



# SCIENCE FAIR

## FEBRUARY 11, 2010

It's that time of year again! NYOS will be hosting its elementary science fair on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Each class will be doing an experiment together to display, but we also encourage individuals to explore science by doing their own project.

Included in this packet you will find the three types of accepted projects as well as a list of items not allowed in the gym on the night of the fair.

Also included is a list of science fair-related websites to help get you started!

Remember - if you plan on participating, please allow plenty of time for your child to complete their project.

Please check with your child's teacher for specific guidelines related to the science fair and individual entries.

### 3 Types of Projects

- **Collection/Classification**
  - Grades K-3
  - A collection of items that are organized into groups according to their similarities and differences and labeled.
- **Exhibit: Demonstration, Model or Display**
  - Shows how or why something works the way it does. This information can be found in a book; the facts are known.
- **Experiment**
  - Used the steps of the scientific method to answer a question to which you do not know the answer without testing.

### Criteria for Collections

- **Display Board Elements**
  - **Title**
  - **Research Report** (gives info about the type of items collected)
  - **Classification Scheme** of collected items
  - **Conclusions** describe what was learned
  - **References and Acknowledgements** student credits all sources

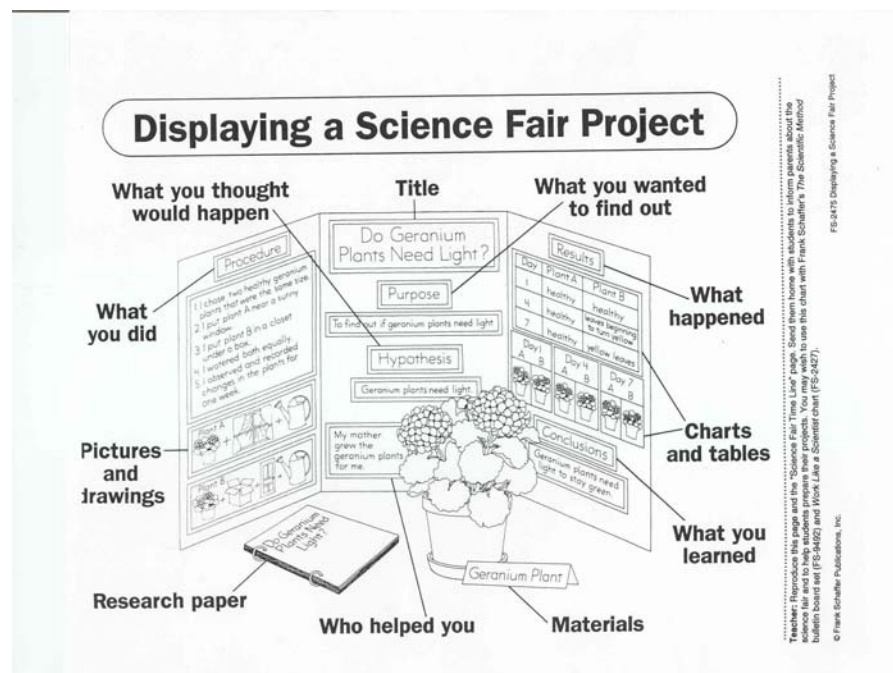


### Criteria for Exhibits

- **Display Board Elements**
  - **Title** of Demonstration, Model, or Display
  - **Research Report** gives background info about exhibit (may include diagram/pictures)
  - **Explanation** of what the exhibit shows
  - **Conclusions** describe what the student has learned
  - **References and Acknowledgements**

## Criteria for Experiments

- **Display Board Elements**
  - **Title** of experiment
  - **Problem:** What question are you trying to answer?
  - **Definitions:** Explains the meanings of any special words stated in the "Problem"
  - **Hypothesis:** This is what you think will happen before you start to test
  - **Background Information:** What do books, articles, and the Internet say about your topic?
  - **Experimental Materials:** What items do you need to perform your experiment?
  - **Experimental Procedure:** These are the steps you follow to test your problem.
  - **Results:** What happened? (Use tables of data or graphs plus a description)
  - **Conclusion:** What is the answer to the question in your "Problem?" How do you explain your results?
  - **References and Acknowledgements:** Books, resource people, articles (include the title and author) or specific Web sites (not the search engine, i.e., Google, Yahoo, etc.)



## **Project Display & Safety Rules**

### **Items Not Allowed in the Exhibit Hall**

- **No organisms; living, dead or preserved plants or animals\***
- No human/animal parts or body fluid (includes items like feathers)
- No human or animal food
- No Bacteria or mold cultures
- No liquids
- No glass
- No dirt, soil, gravel, rocks, sand, bark, etc.
- Do not cause injury or stress to any animals - including keeping an animal in a container not similar to its usual habitat.

### **Allowed and Encouraged Items**

- Photographs, drawings, or stuffed animals/artificial plants should be used to depict the items not allowed.
- Be sure to properly credit/acknowledge all photographers.

*\*(Exception: Grades 1- 3 allows properly-sealed (double bagged in freezer bags or clear plastic containers with lid sealed using clear book tape) dried dead plant and mineral materials (i.e. soil, leaves, shells, etc.).*

### **Resources**

- Austin Regional Science Festival (guidelines we're following)
  - [www.sciencefest.org](http://www.sciencefest.org)
- Discovery Education Science Fair Central
  - <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>
- Project Ideas
  - <http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/category0.html>

More resources on following pages.