

## The purpose of the Science Fair:

- To give students the opportunity to:
  - Do *real* science, math and engineering
  - Learn about a new subject *or more about an old one*
  - Learn how to scientifically investigate
  - *Have fun!*
- Provide motivation for students to apply creativity and critical thinking to the solution of problems
- Encourage students, educators, scientists and engineers to exchange ideas and discuss career opportunities;
- Recognize the achievements of talented science and engineering students in LA County
- Foster school-community cooperation in developing the scientific potential and communication skills of tomorrow's leaders in science and engineering

## The Judge's Job is to:

- Question skillfully and thoroughly
- Leave the student feeling positive about her/his accomplishments
- Help the student learn something from the experience
- Determine winners
- Make sure every entrant is interviewed once in each round

## Judging Mindset

- ⇒ Consider *how well* the resources were used
- ⇒ Not all projects are hypothesis driven or lend themselves to the use of controls
- ⇒ Hypothesis should be based on theory and data, NOT guessing
- ⇒ All things being equal, ORIGINALITY is superior
- ⇒ Error analysis IS important: *appropriate to grade level*

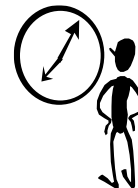
## When Judging and reviewing student work, Look for...

- Project Report
- Daily Log/Notebook
- Analysis of Data
- Communication Skills



## Timetable Overview

- **9:10 Judge Introductions @ project 1 of each category.** Introduce yourselves and your "starting points"
- **Moring Break** (staggered) 20 minutes to use the restrooms, and breath. (If interviewing with a partner up to this point, it would be great to split up after the break.
- **LUNCH** (staggered by categories) - take time to meet as a team and review strong projects so far! Determine the "semi-finalists;" kids that need everyone's attention once more.
- **Afternoon judging:** *Top projects should be interviewed by each judge once more by end of day. EVERY KID GETS AN AFTERNOON INTERVIEW!* (This is between 40-80 minutes)
- **Decisions;** Judging team will determine 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Honorable Mention winners. Chair must turn in final award & scoring sheets by 4:30pm



## Award Notes

- **Smedly-** this award goes to an individual project that was completed by the student without help from outside resources. No team projects
- **Sweepstakes-** nominate your 1<sup>st</sup> place project for this award if they are **outstanding**. The sweepstakes winner is the best project for each division. Please also include a note as to why this project is so GREAT!
- Remember that if a project places 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> they WILL COMPLETE at the CA State Science Fair.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place-** Our number allotment has decreased. Please assign your 3<sup>rd</sup> place project as
  - A- outstanding, send to State
  - B-good project
  - C- okay, but shouldn't go to state
- CONSIDER RECOGNIZING ABOUT 25% OF THE PROJECTS PRESENT.

## Reminders:

- ★ **DO NOT reveal status to students** ★
- Chair must turn in final award sheet and scoring sheets by 4:30 P.M. **Please.** ☺
- **Sign the tent card after each interview.**
- *Thank you for supporting students on their journey of science!*

Join the LA County Science Fair Planning Committee; contact Jennifer Moses [jmoses@lascifair.org](mailto:jmoses@lascifair.org)  
 If you are interested in judging at the CA State Science Fair visit <http://cssf.usc.edu/JudgeReg/JudgeReg/>

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FAIR COMMITTEE IN 2016. PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ISSUES THAT YOU SEE AS A VIOLATION OF THE BELOW POLICIES.**



### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair is an equal opportunity for all events, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, medical condition, national origin, race and religious creed. Judges & volunteers bear the responsibility to act as guardians and custodians of the students during their volunteering. Their familiarity with the students' special sensitivities is imperative to the overall Science Fair effort to achieve an equal opportunity for all environment, free of discrimination.

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a participant in the Los Angeles County Science Fair:



- I will compete honestly and with good sportsmanship.
- I will act with integrity and treat others with courtesy.
- I will respect Fair volunteers, staff, and judges and their decisions.

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR PLEDGE FOR PARENTS & THE PUBLIC**

On behalf of the parents and visitors, I pledge to be an example for our children by:

- Respecting the rules of the Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair,
- Encouraging excellence in experimentation and investigation,
- Supporting independence, originality, and creativity in the design and completion of all competitive projects,
- Respecting the authority and decisions of the staff, volunteers, and judges of the Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair.

My examples will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all participating schools.

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