



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

Mailing address: PO Box 222 Carmel, NY 10512

TRI-COUNTY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR 2026 FAIR

K-5 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Grades 6-8 please email JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org for the new Fair for these grades

Please note it 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-3
- Division is grades 4 & 5
- A school that spans across the divisions may submit students in each division. Example: a K-5 school may send up to 12 projects within grades K-3 and up to 12 projects from grades 4 and 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.
- **Team:** We define a team as students all attending the same school. They can be in different grades within that school. **** Please note grades 6-8 are under a different Fair please email JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org for further instructions and HS (grades 9-12) have different rules, please find online at www.DiscoveryCtr.org.*

Entry Fees and Admissions:

- \$295 per school flat fee (up to 12 projects) until March 20 if school is contained in one division.
- \$355 flat fee (up to 12 projects) until March 20 if school spans two divisions. Example: K-5 spans two of our divisions K-3 and 4 & 5. Each division may send 12 projects.
- An additional 4 exhibits in K-3 division and extra 5 exhibits in 4 & 5 division can be added. \$30 for solo; \$35 double; \$42 a project with three contributors when added before January 31. ***K-3 division cannot exceed 16 projects and 4 & 5 division cannot exceed 17 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	\$295	\$355	\$30	\$45	\$55
February 1-28(29)	\$295	\$355	\$30	\$35	\$42
March 1-20	\$295	\$355	\$30	\$35	\$42
March 21-31	\$325	\$400	\$55	\$75	\$80
With permission March 22	Not applicable	Not applicable	\$100	\$100	\$100

Parent Pays or Schools with less than 6 students

- Students that participated in a previous Tri County Fair may enter directly if their school is not holding a competition and they have their current school's permission.
- 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 16 projects K-3 division and 17 projects on the 4 & 5 division with no duplications. Example: if a fourth parent wants to enter Biology and three projects have already been submitted the category will be closed to that category. This requires school permission.
- **Fee Structure for a direct entered project must be paid by debit or credit card online are as follows:**

Price Valid Dates	Individual Contributor	Two Contributors	Three Contributors
Until January 31	\$35	\$65	\$75
February 1-28 (29)	\$35	\$65	\$75
March 1-21	\$35	\$65	\$75
With permission 3/22	\$100	\$100	\$100

Categories

- **BIOLOGY**
- **CHEMISTRY**
- **EARTH/SPACE**
- **ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **HEALTH & MEDICINE**
- **MATHEMATICS/COMPUTERS**
- **PHYSICS**

- **PSYCHOLOGY (grades 4 & 5 division)**

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.

FAIR TIMELINE

- **Around the beginning of March, teachers will receive a permission slip link that should be forwarded to the parents of the participating students.**
- **March 29 is the absolute last day to have parent permissions slips into us. (Prefer by March 10th)**
- **April 1 registration ends.** Either a teacher has entered the student, or the student has paid to enter.
- **April 25 Fair will be held at FE Bellows School in Mamaroneck, NY. 9 am until noon.**

GENERAL RULES

1. Parents are required to fill out permission slips allowing their child(ren) to participate in the Fair. You will be asked to upload these as you enter each project.
 1. We will send you a link to give to your parents.
 2. You will receive a copy of what they do electronically.
 3. Create a pdf. You will need to upload that pdf later.
2. Students using live humans in their research must indicate that the project is in compliance with IACUC or IRB protocol. The only exception is if the student is studying with their own family members but they **MUST** have written permission from each person. Parents can sign for their minor children. This implies that the minor children are the siblings/cousins of the person creating the exhibit. Email these permissions to JNewman@DiscoveryCtr.org.
3. Students should choose a poster board with 3 columns 36 x 48.
4. Parents or a designated adult chaperone must always be on site during the Fair. A parent can oversee multiple students. We do not recommend more than 3 per adult. In the event of a true emergency the adult will need to be responsible for the children in their care. Too many children could prove problematic.

SPECIFIC RULES TO K-3 DIVISION

1. Each project will be judged three times.
2. Please note each project will be judged using the Elementary Division criteria in the table below.

Elementary School Division:	
20%	Creative Ability
20%	Scientific Thought
20%	Thoroughness
20%	Skill
20%	Clarity

SPECIFIC RULES TO 4 & 5 DIVISION

1. Projects will be judged 3 times
2. Please note each project will be judged using the criteria in the table below.

4 & 5 Division:	
25%	Creative Ability
25%	Scientific Thought
15%	Thoroughness
15%	Skill
20%	Clarity

Judging Criteria

refer to Division as to how it is weighted

A. Creative Ability

Is this an original idea or an original approach to a new idea? Both are good. Did you show 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?