

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Visit the [RESEARCH CHALLENGE VIRTUAL LOBBY](#) for instant access to virtual Research Challenge events!

*Link to the lobby will be emailed to participants and posted on our website no later than 3/16/26.*

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**March 16 – 22 ~ Virtual Lobby Open~ visit at your convenience!**

**PROJECT SHOWCASE** – browse all student research projects competing in Research Challenge

**STEM HALL** – visit profiles and interactive exhibits from our sponsors and community partners

**SPEAKERS & PANELS** – view engaging discussions with STEM professionals including:

- The 2026 featured STEM Panel is **a discussion with informal STEM educators.**

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### Monday, March 16

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Judging Workshop – Live on Zoom**

Students, prepare for judging day with long-time Research Challenge Master Judge Chairs Len Duda and Robert Deblassie as they provide tips to prepare for judging interviews and answer your questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/47s84asa>

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### Wednesday, March 18

3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Project Set Up – EXPO NM, Manuel Lujan Building**

ALL student exhibitors must register and set up their project displays during this time. **Doors will close promptly at 7:00 pm!**

**Community Partner Showcase** will also take place during set up. We are excited to host fun and informational booths from local STEM partners! **Students, complete a Community Partners Passport by visiting booths. Turn in completed passport before you leave and be entered into a raffle for prizes!**

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## Thursday, March 19

- 9:45 am – 12:00 pm **Junior Division Category Judge Interviews – Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall A**  
STUDENTS AND JUDGES ONLY ON EXHIBIT FLOOR! Doors open at 9:30am. **9:45 is the required start time for ALL students.**
- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Lunch Break —NOT PROVIDED—**Food vendors will be available.  
EXHIBIT HALL CLEARED OF ALL STUDENTS.
- 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm **Junior Division Special Award & Grand Award Interviews – Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall A**  
STUDENTS AND JUDGES ONLY ON THE EXHIBIT FLOOR!  
*Exhibitors must take project board and all other materials with them when they leave at the end of the day!*
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## Friday, March 20

- 9:30 am – 12:00 pm **Hands on activities with Air Force Research Labs & ¡Explora!**  
(for participating 4th & 5th grade students) – *Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall A*
- 9:45 am – 12:00 pm **Senior Division Category Judge Interviews – Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall B**  
STUDENTS AND JUDGES ONLY ON EXHIBIT FLOOR! Doors open at 9:30am. **9:45 is the required start time for ALL HS students.**
- 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Lunch Break —NOT PROVIDED—** Food vendors will be available.  
EXHIBIT HALL CLEARED OF ALL STUDENTS.
- 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm **Elementary Division Judging Interviews – Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall B**  
STUDENTS AND JUDGES ONLY ON THE EXHIBIT FLOOR!  
*Note: elementary students will be interviewed by both category and special award judges during this time.*
- 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm **Senior Division Special Award & Grand Award Interviews – Manuel Lujan Bldg, Hall B**  
STUDENTS AND JUDGES ONLY ON THE EXHIBIT FLOOR!  
*Exhibitors must take project board and all other materials with them when they leave at the end of the day!*
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## Sunday, March 22

- 4:30 pm **Award Winners Reception – UNM Student Union Building**  
*For award winners and guests only. Light refreshments and “selfie station”*
- 5:15 pm **Grand Awards Ceremony – UNM Student Union Building**  
*Awards Ceremony is by invite only. Student winners, parents/guardians and teachers will be notified on Saturday if they have won an award and are invited to attend the ceremony.*
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*Note: Senior Division ~ grades 9-12; Junior Division ~ grades 6-8; Elementary Division ~ grades 4-5*