

4. Preparing your exhibit

Upon completion of the experiment, students should prepare to present their projects.

Grades K-6 presentations should include:

1. a **visual display** of the experiment and results, and
2. a brief, 2- to 3- minute **oral presentation** to and interview by the judges.

Students in K-3 do not have to give an oral presentation nor will they be judged for competition, however, they will be expected to do the interview.

Students in 4-6 grade will give an oral presentation *and* interview, but being judged for competition is optional.

Grades 7-12 presentations should include:

1. **detailed records** (a journal or logbook)
2. a **visual display** of the project, specifying all steps of the scientific method, and
3. a brief, 2- to 5- minute **oral presentation** to and interview by the judges.

K-3: no judging, no oral presentation, interview only

4-6: oral presentation, interview, judging is optional

7-12: must give oral presentation, interview and will be judged for competition

Restricted Topics

No experiments involving vertebrate animals, animal tissue, human subjects, bodily fluids or tissue, radioactive material, controlled substances, or pathogens will be allowed.

5. Attending the Fair

10:00 a.m. - Noon - Students can set up their displays between 10:00 and noon. Earlier is better. *All displays must be set-up by noon, no exceptions.* Projects are grouped by grade for judging.

Noon - 3:00 p.m. - Judging will take place from 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m. No one is allowed in the room during judging except for the Science Fair committee members.

3:00 p.m. - Students will come back to the venue at 3:00 p.m. for their oral presentation and judges' interview.

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Visitors and students can view projects from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tell your friends and family to come visit.

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Awards ceremony will be from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Reception and exhibit removal will begin at 7:30 p.m. Exhibits not removed will be discarded.

Science Fair Committee
Carrie Bertrand: 387-4196
Lone Craig: 376-1399
Sherry Johnson: 387-4013

Mail Registration Forms to:

Carrie Bertrand
2460 County Road 1250
Blanchard, OK 73010

Checks payable to: TCHE



**Tri-City Home School Association
2010 Science Fair**

**Science
Spectacular!**

**Saturday, January 16
10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

Location: To Be Announced

**For homeschoolers in
grades K through 12**

Why a homeschool science fair?

Children of all ages benefit from putting together a science fair project. We all know that science should be hands-on and experiment based whenever possible. In addition, the process of designing, implementing, and presenting a science experiment results in a much deeper understanding of the specific science topic and of the scientific process in general. Students also learn broader skills such as research, time management, graphic display, and oral presentation, which have applications in many areas of life.

Basic Steps



1. Register to participate.
2. Choose your experiment.
3. Conduct your experiment.
4. Prepare your exhibit.
5. Attend Science Spectacular!

Basic Timeline



1. Oct. - choose topic/research
2. Nov. 16 - \$7 registration fee on/before Nov. 16 (postmark); \$10 fee after November 16.
3. Nov. - write hypothesis, plan experiment, gather material
4. Dec. 21 - last day to register. No refunds after Dec. 21st.
5. Dec. - conduct experiment, keep records, purchase display backdrop.
6. Jan. (first week) - write summary report, create charts/graphs, prepare exhibit.
7. Jan. (second week) - construct exhibit.
8. Jan. 16 - Attend Science Spectacular!

1. Registering Your Experiment

A registration fee of \$7.00 per child is due with the registration form. The deadline for registration is November 16, 2009. The form may be copied for additional children. After Nov. 16th, the fee is \$10. Last day to register is Dec. 21st (postmark). No refunds after Dec. 21st. A Student Handbook will be mailed after registration and payment are received.

Groups of 2 or 3 students may work together on one project, but each student must register separately. Kindergarten through 3rd grade will not be judged and will receive a participation ribbon. 4th-6th grade will have the *option* to be judged.

Grade Levels will be: K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Register accordingly. Students from different age groups will not be allowed to work as a group.

2. Choosing Your Experiment

There are countless experiments to perform: How do you choose one? Consider these questions: What topics are you studying for science this year? What interests the student? What is possible and affordable?

Choose a topic, then research it and develop an interesting question. Based on what you have read, what do you think will happen?

When you consider your project, remember that a project that shows an actual experiment will score higher than a demonstration. While scientific displays are useful for learning certain concepts, the emphasis of this fair is *doing experiments* using the scientific method. See the Restricted Topics box on reverse side.

3. Conducting Your Experiment

Here are the basics of the **scientific method**:

1. **Ask a question** that can be answered by an experiment. Be sure that the question cannot be answered by a simple 'yes' or 'no.' Instead, it should be answered by measuring some variable (size, time, rate...)
2. **Make a hypothesis** (an educated guess based on research) about what will happen.
3. **Design/plan** your experiment. Each experiment should be repeated, usually changing only one variable each time. Make sure all other variables are kept constant or controlled.
4. **Collect data** (i.e., perform your experiment). Take multiple measurements. Put information in a table, graph or chart.
5. **Discuss/explain** your results. Find patterns in your graphs, what may have caused them?
6. **Draw conclusions** from your results. This includes answering your original question and stating whether your hypothesis was correct or proven wrong.



Tips for a Successful Experiment



- Start early.
- Measure something.
- Change only one variable at a time.
- Keep records of everything.
- Summarize your data in charts or graphs.