46th Annual Hillsborough Regional Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair. The 2026 HRSTEM Fair will be held at the Tampa Convention Center on February 17th and 18th, 2026. Judging for Junior/Senior Division will occur on Wednesday, February 18th between the hours of 10:30am and 2:30pm. A complimentary brunch will be provided by partners of HCPS at 9:30am and orientation will begin promptly at 10:00am. Judging will begin in teams at 10:30am.

The projects at the HRSTEM Fair represent students' work, which earned a place in a school-based STEM Fair. These students are looking forward to the regional competition and appreciate the time and effort each person contributes to make it a success. To get a sense of the competition's importance, please take a moment to watch the video from the Archimedes Initiative (<https://www.youtube.com/@archimedesinitiative/videos>). These videos feature participants of the International Science and Engineering Fair sharing their experiences with judging.

As you know, judges are the most important factor in a successful HR-STEM Fair because judging is the fundamental learning experience for our student participants. We hope you can help us provide quality experiences for our young people by lending your time and expertise in this worthwhile endeavor. Your assistance as a Regional Judge will be the primary vehicle in the selection of twenty-six projects that will represent Hillsborough County in the 2026 Florida State Science and Engineering Fair, where over \$200,000 worth of scholarships and awards will be provided to students.

Whether you have served as judge in the past or are new to judging this year, we are asking that you [complete this brief form to register as a judge](#) for this year's competition. If you have any questions or know of anyone else that would be a quality judge for this event, please email Chris Korte, Judging Chairperson at christopher.korte@hcps.net. If you cannot participate this year, be sure to reply if you would like to be asked again next year.

We look forward to seeing many of you in February and we thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully,

HCPS Science and STEM Teams