

YOUTH EXPLORING SCIENCE - YES

Parent organization: NA

Web address: <http://www.youthexploringscience.org/>

Grade level or ages served: Grades 6 - 12

Overview: Bring the research experience to students by:

1. Building a stronger system of science fairs in Oregon and southwest Washington.
2. Identifying and promoting a cadre of scientists and engineers willing to mentor middle and high school students.

From the website

Subjects covered: Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

Size of program: YES helps support the state-wide system of Intel-ISEF affiliated fairs; about 1,500 middle and high school students throughout the state participate. YES also helps support the two state-wide fairs which have approximately 600 student participants. In addition, YES hosted the 2004 International fair which brought to Portland 1,500 students from 41 countries. Team Oregon, a YES trademark, was created in 2003 and has won close to \$1 million dollars in scholarships and awards at the three international fairs it has competed in since its inception.

Where offered: Students' schools or local venues progressing to more central locations. There are seven regional fairs across the state, with the state fairs held at PSU. The international fair is held annually in cities across the US (and twice, internationally).

Time spent by students: Extensive out-of-classroom time pursuing individual research projects & presentations. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair is a week-long event.

Partners/Sponsors: YES partners with the PSU Center for Science Education (CSE, profiled separately) the sponsoring organization for the Northwest Science Expo (Intel NWSE, profiled separately). Many board members have industry or academic affiliations. Applied Materials was the presenting sponsor for the 2004 international fair in Portland. Over 50 local companies helped fund the 2004 fair.

Materials available on web and/or purchase: Website has an extensive list of links for science educators, science fairs, and science "cool stuff" at <http://www.youthexploringscience.org/links.html>

Training for teachers, facilitators, volunteers, leaders: Nothing is available or in progress at this time.

Cost structure: Local school fairs are typically fee-free. Students must pay a nominal registration fee to participate in a regional fair. YES covers this cost for Title 1 students. All travel and hosting expenses for Team Oregon to participate in the international fair are paid by their regional fairs with some YES support.

Funding: YES is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, funded by grants, foundations, industry support and private donors both for general support and for state-wide fairs.

Other points of interest: YES has successfully recruited industry sponsors for events. Before YES, there was one regional fair that qualified for the Intel ISEF. There are now ten.