Science Fair Workshop

Austin Peay State University

January 12, 2010

Elementary School Fairs

- Each elementary school has an individual science fair.

- Each elementary school can submit **3** projects per grade level (K-5) to the Montgomery County Science Fair.
  - These entries are typically the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade level.

- **Montgomery County Science Fair Dates:**

  Thursday, April 15, 2010

  Friday, April 16, 2010

Contact the Director

Lisa Sullivan, Ph.D.

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Science Fair Website:

http://www.apsu.edu/robertsonr/sciencefair/mcsciencefair.htm

Why do a science fair project?

- Encourages enthusiasm and excitement for science to help answer curiosities
- Allows expression of individuality and creative expression
- Stimulates imagination and independent thinking
- Promotes the use of the scientific method and math skills

How to choose a topic?

- Follow child's natural curiosities – do NOT force interests – ask questions!
- Make it FUN!!!
- Helpful websites:
  - www.apsu.edu/robertsonr/sciencefair/mcsciencefair.htm
  - www.sciencebuddies.org/
  - school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/
  - www.apsu.edu/robertsonr/sciencefair/project%20ideas.htm
  - www.google.com

What stands out in a great science fair project?

- Unique topic OR old topic done in a unique way
- **MULTIPLE TRIALS!!!** Do the experiment 3-5 times!
- Well-organized, easy-to-read project board
- Good data presentation – lab books, graphs, pictures
  - NO pictures of students' faces!

The project board

- **Board specifics**: 3-sided poster board; 36 inches wide X 48 inches high

- **Required Components**:
  - **Title** – This should be an attention getter on the top of the project.
  - **Purpose** – The purpose of the project must be stated in measurable terms.
  - **Materials** – Include a list of all resources used.
  - **Procedure** – This is a step-by-step report of what was done for the project.
  - **Results/Data** – What did the students observe during the experiment?
  - **Conclusions** – This is the answer to the purpose based on project results.

The project board

- **NO food, soil samples, waste materials, animal or plant specimens, or chemicals (including water) can be displayed with the project, even if sealed tightly!**

- **Photographs**: Cover all faces of individuals!

- **Display items**: There is a 12 inch by 22 inch space available in front of each project to display lab notebooks, picture books; etc.

Special projects

If you answer YES to any of the following questions, you must submit the specified forms to the Director for approval PRIOR to starting the project!

- **Does your project deal with human subjects?**
  - **Projects Using Human Subjects Approval Form**
  - **Informed Consent Form (for all participants under 18 years old)**
- **Does your project deal with pathogens or disease-causing agents?**
  - **Projects Using Pathogens (Disease-causing Agents) Approval Form**
- **Does your project deal with non-human vertebrate animals?**
  - **Projects Using Vertebrate Animals Approval Form**

If your project involves only observing vertebrate animals in their natural setting, no additional forms or approval are required.

Montgomery County Science Fair (K-5)

- **Congratulations!** You've won at your school and can compete at the county-wide fair!

- **<u>County Fair Schedule at APSU:</u>**

Date	Time	Event	Place
Thurs. Apr. 15, 2010	3:00 – 6:00 pm	Project Set-up	Memorial Health Gym
Fri. Apr. 16, 2010	3:00 – 6:00 pm	Public Viewing of Projects	Memorial Health Gym
	6:30 pm	Awards Ceremony	Dunn Center Gym
	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Project Pick-up	Memorial Health Gym

Prizes at the county science fair

Courtesy of the Clarksville Department of Electricity

- **EVERYONE:** medal and t-shirt

For each grade level:

- **1st place:** ribbons and $100 savings bond
- **2nd place:** ribbons and $75 savings bond
- **3rd place:** ribbons and $50 savings bond