



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

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TRI-COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2020

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 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 an invoice via email. Upon receipt of payment the teacher responsible for entering students will get a link to enter up to eighteen projects.

Tri County Science & Technology Fair is done with cooperation from:
Science Teachers Association of NYS (Westchester Section);
Westchester Putnam Technology Educators and Science Professionals

** 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. **IF YOU SURPASS THE 18 EXHIBITS** they may incur additional fees or not be allowed depending on the number over the limit and if space permits.

** 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 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 \$36.00 entry fee per student (i.e. two students on a project = \$72 and three students on a project = \$108) Fee includes a free T shirt.
 - b. This fee goes up to \$42 per student February 1; \$47 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 and may be denied.
7. **YOU CANNOT** have some students self pay and others school pay.

In the event that we have a combination of self pay students and school paid students we will refund the self pay students and ask you to enter them using the school pay link that only the science teacher or person designated to enter students at your school should have.
8. On or about April 2 the Fair 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

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 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. THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED

*We suggest that you videotape or take still pictures if your exhibit had live animals, water, flames, taste tests, chemicals or compressed air, 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.***

water are not permitted.

exhibits involving chemicals

Live animals not permitted

Exhibits involving flames not permitted

Taste tests not permitted

exhibits involving compressed air

exhibits involving high voltage not permitted

exhibits involving hot plates not permitted

If in doubt about something not mentioned, please have the science teacher contact JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org to clarify / obtain permission. Basically, we want a poster board and video, keeping in mind there is no electricity and the battery supporting your video device should last a minimum of 6 hours to get the student through the judging period.

12. 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)*

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 exhibits must be the work of the student. Participants may, however, obtain a mentor or professional guidance in the construction of their exhibit (project).

15. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THEIR MATERIALS IN AN ORDERLY **AND CLEAN MANNER** UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE FAIR ON SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2020 at 2:30 pm. At this time exhibits can and should be taken to your vehicle. **You must clean up the area around your exhibit.** 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).

16. Table space is limited. Several exhibits may share the same table, but will never compromise the dimensions for presentation boards

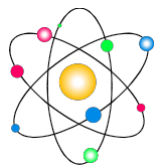
17. At the conclusion of the Fair (approximately 2:30pm) you will be asked to take your exhibit and relevant materials with you to your car and head to the awards ceremony.

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 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?