

## 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 2019

## HIGH SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

*Please note is "assumed" that a Fair official- ie teacher, principal or department chair is reading these rules even though they are made public*

### 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 **Eighteen** exhibits per high school. **\*\* New this year\*\* We need schools to provide one judge for every 6 exhibits on the HS level. So 1-6 students = 1 judge; 7-12 exhibits = 2 judges and 13-18 exhibits = 3 judges.** Each exhibit (project) can have up to three contributors. Students may present a research or demonstrative exhibit in the following categories:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Clinical/Social Psychology
- Earth / Space
- Engineering / Technology
- Environment
- Health & Nutrition
- Math / Computers
- Medicine and Medical Science & Technology
- Physics
- Physiological/Experimental Psychology

### How to register

1. Teacher, Science Department Chair or Principal must fill out an "Intent to Participate" form before entering students. This is emailed in advance of the Fair to all schools who have participated in WESEF or Tri County in the previous year. Teachers who did not receive this email should email [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto:JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org) to join the list at any time.
2. All entries are done online to avoid spelling errors and mistakes.
3. There are two types of registrations "**School Pays**" or "**Student Self Pays**"
4. When a "**School Pays**" the teacher will receive a link that will generate an invoice. Upon receipt of payment the teacher responsible for entering students will get a link to enter up to eighteen projects.

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- \*\* Please enter one exhibit with all students associated with it. You do not have to enter all eighteen at once. You can enter a few today and then return to the link and enter a few next week and so on as long as you are within the deadlines you will not incur additional fees. **EACH ENTRY IS FINAL**
- \*\* We suggest not having multiple teachers' use the link as that can cause more than 18 exhibits.
- \*\* Should you exceed the number of students you paid for you will be billed at the current rate and that goes up as we get closer to the Fair.
- \*\* Should you enter less than you paid for, please note there are no refunds.

5. When the student uses **Student Self Pay** there is a link at [www.DiscoveryCtr.org](http://www.DiscoveryCtr.org) on the **Tri County Science Fair** page about the middle of the page. This link will allow the student to enter all the pertinent information and pay through PayPal. Please note the following:
  - a. There is a \$35.00 entry fee per student (i.e. two students on a project = \$70 and three students on a project = \$105) Fee includes a free T shirt.
  - b. This fee goes up to \$40 per student February 1; \$45 per student March 20; and \$60 per student April 1. We reserve the right to not accept entries past April 2 as April 1 is the deadline.
  - c. **Students with multiple contributors should all register on one form and pay with one credit card.**
  - d. There are no refunds.
6. Please be aware of deadlines. Students must be entered on or before April 1 (by midnight). On April 2 at 12:01 AM the registration fee goes up to \$60 per student.
7. Approximately 10-14 days prior to the Fair, the organizers reserve the right to shut down registration

### Exhibit Disclosures & Expectations

- If you have participated in WESEF or ISEF you are good to go.
- If you are a WESEF student check the participated in WESEF box on registration form
- If you are not a WESEF or ISEF participant the person sending you to Tri County (i.e. your teacher or principal) will have to attest that proper protocol consistent with WESEF / ISEF was in place. i.e. No cruelty to animals and any research requiring special permission was sought out and granted. Example: Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents requires prior approval by SRC, IACUC or Institutional Biosafety Committee. You are expected to have the paperwork that describes all the precautions, lab procedures that you followed.
- ❖ **In the event that improper procedures are followed, you will not be permitted to enter (or remain at) 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.

### GENERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING EXHIBITS:

1. All students are entered online either through the **Student Self Pays** system or **School Pays** system
2. Exhibits will be judged on the following criteria: See “Judging Criteria” on last page

	35%	Scientific Thought
	20%	Creative Ability
	20%	Thoroughness
	15%	Clarity
	10%	Skill

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3. All entrants are expected to arrive between 8:00-9:00 am. The exact times are described in an email prior to the Fair. Please check emails regularly that come from [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto:JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org) as changes can be made last minute. Students will get on line to receive your exhibit location and any other pertinent information about the day during your designated registration time.
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 email each exhibitor receives prior to the Fair.
5. Exhibitors must be available until 4 pm (during fair hours) except during lunch break. In this way the exhibits can be demonstrated to interested visitors. Students who leave before 4pm forfeit their award and prize money when applicable.
6. A maximum of three students will be allowed to enter for a single exhibit (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 contributors MUST all be present at the time of registration / set up and stay the entire day until 4pm.** *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 New York State level must do an individual project of empirical or theoretical research.**
7. Parents, friends 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 or any electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited during the Fair. Students using a communication device 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. Electricity is **NOT** provided on the HS level. If you need to use a laptop for the purposes of presenting slides etc. Please bring a fully charged device and battery and/or back up.
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 **note no electricity is provided on the HS level.***
12. Exhibits with water are not permitted.

13. All projects must be clearly labeled and have the exhibit card provided at your location displayed. Judges will need to see it to sign it.
- All projects should be sturdy
  - PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING POSTER BOARD DIMENSIONS: Side panels are 12" and center panel is 24" (opens to 36 inches) and can be up to 6 feet tall.
  - *Space is usually our biggest challenge and some exhibit boards will be back to back to keep the growing Fair manageable, rest assured you will have adequate space if you are using a standard WESEF poster board(see dimensions herein)*
14. 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.**
15. All projects involving the use of high voltage, chemical, compressed air, or water must always have someone in attendance and it is the exhibitor's sole responsibility regardless of who is watching it. 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 FAIR.**
16. Other examples of projects **not permitted** include: taste tests, flame tests.
17. All exhibits must be the work of the student. Participants may, however, obtain a mentor or professional guidance in the construction of their exhibit (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 27, 2019 at 2:30 pm. At this time exhibits can and should be taken to your vehicle. Please return promptly for the awards ceremony in the auditorium. You are expected to leave the exhibition area in an orderly fashion (ie no garbage around your exhibit area).
19. Table space is limited. Several exhibits may share the same table, but will never compromise the dimensions for presentation boards
20. At the conclusion of the Fair (approximately 2:30pm) you will be asked to take your exhibit and relevant materials with you to your car and head to the awards ceremony.

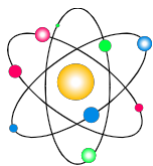
**Students should contact their teacher or Science Department Chair with any questions relating to the Fair. If they do not have the answer please ask them to email Janice Newman.**

**Email: [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto: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 teachers should email questions. We use email so everyone has a copy of exactly what was said.**

## **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?