

INTEL NWSE (NORTHWEST SCIENCE EXPO) REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Parent organization: ISEF (Intel International Science and Engineering Fair)

Web address: www.nwse.org

Grade level or ages served: 5 – 12; emphasis on high school students (high school students are required to compete at a regional fair to qualify for Intel NWSE, middle students can come directly to the state fair)

Overview: Participating in the NWSE competition provides students an opportunity to interact with other students who are conducting research and to display their projects to their peers, professionals, and the general public. Students who enter the NWSE will have their research judged by professional scientists and will be eligible for a variety of awards, including an opportunity to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge. The Intel NWSE hopes that this recognition will encourage students to consider careers in science, math, and engineering.

Subjects covered: Science and Applied Engineering

Size of program: 709 students participated at Intel NWSE in 2005; many more competed at regional fairs

Where offered: Regional fairs are at various locations around the state: Intel NWSE is held at PSU.

Time spent by students: Extensive independent study

Partners/Sponsors: Intel, Vernier, PSU and many NGOs and corporate donors

Materials available on web and/or purchase: Extensive on-line materials for students, judges, and adults helping students.

Training for teachers, facilitators, volunteers, leaders is: Available, along with one on one help. PSU offers some graduate level courses in assisting science fair student participants. Mike Ellison (mellison@pdx.edu), the former fair director, offers a graduate course most summers. In addition high school students can earn general science credits for doing a research project and meeting some additional deadlines and requirements.

Cost structure: Registration fees; project expenses. Some scholarships available to cover project materials, travel expenses and substitutes.

Funding: Government, business, and non-profit donors

Other points of interest: Students can earn substantial prize money in scholarships.