



## 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*

[www.DiscoveryCtr.org](http://www.DiscoveryCtr.org)

Mailing address: PO Box 222

Carmel, NY 10512

Fax 914-205-3623

Phone 845-621-1260

Email: [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto:JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org)

# TRI-COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2010 ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Eligibility:** The Tri-county Science and Technology Fair participation is open to seven students (one per category) from each division K-4; 5-8 located in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties. (High Schools are also invited to participate; they have different rules and categories). Elementary & Middle School students need to first participate in a science fair at *your* school and they should have received first place in that school Science Fair. *Please note: an official school representative must be the one to fill out the entry forms, i.e. a science teacher, principal or science department chair; we regret we cannot accept entry forms filled out by parents.* While there is no fee for entries received by 3/31/10, we are requesting that each PTA /School make a donation of at least \$100 to help defray the costs associated with producing this event.

**Any entry received after April 1 will have a \$35 per student entry fee.**

### **GENERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXHIBITS:**

1. All students are entered on an official entry form which is submitted through their teacher to the Putnam Children's Discovery Center by email ( special ð forms) or FAX (914) 205-3623 no later than **April 1<sup>st</sup>**
2. Exhibits will be judged on the following criteria: See ðJudging Criteriaö on page 4 (last page)

#### **Elementary School Division:**

20% Creative Ability,  
20% Scientific Thought,  
20% Thoroughness,  
20% Skill,  
20% Clarity

#### **Middle School Division:**

25% Creative Ability,  
25% Scientific Thought,  
15% Thoroughness,  
15% Skill,  
20% Clarity

3. All entrants are expected to arrive between 8:00-9:30 am. At this time they will get on line to receive their exhibit location and any other pertinent information about the day. All entrants **MUST** be present at their exhibit at the time of judging at 9:45 am on Saturday morning. All entrants will be expected to discuss their projects with the judges. Exhibitors must be available during fair hours except during lunch break. In this way the exhibits can be demonstrated to interested visitors. **Watch for a parent packet—to confirm times, dates & places.** This packet will be available to teachers to distribute to their students after entries have been received.

4. 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. . **Multiple creators of an exhibit MUST all be present at the time of registration / set up and stay the entire day.** *Any prizes awarded will be forfeited if any of the persons assigned to the exhibit choose to leave early.*

5. 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.

6. 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 for each student who needs electricity.** *Electricity cannot be provided “on the spot” the day of the event.*

7. **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.*

**\*\*Further note all animal studies MUST be Reviewed by Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees ( IAUC)**

✓ *The IAUC Protocol number and P.I. (Principal Investigator) must be named in paper/poster*

8. 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 40" HIGH.**

9. 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.**

10. 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.**

11. Example of projects **not permitted** include: taste tests, flame tests, etc.
12. If your project requires the use of videotape you must get prior approval from the fair organizers. WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR SUCH PROJECTS: such as VCRs & TVs.
13. All exhibits must be the work of the student. Participants may, however, obtain professional guidance in the construction of their project.
14. Exhibits will be grouped according to category and grade level. Grade levels will be K-4; 5-8; 9-12. The elementary and middle school categories will be: BIOLOGY, EARTH/SPACE SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY, MATHEMATICS/COMPUTERS, and ENVIRONMENT.
15. 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.
16. Parents and teachers will be asked to leave the area during the judging process. ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO CONVERSES WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN A JUDGE OR FAIR OFFICIAL DURING THE JUDGING PROCESS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.
17. Only the teacher submitting the entry forms should be in contact with Janice Newman. We cannot entertain calls from students or parents.

***\*\*\* 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.*

✓ *See the **Clarification of Special Needs letter** that should help you with your student entries, special needs, including whether or not the parent understands what is involved. Once you have chosen your students for this Fair, please have their parents read and return the letter to you, **affording you a record** of the decisions that were made on behalf of the student / exhibit. You may choose to **include a copy** of these letters with your entry forms to avoid misunderstandings at the Fair.*

**Please contact Janice Newman Email: [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto:JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org) or (845) 621-1260 ext. 201 with any questions about the rules, or pre-authorization of exhibits that require pre-authorization.**

## **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 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?