

TRI COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

PUTNAM < > WESTCHESTER < > ROCKLAND

Organized by *The Putnam Children's Discovery Center, Inc.*

A not for profit organization per 501 (c) 3

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TRI-COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2009 HIGH SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility for the Tri County Science & Technology Fair

- ❖ The Tri-County Science and Technology Fair is open to all students in public and private schools as well as home schooled children grades 9-12 located in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties.
- ❖ A limit of ten students per high school.
- ❖ Students may present a research or demonstrative exhibit in the following categories:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Earth / Space
 - Engineering / Technology
 - Environment
 - Health & Medicine
 - Math / Computers
 - Physics
 - Psychology
- ❖ Exhibits may consist of one ó three students.
- ❖ An additional competition is offered in the afternoon. Please note that competition is limited to first place winners from the morning competition in their categories and ***must be individual research***.
 - In the event that the first place project has multiple contributors or is a demonstrative exhibit the project **retains first place status at Tri County**, but will not be eligible for further competition.
 - At the Fair's discretion, the second place winner in this category or an exhibit with an exceptional score in another category will be invited to replace the first place winner.

How to register

- ❖ Applications can be found at www.DiscoveryCtr.org on the Tri County Science Fair page (link on home page). Application should be downloaded. Students may opt to register via FAX (914) 205-3623 or by mail Attn STF/HS PCDC PO Box 222 Carmel, NY 10512
- ❖ All applications will require a teacher's signature from the science dept at your school or school principal.
- ❖ Applications received before April 1 should have a suggested donation of \$25. If this is a hardship, please send what you can.
- ❖ Applications AFTER April 1 have a mandatory application fee of \$35.
- ❖ A valid email address is needed to communicate with you. Please be sure this is entered on your initial registration forms. Papers and abstracts will need to be sent via email. **Links to websites are NOT acceptable.** In the event that you do not have an email address or a parent email address that you can utilize, we will accept Faxes and mailed information

Exhibit Disclosures & Expectations

- ❖ If you have participated in WESEF or ISEF you are good to go. If you are a WESEF student check the WESEF box. If you are an ISEF student, please attach the paperwork from ISEF that describes all the precautions, lab procedures, etc that you followed.
- ❖ If you are not a WESEF or ISEF entrant, please request a HS multipacket via email from JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org. This entire packet will need to be filled out prior to entry. In the event that improper procedures are followed, you will not be permitted to enter the Fair.

Presentation:

- ❖ The Tri County Science & Technology Fair is Poster Board with "conversation style presentation." This will be in the form of questions and answers.
- ❖ The afternoon session for first place winners will be a Power Point Presentation sponsored by STANYS-Westchester Section. In the event that you do not have a Power Point Presentation you may use slides or transparencies. An overhead projector will be available and a screen. Presenters will need all other equipment to facilitate their presentation (**i.e. laptops and slide projectors, etc**) This will be a conference style presentation of empirical or theoretical research studies. Presentations will be made before judges representing the various science disciplines. Students have the option of using power point, slides or transparencies. At the completion of an offering, judges will have approximately ten minutes to ask questions to enable them to assess scientific thought and procedure (Introduction, Hypothesis, Procedure, Data Analysis, Conclusions), resourcefulness, thoroughness, oral presentation and response to questions.

The afternoon session is optional

Students who do not continue on to the next level (afternoon session) still retain their awards and any applicable prize money from the morning session known as the Tri County Science & Technology Fair as long as they remain at the Fair until 3pm. (Early departure before 3pm will result in forfeiture of any awards or prizes. The exception to early departure is if the student is presenting in the afternoon session.

GENERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXHIBITS:

1. All students are entered on an official entry form. Applications can be found at www.DiscoveryCtr.org on the Tri County Science Fair page (link on home page). Application should be downloaded. Students may opt to register via FAX (914) 205-3623 or by mail Attn STF/HS PCDC PO Box 222 Carmel, NY 10512
2. Exhibits will be judged on the following criteria: See "Judging Criteria" on page 5 (last page)
 - ✓ 35% Scientific Thought
 - ✓ 20% Creative ability
 - ✓ 20% Thoroughness
 - ✓ 15% Clarity
 - ✓ 10% Skill
3. All entrants are expected to arrive between 8:00-9:00 am. The exact time that your line will open will be described in the parent packet - the final document you will receive from the organizers. At this time you will get on line to receive your exhibit location and any other pertinent information about the day.
4. All entrants **MUST** be present at their exhibit when judging begins. All entrants will be expected to discuss their projects with the judges. The exact time when judging begins will be described in the parent packet, the final document you will receive from the organizers.
5. Exhibitors must be available until 3 pm (during fair hours) except during lunch break. In this way the exhibits can be demonstrated to interested visitors. Students who leave before 3pm forfeit their award and prize money when applicable. **EXCEPTION:** in the event that you are chosen and are participating in the afternoon session you may dismantle your project.
6. A maximum of three students will be allowed to enter for a single project. In this case, any awards will go to all participants; any monies awarded for first place will be split according to the current prize rules. **Exhibits with multiple creators MUST all be present at the time of registration / set up and stay the entire day until 3pm.** *Any prizes awarded will be forfeited if any of the persons assigned to the exhibit choose to leave early.*
 - **** High school students wishing to aspire to the state level must do an individual project of empirical or theoretical research.
7. Parents and teachers will be asked to leave the area during the judging process. Only students presenting at the Fair, judges and Fair personnel will be permitted in the exhibit area(s). **ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO CONVERSES WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN A JUDGE OR FAIR OFFICIAL DURING THE JUDGING PROCESS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED**
8. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during the Fair. Students using a cell phone for any reason will automatically be disqualified. It is prudent to alert your family and friends that you will be unable to answer the phone Saturday morning. If you have an unusual circumstance, you may give your phone to the floor manager who will answer each call and convey a message to you in regard to that emergency.
9. Plan to keep your exhibit in working order during the fair. Exhibits with moving parts should be checked often so that minor repairs can be made.

