

April 6-7, 2024



El Paso Science Festival

Exhibits Guide

01 Your Exhibit is an Experience

Science is a way of thinking and a powerful way to explore the world

Think of your exhibit as delivering a powerful experience for young minds and their families. Your exhibit will need a hook and be an experience worth remembering. For your hook, think of what will pique learners' interest, including things that move, things that make sound, or explore intriguing questions. After the interest is piqued, then provide the experience that teaches a science concept or skill that is interactive, fun, and leads to further questions.

People learn fundamentally by engaging actively with their senses: mostly by listening, by seeing, or touching. Creating an exhibit that engages all these learning modalities so it can reach the greatest number of people. Be sure your exhibit is appropriate for children of all ages. Some very young children attend, so set fragile objects out of reach. Think also, about how your message will be different for a 4-year-old and a 16-year-old.

All exhibits should be targeted at a 8th grade science understanding or below. That is to say, exhibits will be designed for young children and should not overwhelm the audience with the science. However, all booths should be staffed with an expert and student guides in the fields, so the subject matter can be brought up a level if so engaged. That is, be ready to provide an engaging broad experience, yet that it can be scaled up for those who would like to delve into the deeper questions. Alternatively, booths can be geared to a particular grade level.

Check the exhibitor application and the FAQ for more information about workshops for exhibitors.

Prepare a handout that can be distributed to educators or learners who want to do more. Also, **browse howtosmile.org for many examples and prepared activities.**

Before the festival day, you may want to let your community know you'll be there by using the #... hashtag and by linking to the El Paso Science Festival Facebook/Instagram page in your social media networks.

02 Your Exhibit is an Experience

Science is a way of thinking and a powerful way to engage in the world

Science is a way of thinking and includes social sciences, the art of science, the science of arts, humanities based on data, business based on data, and much more. This is an opportunity to show our community the breadth and depth of the work we all do in the El Paso Region.

02 El Paso Science Festival Exhibit Proposal

Information that the Festival will be asking for when registering:

Contact name

First, tell us who you are so we can connect when we have questions.

Email Address *

This address will receive all festival correspondence about this exhibit.

Official experience name *

This exhibit name will be printed in the festival program. It must be 75 characters or less, including spaces.

* DO make it exciting and informative.

* DO make your exhibit title about what is happening there.

* DON'T add an exclamation mark to the end.

* DON'T add your organization name to your title.

What happens here? *

In 500 characters or less, tell the PUBLIC what attendees to the festival will see and do. This info will be published on the website and will help people decide which exhibit to attend.

About your exhibit *

Tell us (the ORGANIZERS) about the objective and what hands-on thing people will do there. If you have special logistical needs, please tell us about them here.

Photo *

Add an image that represents your exhibit. This may be published in social media and/or on the festival webpage.

Organization(s) *

The organization name(s) will be printed in the program and published on the webpage. Each organization must be 75 characters or less, including spaces. Do not use acronyms; write them out.

03 Frequently Asked Questions

Sample you may have for the organizer:

Will you be providing tablecloths or skirting for the tables?

Will you be providing extension cords and power strips? Wifi?

My group really wants to sell stuff at the Festival. Is that OK, right?

Can I bring a tent?

Can I set things up outside of my 10x10 (or 10x20) footprint?

My group is going to have a give-away... how many should we bring? Are there any restrictions?

Can we decorate with helium balloons or give-away helium balloons?

I need to get water (use fire) for my activity. Is that possible?

My group has a lot of stuff that we need to move from the unloading gate to our booth. Will you have dollies or carts available?

Can we hand out stickers/swag?

Are you providing tables? If so, how big are the tables that you are providing?

Will you be providing pallet jacks or forklifts?

What are the load-in options? Parking?