

Elementary Science Fair Information Packet

WHAT IS A SCIENCE FAIR?

A Science Fair is an exciting display of student science projects. There are six types of projects that may be entered. You will find descriptions of all these in this packet.

1. Experiment/Investigation
2. Collection (scientific)
3. Scientific Report
4. Invention (Innovation)
5. Demonstration of a Scientific Principle (includes working model)
6. Computer Program (original)



WHO MAY ENTER?

All elementary students in grades K-6 may enter. There are three ways a student may enter the Science Fair:

1. A student may enter as an individual.
2. A student and family may enter a project they have created as a family.
3. A small group of students (2-4) may enter a project together.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPLORE?

A student may design a science project around any scientific or mathematical topic. Students may enter a project in any of these fields: Human Biology, Astronomy/Space Science, Animals, Plants, Earth Science, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Consumer Science, Wildlife/Environment, Microbiology, Communications/Electronics, or Engineering, and more.

HOW DO YOU BEGIN?

Any research starts with exploration. Examine a scientific material, object or subject that interests you. While you are exploring your area of interest, many questions will come into your mind. If you find a question on which you can run a test to find an answer, you have the beginning of a science project.

For example: While playing with a bubble solution, you notice that the colors of the bubbles change just before they pop. You might ask yourself, “Do bubbles always pop when the color changes?” Perhaps you would like to do a demonstration, a report on bubbles, or an experiment to find out. **REMEMBER: ALL RESEARCH BEGINS WITH EXPLORATION AND A QUESTION OR PROBLEM.**

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT:

Read through the guidelines for each type of project. Decide which type of project fits your question and the research you want to do. Once you have decided on what type of project you would like to do, **ask your teacher for the forms you will need** to help guide you through the process.

GENERAL RULES OF THE SCIENCE FAIR

- The science display must show that YOU, the student, have carried out a science related study that began with a testable question. Your parents may help you, but should not do the project for you.
- The science display must be **NO LARGER** than 3 feet wide by 2 feet deep by 6 feet high.
- NO** live or dead animals (excluding insects) may be displayed. Any work with animals or human subjects must be safe for the subjects and of a **HUMANE** and ethical nature.
- NO** dangerous or poisonous chemicals, explosives, or exposed electrical wires carrying a high voltage current may be displayed.
- Adult help in the group category is limited to preparing the display or assisting in conducting the research. The majority of the work must be that of the student.
- All experiments must be repeated three times.
- All references and sources used must be given written credit on the project.
- If you received help with your project, you must include a statement listing the help you received.
- MOST** of all have fun!



A SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT IS MORE THAN...

- An art project based on a scientific topic
 - A book report
- Information copied from other sources
 - A model without investigation
 - A collections without further research
 - A commercial kit
- A "recipe" experiment copied from books without understanding

Be sure to communicate early and often
with your teacher regarding
questions you may have about your project.