

2025 Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) Winners

CFSD students shined at the 2025 Southern Arizona Research, Science, and Engineering Fair with sixtythree (63) projects receiving awards.

Awards received include sixteen (16) first place awards, fifteen (15) second place awards, fourteen (14) third place awards, six (6) SARSEF Board Awards, one (1) Cordell Family Award, two (2) Tucson Electric Program (TEP) Awards, one (1) Women's Chemistry Group (WCG) 3rd Grade Award, one (1) WCG 4th Grade Award, one (1) Spark of Innovative Elementary School Award, one (1) Arizona Hydrological Society Award, one (1) Family Fun Pack Award, one (1) Community Gardens of Tucson Award, one (1) Math is Fun! Award, one (1) Up, Up, and Away Award, and one (1) Patricia Abbey Memorial Award.

CFSD winners by school include:

Canyon View Elementary School

- Audrey Fraser (Grade 5) – *Styrofoam Lunch Trays: A Study on Disposable Vs. Closed Loop Systems* – SARSEF Board Award
- Charlize Beier (Grade 5) – *Does Ball Size Matter?* – Third Place
- Evelyn Hartshorne (Grade 1) – *Doodle Droids* – First Place; Texas Instruments Elementary School Award for Excellence in STEM 3rd Place
- Hadley Callie (Grade 5) – *The Burrito Lockdown* – Spark of Innovative Elementary School
- Jaylin Barrow (Kindergarten) – *How to make a flying car* – Second Place
- Luke Thompson (Grade 1) – *Citrus Batteries* – Second Place
- Myla Closterman (Grade 5) – *What Puts the Pop in My Popovers?* – Second Place
- Olivia Babst (Grade 5) – *How does painted art affect people's feelings?* – First Place; The Betsy Bolding Award
- Ryder Bayne (Grade 5) – *H₂O No! A Clear Look at Water Filtration* – Arizona Hydrological Society
- Sawyer Thompson (Grade 1) – *Life Savers* – Second Place

Catalina Foothills High School

- Aaron Handler (Grade 12) – *Biodegradable Gum* – Family Fun Pack
- Courtney Tong (Grade 12) – *Thermoplastic Horse Shoes* – Second Place
- Daija Derum (Grade 12) – *Understanding The Role Of Experience In Ant Contests* – Powered by Perseverance High School, SARSEF Board Award
- Elise McFarlane, Robin Oxnam (Grade 12) – *Decomposers and Soil Remediation* – Community Gardens of Tucson Award
- Hannah Hiscox (Grade 12) – *Scents That Repel* – Third Place
- Gyiana Madero (Grade 12) – *Music's affect on bacterial growth* – SARSEF Board Award
- Olivia Irish (Grade 12) – *Sound vibrations and worm composting* – SARSEF Board Award • Sebastian Cross (Grade 12) – *Cordyceps Militaris Antimicrobial Properties* – Second Place
- Sophie Roth Gordon (Grade 11) – *Preventing Type 2 Diabetes in Youth* – Math Is Fun!
- Tyler Tosca (Grade 12) – *Ecosystem Recovery Post Forest Fire* – Third Place
- William Jacobsen (Grade 11) – *Hot Droughts & Ecosystem Productivity* – First Place; NASA Earth System Science Award
- Zoe Wung (Grade 12) – *Effect of Growth Hormones on Yeast* – Third Place

Esperero Canyon Middle School

- Bryce Edwards, Harrison Hannley (Grade 7) – *Fire Hydrant Power* – First Place
- Emma McNulty, Azalea Bailin (Grade 7) – *Water Power in Fire Suppression* – SARSEF Board Award
- Isabella Johnson (Grade 7) – *LED Light Spectrum & Nasturtium Growth in Space* – Second Place

