McMinn County 4-H Science, Engineering, & Energy Fair

General Rules and Guidelines

- Projects should be student driven.
- 2 Participating projects per classroom.
- Working with someone else. You may work on your project independently, or you may work with a partner who is also a student at your school.
- Judging and awards. Our goal is to encourage scientific exploration and discovery and promote a deep lifelong passion for science. Each participant will have an opportunity to briefly present their project to a judge, and they will each receive a ribbon for participation. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place entries for each level (4th-8th).
- No hazardous chemicals should be used in any experiment. Only non-toxic chemicals are to be used.
- No explosives of any kind can be at the fair presentation.
- Open flames should be avoided.
- Electricity can be battery generated. Experimenting with household currents (100v or higher) is NOT allowed.
- Insects and lower species can be used in projects as long as they cannot be harmed in any way. Vertebrates are not allowed. Do Not bring these species to school with your project – take pictures and display them on your board.

Display Guidelines

- Prepare a Science Fair Project Display Board to communicate your work to others. Please use a standard, three-panel (tri-fold) display board that unfolds to be 36” tall by 48” wide.
- Use a font size of at least 16 points for the text on your display board, so that it is easy to read from a few feet away. It’s ok to use slightly smaller fonts for captions on picture and tables.
- The title should be BIG and EASILY read from across the room. Choose one that accurately describes your work, but also grabs peoples’ attention.

- The following information should be included on your display.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Panel</th>
<th>Center Panel</th>
<th>Right Panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Title of Experiment</td>
<td>Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis</td>
<td>Name &amp; Grade</td>
<td>Procedure or Experiment or Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Graphs/Charts with Data</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pictures or Illustrations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We encourage pictures on your display board. These can be hand drawn sketches or photographs. Have someone take photos of you performing your experiment. This demonstrates clearly that you did the work on your project and shows how much fun you had doing it!

**Judging Criteria**

The judges will have evaluation sheets that review the following aspects of all projects:

1. **Creative Ability** – Originality, creative thinking, interesting and creative presentation.
2. **Scientific Thought** – The judges will ask themselves if the project was well thought out and if the student followed through on their research, experimentation, interpreting results, etc.
3. **Thoroughness** – This acknowledges any research done, whether the student worked carefully, and whether they included all the required steps.
4. **Skill** - Judges will assess if it appears the student did most of the work themselves. **It is ok to have parental help; however it must be clear that the student performed most of the work.** Neatness will also be assessed in this category.
5. **Clarity** – This involves the ability to clearly present ones project. The judges will acknowledge if the students are able to answer questions clearly and completely.
6. **Overall Presentation** – This is a general statement of the students overall project.

***Students will be judged based on their level in school.***

Please call the UT Extension Office at 423-745-2852 to register in advance by March 10th reserve your space for your project board!