



2026 SAE Aero Design West

April 16-19, 2026

Thunderbird Field

Fort Worth, Texas

Hello Thunderbirds,

It is time to mark your calendar for the 2026 SAE Aero Design West competition taking place April 16-19, 2026, at Thunderbird Field. We once again have the honor of hosting one of the premier aviation events in the country. We will need volunteers to set up on the 16th and volunteers to staff the event on the 17th, 18th and 19th.

The SAE Aero Design Competition brings teams from around the United States, and the world to compete at Thunderbird Field in three design classes-Micro Class, Regular Class, and Advanced Class. In each class students design, build and fly aircraft according to design criteria specified by the SAE organization. If you are new to the SAE event, I can tell you it is a fantastic experience for both the college students involved and the Thunderbirds.

The SAE team and the Fort Worth Thunderbirds Board will be working to plan and organize this event. Remember this is the largest event we host and we will need volunteers to make this event better than last year. So, make sure to mark your calendar.

Thanks so much for making this such a fantastic event for students, volunteers, and spectators! The Thunderbirds are a group of outstanding individuals!

We will soon be sending links for volunteers to sign up. I look forward to seeing you all at the field.

Thank you.

Mark Johnson

Thunderbirds SAE Volunteer Coordinator