



St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair

2025 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

This year, 2025, was another excellent year for the St. Mary's County Science and Engineering fair. We were able to successfully increase the number of projects from 107 last year to 130 this year. We sent a significant number on to compete at the regional level in PG County. Our students excelled at the Prince George's Regional Science and Engineering Fair with probably the best showing in our Science Fair history. Our Junior Division swept all three Grand Awards and our Senior Division won two out of three for a total of five Grand Awards out of six. This year we sent three students to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Columbus Ohio in May, one individual and one team.

We are grateful for all the support the Fair received and would like to recognize all the judges, students, and parents for all their hard work which made this fair such as success. We would also like to say how much we appreciate our great sponsors who were instrumental in making our fair such a great success this year.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIR

This year's Science and Engineering Fair was held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at the Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) building. This was the first time the fair was held at a different location and on a different day. This decision was derived from feedback we received from previous fairs from the students, teachers and parents regarding conflicts with extracurricular activities on Saturdays. By being held on a Friday the fair was able to be considered a field trip for the students.

Students participated in 16 separate categories. All first and second place winners were offered the chance to move on to the next level and compete at the Prince George's Regional Area Science and Engineering Fair. Senior Grand award winners at the Prince George's Fair then move on to compete at the highest level: The Regeneron International Science and

Engineering Fair (ISEF), which was held this year in Columbus, Ohio. In total 31 St. Mary's County projects competed at the regional level, and three moved on as Finalists at ISEF.



SPECIAL AWARDS

Special Awards Judges evaluate student projects on criteria different than the Category Judges. Over \$3200.00 in cash and scholarships, plus other prizes, were given out by both local and international institutions. We want to thank all of the Special Award judges and their sponsors for making this a very successful year.



GRAND AWARD

For the 2025 St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair, there were a total of four Grand Award projects. Two for the Junior Division and two for the Senior Division.



Grand Award Winners

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Our Fair had a total of 31 projects which moved forward to compete in the Prince George's County Regional Area Fair. With help from our generous sponsors, The St. Mary's County Science and Engineering Fair Board pays all the registration fees for those students progressing. This ensured these students were not responsible for paying for the opportunity to compete at the next level.



Prince George's County Fair

The Regional Fair was held on March 15, 2025 at Charles Herbert Flowers High School. Our students from St. Mary's County excelled at the Regional Fair this year. We had many Category Winners and one Senior Grand Award Winner.

St Mary's County students swept 5 of the 6 total Grand Awards given in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. All 3 Junior Grand Awards were won by our St. Mary's County students, and 2 of the 3 Senior Grand Awards were won by St. Mary's County students as well.

In the Junior Division, Nathan Nilsson won 1st place Grand Award, Diana Wyman won 2nd place and 3rd place Grand Award was won by Kyler Cotugno.

In the Senior Division the team of Abril Esparza and Angela Hou won 1st place Grand Award, and Audrey Gutekunst won 2nd place Grand Award.

The Senior Division Grand Award winners advanced to the International Science and Engineering Fair that was held in Columbus, Ohio May 10-16, 2025.





P. G. County 3rd Place Grand Award Jr.

In addition to winning the majority of Grand Awards, St. Mary's County students also won many 1st and 2nd place Category Awards. 16 students in the Junior Division won Special Awards and in the Senior Division 13 students won Special Awards for their projects. Most of these Special Awards were monetary prizes."

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR (ISEF)

Abril Esparza and Angela Hou qualified for ISEF with their innovative project, *Touchbraille*, which earned first place at the Prince George's Area Science Fair. Audrey Gutekunst also secured a spot at ISEF, placing second with her project, *Spike Saver*.



ISEF Finalist – Audrey Gutekunst, Angela Hou, Abril Esparza



The event brought together the brightest young minds from over 75 countries, regions, and territories to showcase groundbreaking research across 22 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.