- **Isabelle Babst (Grade 7)** – *Solar-Panel Shade for Crops (Year 3)* – First Place
- **Jonah Trail (Grade 7)** – *Mission to the Moon Rocket Analysis* – "Up, Up, and Away"
- **Kelly Smith's class (Grade 7)** – *Fire Resistance of Succulents* – First Place; Third Place, Wonderful Whoops
- **Mia Gamboa Veliz, Abigail Jarczyk, Liliana Roberts (Grade 7)** – *Clear the Air* – Third Place; TEP Award of Excellence **Manzanita Elementary School**
- **Eli Smerz (Grade 5)** – *The Weighted Blanket Experiment* – Third Place
- **Ella Winter (Grade 3)** – *Vision and Taste Perception* – Second Place
- **Lilah Winter (Grade 4)** – *Macronutrients, Activity, and Glucose/Ketones* – First Place
- **Lucy Prevenas (Grade 1)** – *Apple Storage Methods* – First Place
- **Maura Baker's class (Grade 4)** – *The Power of Duct Tape* – TEP Award of Excellence
- **Megan Winter's class (Grade 1)** – *Slide Speed* – SARSEF Board Award

Orange Grove Middle School

- **Emery Chukly (Grade 6)** – *Fungi to the rescue* – Third Place

Sunrise Drive Elementary School

- **Aaheli Shil (Grade 5)** – *Trash to Tunes* – Third Place
- **Alice Puell (Kindergarten)** – *Where are most of the conductors?* – Second Place
- **Asher Sakievich (Grade 4)** – *Trash Talking Stinknet* – First Place; Fixing Things That Stink
- **Blue Ennesser, Violet Peterson (Grade 5)** – *Temperature on Glow Sticks* – Third Place
- **Daniel Li, Leland Toth (Grade 5)** – *Five Second Rule* – Third Place
- **David Bui, Jonathan Parsons, Ming Shung Reid (Grade 5)** – *Sourdough Journey to Space* – Second Place
- **Elise Peterson, Stella Velasco (Grade 5)** – *Project Coffee Stains* – Second Place
- **Jiwoo Yang (Grade 3)** – *A Day Without Plastic* – Patricia Abbey Memorial Award
- **Jotham David (Grade 3)** – *Healthy pH, Healthy Teeth* – First Place
- **Katharina Mangelsdorf (Grade 3)** – *Germ, Germs, Everywhere!* – WCG Best Project: Grade 3
- **Lucas Byrne, Graham Martin (Grade 5)** – *Time To Fly!* – Third Place
- **Max Hao, Andrew Wang (Grade 5)** – *Popcorn Seeds* – Third Place
- **Stasia Stevens (Grade 4)** – *Kisses...And Cures?* – WCG Best Project: Grade 4
- **William Mangelsdorf (Grade 1)** – *Ready, Set, Launch!* – First Place; Evil Genius

Valley View Early Learning Center

- **Evelyn Wong (PreK)** – *Gummy Bear Experiment* – First Place

Ventana Vista Elementary School

- **Alexander Bevevino (Grade 5)** – *Why is my car so hot?* – TEP Award of Excellence
- **Ava Escajeda (Grade 5)** – *Running Guinea Pigs* – The Cordell Family Award
- **Beckett Latcham (Grade 5)** – *Burning Down the House* – Second Place
- **Colin Wilhelm (Grade 5)** – *Dissolving The Rainbow* – First Place
- **Leo Cusanovich (Kindergarten)** – *Apple Weights and Seeds* – First Place
- **Michael Montoya (Grade 2)** – *Keeping It Fresh* – Second Place
- **Natasha Jain (Grade 5)** – *Fizz & Fangs* – First Place
- **Pascal Guifarro (Grade 1)** – *Bird Buffet* – First Place; Sonoran Desert Science Award
- **Penelope Chavez (Grade 5)** – *Fruit Preservation* – Third Place
- **Pierce Greene (Grade 5)** – *Wingspans and Distance* – Second Place
- **Tobyn Rupprecht (Grade 5)** – *Stay Dry Style* – Third Place
- **Yoshi Chavez (Kindergarten)** – *Float Up* – Second Place