



## TRI COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

PUTNAM <> WESTCHESTER <> ROCKLAND

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

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

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# TRI-COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

## 2021 VIRTUAL FAIR

### ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE 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:

- The Tri-County Science and Technology Fair is open to all students in public and private schools as well as home schooled children grades K-12 located in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam Counties. Students may reside outside of these counties as long as the school is physically within the county limits. Example: a student lives in Connecticut while attending a private school in New York.
- The first **Twelve** projects per division are covered by a flat fee. Additional projects can be entered but they will incur an additional fee, see chart herein.
- Elementary Division is K-4
- Middle School Division is grades 5-8
- A school that spans across the divisions may submit students in each division. Example a K-5 school may send up to 24 projects within grades K-4 and up to 27 projects from grade 5.
- We will use the term "project" to represent an exhibit. A project can have 1, 2 or 3 students contributing to it and will have a single poster board regardless of number of contributors.

*\*\*\* Please note HS (grades 9-12) have different rules, please find online at [www.DiscoveryCtr.org](http://www.DiscoveryCtr.org).*

#### Entry Fees and Admissions:

- \$250 **per school flat fee (up to 12 projects) until January 31** entry fee if school is contained in one division.
- \$295 flat fee (**up to 12 projects) until January 31** if school spans two divisions (i.e. K-5 spans two of our divisions K-4, 5-8 and each division may send 12 projects)
- An additional 12 exhibits in elementary division and extra 15 exhibits in middle school can be added. \$30 for solo; \$35 double; \$42 a project with three contributors when added before January 31. ***Elementary division cannot exceed 24 and middle school cannot exceed 27 projects.*** See chart.

**Entry Fees and Admissions continued:**

Flat Rate Division Fees

When you have exceeded 12 projects use additional projects fees

Price Valid Dates	Single Division (K-4 or 5-8) <i>Up to 12 projects</i>	Double Division (ex K-5, 3-6, k-6) <i>Up to 12 projects</i>	Additional Solo Projects	Additional Two Contributors Projects	Additional Three Contributors Projects
Until January 31	\$250	\$295	\$30	\$35	\$42
February 1-28(29)	\$300	\$345	\$35	\$42	\$45
March 1-31	\$325	\$370	\$40	\$48	\$55
With permission April 1	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$100	\$100	\$100

**Pandemic Exceptions**

- Students that participated in a previous Tri County Fair may enter directly if their school is not holding a competition.
- Schools that cannot hold a Fair live or Virtually and cannot determine who to send at the school level can allow parents to contact us directly and it will be first come, first serve up to 24 projects on the Elementary level and 27 projects on the Middle School level with no duplications. For example, if a fourth parent wants to enter in Biology and three projects have already done so from a school that category will be closed on that level.
- **Fee Structure for a direct entered project is as follows:**

Prices Valid Dates	Individual Contributor	Two Contributors	Three Contributors
Until January 31	\$50	\$65	\$75
February 1-28 (29)	\$60	\$75	\$85
March 1-31	\$75	\$90	\$95
With permission April 1	\$100	\$100	\$100

Above fees are paid online with a debit or credit card

**Categories**

- **BIOLOGY**
- **CHEMISTRY**
- **EARTH/SPACE**
- **ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **HEALTH & MEDICINE**
- **MATHEMATICS/COMPUTERS**
- **PHYSICS**
- **PSYCHOLOGY (middle school only)**

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Tri County Science & Technology Fair is done with cooperation from:  
 Science Teachers Association of NYS (Westchester Section); Westchester Putnam Technology Educators and Science Professionals  
 Grand Sponsor Pepsi R&D; additional support from Kohls Associates in Action

**Please note only three projects per category. You do not need to fill every category.** Example you could send 3 Biology: 1 Chemistry, no Earth / Space.

