

# CROSS OAKS ELEMENTARY

## SCIENCE FAIR

### MAY 15, 2014

We are looking forward to another exciting Science Fair this year!

It is heartbreaking to disqualify a student's project for failure to follow the rules and regulations, so please read this information carefully! There are several policies for projects including the following:

- ☐ **no group projects**
- ☐ **no models or collections - all projects must use the Scientific Method**
- ☐ **use of animal subjects requires coordinator & veterinarian approval (contact the coordinator before beginning the project)**
- ☐ **projects involving human subjects under age 18 must have parental releases signed by all**

#### **Participants**

Pre-registration is required to enter the Science Fair. Packets are available in the office or from your child's classroom teacher. Entry forms are included in this packet. Live subject (animal/human) release forms are also available from the Science Fair Coordinators.

**Entry Forms and applicable release forms must be completed and brought to the Science Fair with the project. Please do NOT attach Entry Forms to the project.**

**Display Boards** (30x48x60) may be purchased from the front office or from Hobby Lobby, Voertmans, the UNT Bookstore, Michael's, or at EPI (in Carrollton, call 1-800-365-5345 or request a catalog online at [educationalproducts.com](http://educationalproducts.com)).

## **Rules and Regulations**

*(Adapted from, and in compliance with, DISD 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, 3rd place and two honorable mention ribbons for EACH grade level.
  - (b) One Best of Fair award will be presented for the entire school.
  - (c) All participants will receive a Science Fair ribbon.
  - (d) Additional awards will be presented in special categories.
- (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.
- (7) All Cross Oaks 5<sup>th</sup> graders are required to participate in the school Science Fair. Part of the work on their projects may be done in class.
- (8) Projects awarded first and second places are eligible to compete in the TWU Science Fair. If a winner is unable to attend the TWU Science Fair, another student who received third place or an honorable mention may attend in their place.
- (9) An entry form must be completed for each participant. Entry forms are included in this packet. Entry forms should be brought to school with the project on the day of the Science Fair set up. (Note: do NOT attach the entry form to the project! Projects must be anonymous).

### **Exhibit Specifications:**

- (1) All projects are to be the work of only one person. Group projects are not eligible to compete for awards.
- (2) Students must construct their own exhibit. Parents, teachers, or any technically trained professionals may give advice and guidance only.
- (3) All projects should include a display that 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. 110 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 be 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, neither human nor animal, may be displayed.

Please check with the Science Fair Coordinators, 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 Coordinators reserve the right of refusal of any exhibit considered to be unsafe.

### **Humane Considerations:** *(ISEF Rules and Regulations)*

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 and will be used for Cross Oaks Elementary:

- (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 Science Fair Coordinators.
- (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 from a veterinarian will be required to insure the proper care, treatment, and use of the animals.
- (4) Documentation of compliance with the above rules must accompany the project.

### **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) All projects should be accompanied by a written report, summarizing the project and findings, and providing a resource list for more information.
- (3) If there is any question regarding any of the rules stated above, or if any student is unsure if they are following these rules correctly, please contact the Science Fair Coordinators for clarification. Failure to follow all rules and guidelines may result in being disqualified to participate in the Fair.

### **Judging Criteria:**

- (1) Scientific Thinking/Method
- (2) Testable Question
- (3) Data Collection (3 trials minimum)
- (4) Appropriate consent forms/animal use forms included, as needed
- (5) Project Display
- (6) Miscellaneous (originality, complexity, handwritten journal, bibliography, future questions)
- (7) Finalists may be asked to participate in a judges' interview process.

# Cross Oaks Science Fair

## Entry Form

May 15, 2014



***\*\*Bring this form to the Science Fair with your project\*\****

***Do NOT attach to the project!***

*(please print)*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Last

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street City Zip Code

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (home) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Electricity Required for Display? \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Yes

*(Participant is responsible for providing extension cord at least 15 feet long)*

Will special equipment be required for display? \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Yes

The following required documentation must be presented if the project involves live vertebrates of human subjects in the experiment:

**A) Live Vertebrates Required Documents:** 1) Coordinator permission, 2) Veterinarian approval, and 3) vertebrate care description per rules.

**B) Human subjects under 18** (includes surveys and questionnaires): 1) parental consent forms for EACH participant.

Projects without proper documentation are not eligible to participate in judging.

*"My child and I have reviewed the rules and regulations for the science fair and have adhered to them."*

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_