DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR
Rules and Regulations

General Information:

(1) The purpose of the Fair is to recognize and commend youthful scientific talent and interest in scientific investigation.
(2) Awards will be given as follows: (a) 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies for EACH grade level, K-5, (b) "Best of Fair" and "Best of Fair/Runner-Up" trophies for K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, and (c) special awards as made available through sponsorships by campus PTAs, local businesses, universities, and organizations. ALL entrants will receive a Science Fair ribbon and a special certificate for outstanding achievement.
(3) Models or collections are **not** acceptable. Students in grades K-5 should follow the scientific method, develop a testable question, and perform an experiment.
(4) All students are required to have an exhibit which meets the exhibit specifications outlined below as well as some type of written report to support the information presented in their display. Students in K-1 may dictate their written report to an adult.
(5) Teachers are encouraged to emphasize the significant role that mathematics plays as a key tool in both performing and measuring any scientific experiment.
(6) The participation of students in the Fair is meant to be a very positive experience. Please encourage all students and teachers to follow the guidelines, exactly, in order to avoid any problems. In order to be fair to all participants, projects that do not conform to the rules and specifications outlined below will be disqualified.

Entry Rules:

(1) Students in grades K-5 who receive a **first or second place award** at their local school science fair are eligible to participate. If a campus winner is unable to attend the district fair, another student who received a third place or other campus award such as honorable mention may attend in their place.
(2) Each school will be allowed to enter only the first and second place winners from EACH grade level for a **maximum of 12 entries**. If there is a tie for one of these places, each school must decide how to break the tie. Only 12 entries **(2 per grade level)** from each school will be allowed. No Exceptions.
(3) An entry form must be completed for each participant. This form must be received by the fair director on or before March 4, 2011. No entry forms will be accepted after this date.

Exhibit Specifications:

(1) All projects are to be the work of only one person. Group projects are not eligible.
(2) All exhibits must be constructed by the students. Parents, teachers, or any technically trained professionals may give advice and guidance only.
(3) All projects should include a display which is self-supporting. The size of the display may not exceed 30 inches deep by 48 inches wide by 60 inches high.
(4) All equipment and other necessary materials must be furnished by the exhibitor. If electricity is needed, it should be indicated on the entry form. 117 volt outlets will be available, but the exhibitor is required to furnish an extension cord of at least 15 feet in length.
(5) No student's name or school may be displayed on the exhibit. Failure to follow this important specification could result in being disqualified by the judges.
(6) Students are encouraged to use explanatory labels on their exhibits to demonstrate the use of the scientific method as well graphs, charts, and tables to explain the data collected during their experiment.

Safety Precautions:

(1) No hazardous or dangerous chemical substances, such as caustics, acids, highly combustible solids, fluids, or gases in pressurized tanks may be displayed.
(2) No live disease-causing organisms that are pathogenic to man or other live vertebrates may be displayed. No live specimens of any kind may be displayed.
(3) No microbial cultures and fungi, living or dead including unknown specimens may displayed.
(4) No syringes, pipettes, and similar devices may be on display.
(5) Any electrical apparatus must be constructed according to standard electrical laws.
(6) No food, either human or animal may be displayed unless contained in a SEALED container and properly labeled.

Please check with the Fair Director, prior to the day of the fair, if you have questions about whether any part of an exhibit meets the safety rules listed above. The Fair Director reserves the right of refusal of any exhibit considered to be unsafe.

Humane Considerations:

The legitimate use of animals in the classroom, in the laboratory, or in science research projects presupposes two postulates. First, the use of animals for learning, as it is for testing and research, is morally acceptable; and second, that man has a responsibility to grant the animals used in research every humane consideration for their comfort and well-being.
The moral responsibility that we all have toward animals means we cannot give free rein to students in research involving animals. Consequently, those of us who would nurture a healthy curiosity in youngsters are placed in a delicate position. To “turn off” a prospective biologist or physician by excessive limitations would be a serious mistake. We know through science fair work thousands of today's physicians, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, engineers, and science teachers were given an important impetus toward their careers.
The proper care and use of animals is a primary consideration in school research projects. If the students can acquire this concern, through becoming familiar with animals and their needs, it will be beneficial to both the scientific and personal development and education of the student.
With these considerations in mind, the following guidelines for animal use have been developed for the Denton I.S.D. Science Fair:

(1) The use of protista and other invertebrates is to be encouraged for most research involving animals. Their wide variety and the feasibility of using larger numbers than is usually possible with vertebrates makes them especially suitable.
(2) The use of vertebrates is allowed **only with special permission** from the supervising teacher and the District Fair Director.
(3) If a project involving vertebrates has been approved, the following rules must be followed: (a) All animals must be lawfully acquired in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, (b) Animals may NOT be housed at home, but must be under the care and direct supervision of a qualified adult, and (c) special documentation will be required to insure the proper care, treatment, and use of the animals.

Miscellaneous:

(1) If any person under the age of 18 is asked to participate in a student’s science fair project, even if just to complete a questionnaire, that person must have their parent or guardian sign a permission slip allowing them to participate. All permission slips must be included with the student’s display board to verify the compliance with this procedure.
(2) If there is any question regarding any of the rules stated above, or if any student is not certain that he or she is following these rules correctly, please contact the district Science Fair Director, Sharon Betty at 369-0664 or sbetty@dentonisd.org for clarification. Failure to follow all rules and regulations may result in being disqualified to participate in the Fair.