### **GENERAL RULES**

1. Parents are required to fill out permissions slips allowing their child(ren) to participate in the Virtual Fair. You will be asked to upload these as you enter each project.
2. Your students should create a poster board using Free PowerPoint Templates for Posters - Science Fair. While we are not advertising this site this is one of the places we found. <http://posters4research.com/templates.php> . Students should choose a poster board with 3 columns 36 x 48. Students will be required to turn the Poster Board into a **PDF**. They may also upload it in the original format. If choosing the latter then **BOTH** the pdf and original format need to be uploaded.
3. Registered students will receive an email sent to the parent email you provide after April 1 with questions and a place to upload the poster board and video.
4. **FREE** Video Editing Sources: VSDC (Windows) iMovie (Mac) have been recommended to us although we have never used them.
5. All videos **MUST** be on YouTube set to **UNLISTED** so only the person with a link will have access.
6. We expect the video, poster board and answers will be viewed by 3 judges and possibly a Tri County volunteer if needed.
7. We have asked the judges to respect the judging process and view your video privately, although we have no control over this.
8. While children are home and likely in casual mode if they decide to be in the video, we suggest that they wear the same clothing they would wear if they were going to school.
- 9.
10. Students do not have to appear in the video, they can narrate it through voiceover/off camera.
11. If a project has received awards from a previous contest, **we ask that you crop out / do not include any awards.**
12. If applicable, students should include in their video any demonstration involving their experiment.
13. Post Fair only send us pictures from your school ceremonies where you have permission from the parents. Often schools like to do accolades to their winners. We would love to have those as well.

### **SPECIFIC RULES TO ELEMENTARY (K-4) DIVISION**

1. If this is a solo project (just one student) the video should be 3-4 minutes however if the experiment takes a little longer to achieve you may have enough time sufficient to show the experiment in its' entirety. A team can be 4-5 minutes.
2. If this is a team and unable to merge videos together made separately, please note there is an area for up to three team member videos to be placed on the entry form. Each team member should pick an aspect of the project to address. Each contributor may each do up to 2 minutes in their videos.
3. Each project will be judged three times.
4. Please note each project will be judged using the Elementary Division criteria in the table below.

<b>Elementary School Division:</b>	
20%	Creative Ability
20%	Scientific Thought
20%	Thoroughness
20%	Skill
20%	Clarity

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## **SPECIFIC RULES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8) DIVISION**

1. 10% of our Fair in grades 6-8 (current grade student is in now) will be eligible to participate in Broadcom Masters [www.societyforscience.org/broadcom-masters/](http://www.societyforscience.org/broadcom-masters/)
2. During the registration process teachers will be asked if their students can represent their school at Broadcom Masters if they win at Tri County. Please ask parents in advance. This will be on the permission form but ask parents if they leave this blank if their intent is participate, or not participate.
3. We are looking for a 5-6 minute presentation uploaded to YouTube set to “UNLISTED” so only someone with the link can view it. This needs to be narrated by the student(s) who did the project. In many cases you may have something you are demonstrating, and you can recreate your experiment in the video.
4. If this is a solo project (just one student) the video should be 4-6 minutes with the caveat that if it’s a demonstration that takes less time you don’t need to fill up the time. If it takes a minute or two more go for it.
5. Team projects may upload up to three videos through the entry form, though it is preferred that they are all merged into one video. If you need the separate video option Each team member should pick an aspect of the project to address. Each team member may speak for up to 2 minutes in their video. **We prefer that teams utilize the entire 6 minutes since the work is being divided.**
6. Each exhibit will be judged by at least three and by as many as five separate judges independent of one another, and each exhibit will be seen by the same number of judges.
7. Please note each project will be judged using the criteria in the table below.

<b>Middle School Division:</b>	
25%	Creative Ability
25%	Scientific Thought
15%	Thoroughness
15%	Skill
20%	Clarity

## **FAIR TIMELINE**

- **Now through March 31** students should develop their poster boards and videos.
- **April 1<sup>st</sup>** registration ends. Either a teacher has entered the student, or the student has paid to enter.
- On or about **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** students will receive an email from the Fair with a link to upload video, posterboard and answer questions for judges. Please make sure [JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org](mailto:JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org) is “friendly” so it does not end up in spam.
- **April 10<sup>th</sup>** midnight (NY time zone) is the deadline to complete the link for the judging process to begin.
- **April 24<sup>th</sup>** winners will be announced on YouTube and by email.

## **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 your 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 poster board that is easy to follow provides clarity. Things which ensure 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?