1. Exhibits must include a project notebook.  
   a. The notebook should have the project number on the front cover and placed in front of the project.  
   b. Some teachers require their students to have a file folder for the notebook taped to the back of their  
      project for easy transport to and from the fair.  

2. The work on the project should be done by the student.  
   a. Every student who enters a project must attend the Science Fair.  
   b. If any outside help or assistance is given, it must be described in the project notebook (example:  
      advice from a local scientist, parental help with electrical equipment, etc.).  

3. Only one space will be provided for each project exhibit.  Projects that exceed these requirements may be  
   disqualified before, during or after the judging.  
   a. Exhibits for grades 3-6 should have outside measurements no greater than 3 feet wide, 2 feet deep,  
      and 6 feet high.  
   b. Exhibits for grades 7 -12 should have outside measurements no greater than 4 feet wide, 2 feet deep  
      and 8 feet high  
   c. The floor may not be used.  

4. Exhibits must be free-standing and constructed of durable material such as pegboard or  
   heavy cardboard.  Electricity should not be needed and will not be provided.  

5. Regarding the project display:  
   a. Only paper, photographs and boarder may be added to the display board.  
   b. The project notebook must be included. (See #1.)  
   c. NOTHING else may be added to the board or placed in front of the board.  
   d. Do not add ornaments, gadgets, food, bones, teeth, experiment materials, plants parts, electricity,  
      batteries, or chemicals (including water) to the display boards or project area.  
   e. If live animals are used in experiments, humane practices must be observed under the supervision of  
      a local (school district) scientific review committee (SRC).  

6. No experiments may injure or pose unnecessary risk to any vertebrate animal, including  
   humans.  Students wishing to conduct experiments affecting vertebrates must secure  
   prior approval from a locally (school district) approved scientific review committee.  

7. Any experiment on humans requires adult consent for the subjects, prior approval by a  
   proper local review committee and prior scientific review committee approval.  

8. Students entering projects in the regional fair should be aware that, although care will be  
   taken, damage could possibly occur to projects during the time they are on display.  The  
   science fair will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.  

9. Projects may be entered in one of the following categories:  
   1) Biological Science  
   2) Physical Science (Chemistry or Physics)  
   3) Earth & Environmental Science  
   4) Medicine and Health,  
   5) Engineering (includes engineering, math, technology and computer science),  
   6) Team Projects.
10. Students will be responsible for the set up and take down of their projects. Projects must be taken down immediately AFTER the awards ceremony.

11. Cost is $7.00 per person, not project.

12. No one except High School participants may be in attendance during the judging.
   a. High School (9-12) participants will be interviewed during judging and will be required to remain at their projects until the judging activities are completed.
   b. Professional dress and behavior is expected from the High School participants. Professional Dress is generally less stringent than Formal Attire.

13. All decisions of the judges will be final. Entries will be judged in the following areas:
   a. scientific accuracy displayed by the student.
   b. evidence of problem solving through experimentation.
   c. neatness, attractiveness and clarity of what the project is
   d. its purpose or application.
   e. and creativity of the project.

14. Team projects are allowed for all grades. A team may include two or three students. Valid Team Projects must fall under a recognized category. (See number 9.) For example, a Consumer Science or Behavioral Science project would not be a valid Team Project.

15. A student may enter only one project. This includes team projects.
   a. If multiple grade levels are participating on a team the project will be placed in highest grade represented.
   b. Every student who enters a project must attend the Science Fair.

16. Student's names should NOT appear on the display - NOT on displayed materials or paperwork. Photos of students should NOT show faces. Stickers may be used.

17. **Registration deadline is Friday, March 6, 2015.** Please see the Registration Instruction documents on the SAU STEM Center’s website.

18. **Projects must be assigned a project number prior to date of science fair,** this number should appear on the back of the project and on the front of the project notebook. Project numbers will be emailed to instructors on or by March 13, 2015.

19. Projects must be set up by 9:30 AM the day of the Science Fair and must remain in place until after the awards ceremonies have been completed. **Projects must be picked up immediately after the ceremony.**

20. Science fair winners will be announced at the awards ceremony. Specials Awards for teachers will be awarded to the Teacher-of-Record as submitted by the school.

21. Failure to follow these rules and regulations will disqualify the project from the Fair.

22. **Science Fair Coordinator:** Dr. Scott R. White, STEM Center Director srwhite@saumag.edu Phone 870-235-4278
Suggested Examples of Displays (displays may vary):

**SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT GUIDELINES**

No materials, other than the notebook, should be part of the display.

Suggestions:

- We strongly encourage all students, especially the 9-12th grade students, to write procedures in past-tense, passive voice. Example: Instead of, “I added 3 drops of solution to the test tube,” write, “Three drops of solution were added to the test tube.”
- All titles should clearly state what the experiment is testing. Example: Instead of, “Fun with Bubbles” try, “The Effect of Light Intensity on the Rate of Photosynthesis.” (The Effect of (independent variable) on the (dependent variable).) This is especially important for Jr. and Sr. High students.
- Graphing:
  a. All experiments should produce graph-able data.
  b. All graphs should be properly labeled with: title, dependent variable, independent variable, and units.
  c. Graph should match the data.
- Experiments should have a control group.
- The display board should guide the judges through the work and thought processes of the student.
- Don’t display a model as an experiment. Students are great at building things, i.e., volcanoes, gel electrophoresis chambers, etc., but the models, by themselves, are not experiments.
- Please do not add ornaments, gadgets, food, bones, teeth, experiment materials, electricity, batteries, or chemicals (including water) to the display boards. Pictures- relevant to the project- and boarders are fine.
- Of course, the main factor the judges are looking for is “good science.” While some students do an excellent job of decorating their display boards, at the end of the day, the judges want to see a well, thought-out and executed experiment.