

Charge for Judges

You are looking for good research and the use of the Scientific Method. However, Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics and some theoretical physics projects do not follow the scientific method and use different criteria.

Judge the project compared to the other projects on the floor and not to an outside standard. Therefore, each category must have a single first place winner. There has to be a single project better than the rest. From there, you can award a 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention. Please avoid ties!

If you see a project that's "been done before", remember, not for them.

"That project is too sophisticated or too ambitious; a middle or high school student couldn't possibly do that". Don't be so sure! Some of these students are very capable and will surprise you. Your interview questions should clear up any doubts.

With projects that have been continued over a number of years, judge this year's work only. Do not penalize continuous work. Many of them are continuing because of your suggestions from the year before. On-going research is a good thing! Ask to see Form #7.

Do not penalize work that has been done in an outside lab or institution. These kids are using resources that are available to them. This should not be viewed as an unfair advantage. The interview is a good time to discover how much the mentor did. You will find that most kids, who reach this level, have worked independently. Ask to see their form 1C.

Please keep your interview time the same for each student (5 to 10 minutes). Try to be consistent. Also, remember, this is an interview, not a presentation.

Board size and the "Rules" are not your concern. You are judging the research!

Most of the time, the students chose the category. If you feel that the project is in the wrong category, ask them why they chose that category and rate them accordingly.

For team projects – each member should have a key role in the research and be familiar with the work of the others.

The point system is to be used as a guide only. The consensus method is the best way to arrive at a decision.

If you know the student or have seen the project before, please see your Fair Coordinator and you will be put into another group.

Most Importantly – Our goal is to have the students leaving, knowing more than when they arrived. We want them to feel good about themselves and their project. This should be a positive experience for them. Bear this in mind when offering constructive criticism. Picking a 1st, 2nd or 3rd is secondary to guiding and teaching. **Please take time to complete the Comment Sheet for each student.** Comment Sheets should be given to the Fair Coordinators.

Finally, please be aware of the student’s “personal space” and avoid inappropriate touching. Also, to prevent any kind of perceived bias, do not make any “personal contact” with students that you might know.

Thank you for your time and effort in improving science education in our area!