10. Electrical circuits requiring 115 volts must be properly fused and grounded. All such projects will be inspected and approved before being plugged in. **You must remember to note all electrical needs on your entry form.** *Electricity cannot be provided "on the spot" the day of the event.*
11. **LIVE ANIMALS ARE NOT PERMITTED.** *We suggest that you videotape or take still pictures if your exhibit had live animals at the local level. The judges will factor in our rule of "no animals" when evaluating the exhibit. Please bear in mind that we cannot provide VCR's or other audiovisual equipment. Should you choose to bring your own audiovisual equipment please **request electricity in advance.** Electricity cannot be provided "on the spot" the day of the event.*
 - ✓ *The **Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees (IAUC)** Protocol number and P.I. (Principal Investigator) must be named in paper/poster*
12. All projects must be clearly labeled and have the exhibit card displayed. All projects should be supplied with sturdy supports to hold up charts and diagrams.
 - **PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE SPACE DIMENSIONS:
30" WIDE x 48" LONG x 72 " HIGH. (6 feet tall)**
13. Reasonable precaution will be taken to protect exhibits, but no guarantee against damage or loss can be given. Make your project strong, rugged, durable, and sturdy. Avoid loose unattached parts; build them into your exhibit or attach them so that they can't be removed. Protect valuable or fragile exhibits with a glass case or plastic screen. **REMEMBER: YOU ARE TO STAY WITH YOUR PROJECT SO YOU CAN WATCH OUT FOR ITS WELFARE.**
14. All projects involving the use of high voltage, chemical, compressed air, or water must be attended to at all times by the exhibitor. Projects of this nature must be checked out and approved by the organizers of the fair prior to being set up. **There will be no projects that require open flames or hot plates.**
 - ✓ **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE RULES FOR PROJECTS WITH ELECTRICAL, CHEMICAL OR FLAMMABLE COMPONENTS WILL BE GROUNDS FOR THE IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY FAIR.**
15. Examples of projects **not permitted** include: taste tests, flame tests, etc.
16. If your project requires the use of videotape you must bring your own equipment **and request electricity.** WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR SUCH PROJECTS: such as VCRs & TVs.
17. All exhibits must be the work of the student. Participants may, however, obtain professional guidance in the construction of their project.
18. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THEIR MATERIALS IN AN ORDERLY AND CLEAN MANNER UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE FAIR ON SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2009 at 3pm.
19. There will be no more than two projects per table.
20. At the conclusion of the Fair (approximately 3pm) you will be asked to collapse your exhibit table and place it in the pile of tables. See exhibitor floor manager the day of the Fair for exact details.

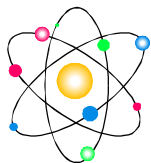
***** *Electricity* *** cannot be provided “on the spot” the day of the event.**

Be sure to request all electrical needs when you submit your entries -- please further note there are only so many outlets -- the earlier you get your entry forms in, the more likely it is that you will have all your needs met.

Please contact Janice Newman Email: JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org with any questions about the rules, or pre-authorization of exhibits that require pre-authorization. Due to the volume of exhibits, only the high school students entered and their teachers should email questions about the Fair and the afternoon session competition.

SUGGESTION

Judges will read or visually scan reports -- we suggest that a minimum font of 12 is used when typing reports.



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Judging Criteria

A. Creative Ability

Is this an original idea or an original approach to a new idea? Both are good. Did you show the ingenuity in the materials, apparatus & techniques or did you just buy a kit? Did you demonstrate the ability to improvise and adapt? Is the project a collection, or is it a purposeful one?

B. Scientific Thought

Does your exhibit show: organized procedures, accurate observations, controlled experiments, cause & effect reasoning, theories, analysis and synthesis? Weight is given to the likely amount of real study and effort represented in the exhibit. The project cannot be just a demonstration or an attractive display.

C. Thoroughness

How completely have you explored or studied the problem? You should record evidence you have gathered as data in notebooks, journals, or logbooks. Include bibliographies, charts, tables and graphs. Be sure to identify experimental organisms and/or apparatus.

D. Skill

Is your workmanship good? Do you show evidence of mastery of scientific and mathematical techniques? Did you construct own apparatus? Overall construction and look of the project should be neat, organized, easy to read, sturdy, and self-supporting.

E. Clarity

Does the display clearly explain what you did? A neatly written, well-organized backboard that is easy to follow provides clarity. Things which insure clarity are: labels, guide marks, well written descriptions, emphasis on important items, labeled graphs, labeled tables, legends underneath graphs and tables. Which of these does your display have?