PLANT A QUESTION · HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Official *Rules*

Wednesday, March 3, 2027 · Hosted by Bennett Global Academy and Raising Free

These are the official rules for the Plant a Question Homeschool Science Fair on Wednesday, March 3, 2027, hosted by Bennett Global Academy and Raising Free. By registering, families agree to them.

THE FAIR

The event

Plant a Question is a homeschool science fair hosted by Bennett Global Academy and Raising Free. It takes place on Wednesday, March 3, 2027. Registered families get the venue and times by email.

Each young scientist shows a project that answers a question of their own. Visitors walk around and talk with them.

ELIGIBILITY

Who can enter

The fair is open to homeschooled students ages 3 to 17 and their families. Divisions follow Bennett Global Academy's age bands, using the student's age on January 1, 2027.

DIVISION	AGES	JUDGED?	HOW TO ENTER
Seedlings	3 to 5	No	In person
Sprouts	5 to 8	No	In person
Buds	8 to 11	Yes	In person
Blossoms	11 to 14	Yes	In person
Oaks (high school)	14 to 17	Yes	In person or virtual

A student who is 8, 11 or 14 on January 1, 2027 may enter either band. The parent chooses at registration, and the choice stands. Entering the older band means being judged.

Each student enters one project. Siblings cannot share a project.

SIGN UP

Registration

Registration opens Wednesday, January 13, 2027 and closes Wednesday, February 24, 2027. Register on the fair page.

- One form per family.
- List every scholar with their name, age on January 1, 2027, grade and division. You do not need a project question to register.
- The registration fee is $15 per family for up to 3 scholars, plus $5 for each additional scholar. You do not pay when you submit the form. We review your registration, then email you a link to pay. Your registration is complete once the fee is paid.

- By registering, a parent or guardian agrees to these rules and to the participation agreement on the registration form.

Need to change something after you register? Email the contact address at the bottom of this page.

PROJECTS

Project rules

- **Any science topic.** Life science, physical science, earth and space science, engineering and technology all count.
- **A question the student chose.** Every project starts with a question and tests it or investigates it. Seedlings and Sprouts can ask a simple question and show what they found.
- **The student's own work.** Projects must be new work done for this fair. Adults can help with safety, reading, tools and typing for younger students. In Buds, Blossoms and Oaks, the student plans the test, collects the data and explains the results.
- **Fits your space.** The display must fit the space you are given. Space and table details are sent with the venue details. A trifold board, a laptop screen or a plain table setup all work.
- **Credit your sources.** Name any book, website or person you used. Do not present someone else's photos or data as your own.
- **Safety rules apply.** See the next section.

SAFETY

Safety

The organizers may ask a family to remove or change anything that looks unsafe.

Not allowed:

- Open flames, heat sources and flammable or hazardous chemicals
- Live animals
- Loose blades, glass and anything that launches or throws objects
- Food samples for visitors

Also:

- Battery-powered displays are best. If you need an outlet, say so on your registration and wait for the venue to confirm it.
- An adult stays with each child at all times, including younger siblings.
- The venue's own rules apply to everyone in the building.

JUDGING

Judging and awards

Projects in Buds, Blossoms and Oaks are judged. Seedlings and Sprouts present without judging and without ranking.

- **Scoring.** Each judged project is scored out of 100 on five criteria: The question (16), The test (24), Data and results (20), Conclusion (20) and Presentation (20). The full rubric is published with these rules.
- **Two judges.** Two judges score each project and the scores are averaged. Judges visit your display and ask questions, so the student should be ready to explain their own work.
- **Conflicts.** A judge does not score their own family or students they teach.
- **Awards.** Ribbons go to first, second and third place in each judged division. Every presenter, judged or not, gets a participation certificate.
- **Ties.** A tie is broken by the higher score on The test, then on Conclusion.

- **Results.** Winners are announced at the fair on March 3. Families get their score sheet and judge comments by email by Thursday, March 4.
- **Final.** Judges' decisions are final.

HIGH SCHOOL

Virtual entries (high school only)

Students in Oaks (ages 14 to 17, high school) may enter virtually instead of presenting in person. All other divisions present in person.

Submit one entry per student on the virtual entry form linked from the fair page. It must be received by 11:59 pm ET on Friday, February 26, 2027.

What to send:

- **A video of 3 minutes or less.** The student explains the question, the test, the results and the conclusion on camera. Share it with a link that anyone with the link can open. Unlisted YouTube and Google Drive links both work.
- **Up to 6 photos** of the project, the setup and the data.
- **A written summary of 300 words or fewer** covering the question, the test, the results and the conclusion.
- **Parent or guardian consent**, given on the form, including whether we may share the video and photos.

How virtual entries are judged:

- Judges use the same rubric. Presentation is scored from the video and photos.
- Judges cannot ask questions, so the video and summary have to stand on their own.
- Virtual and in-person Oaks entries are ranked together.
- Results are emailed on March 3. Ribbons for virtual winners are mailed.
- Entries received after the deadline are not judged.

PHOTOS

Photos and recordings

The organizers may take photos and video at the fair and use them on the Bennett Global Academy and Raising Free websites, social media and emails. If you do not want your child photographed, tell a committee member at check-in or email us before the fair.

Visitors may photograph their own child's project. Please do not photograph other children without their parent's permission.

UPDATES

Weather, closures and changes

If the venue closes or the fair has to be moved or cancelled, registered families are told by email as soon as the decision is made.

The organizers may update these rules before the fair. Registered families are emailed about any change.

QUESTIONS

Contact

Questions? Email sia@bennettglobalacademy.org.