

Rummel Creek Science Fair

"Surf Into Science"

Instructions for Science Fair Projects:

A. Select an experiment or project:

- In an experiment, you try to discover the answer to a question. For example: Which peanut butter do most kids like best?
- In a project, you do something new for you. For example: Make a potato battery or grow a crystal.
- Make sure your project is SAFE. No dangerous chemicals or live animals allowed.
- Any project involving people or animals must be pre-approved by one of the science fair chairmen before the project is started.

There are many resources available for ideas. Mrs. Harrell has already pulled some books in the library to help. Other sources are your teacher's library and the internet. Be sure to look for elementary level projects. Listed below are a few websites you might find helpful:

Discovery Channel School - Science Fair Central
<http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/>

Math Forum-Math Ideas for Science Fair Projects
<http://mathforum.org/teachers/mathproject.html>

Exploratorium Science Fairs Help Page
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/ls/pathfinders/scifairs/>

SciFair.org - The Ultimate Science Fair Resource
<http://www.scifair.org>

B. Research: Gather information about your experiment or project.

- You may need instructions as well as information.
- You will need to know what materials are needed.

C. Plan:

- Estimate how much time you will need to run the experiment or build the project.
- Gather materials early.
- Think about your display while you are working on your project.

D. Conduct your experiment with the following 4 elements you need to include in your display.

- **Hypothesis/Purpose:** Write the PURPOSE of your project. That is, what you are trying to do. If you are doing an experiment, guess the result. Write your HYPOTHESIS in ink and save it for your display. An incorrect guess is NOT wrong as it can lead to new questions and discoveries.
- **Procedure/Materials:** Write down what you do as you conduct your experiment or build your project under the heading PROCEDURE. Write down the materials you used. The idea is to provide enough information to allow someone else to repeat your experiment later.
- **Results/Data:** Record your observations. You may want to include photographs, charts, graphs, tables or drawings to illustrate your RESULTS. **FIFTH GRADERS MUST INCLUDE A DATA TABLE AND A GRAPH.**
- **Conclusions:** What did you learn from your experiment or project? If it turned out differently than you expected, what do you think made the difference? Write a brief statement of your CONCLUSIONS.

E. Display: Your display should be a free-standing table display. Three-fold project display boards can be purchased from many office supply, hobby or teacher supply stores.

- Make the TITLE large, clear and neat.
- Include your Name, Grade and Teacher's name on the board.
- Include the 4 elements above to tell your story
- Small projects may be set on the table in front of the display board; however, large projects should be represented by photographs included on the display. No chemicals or animals are permitted in the Science Fair.
- Any equipment needed for the set up of the project must be supplied by the student.
- Battery powered projects are preferred as a limited amount of electrical outlets are available. Provide your own extension cords and wide masking tape to cover the cords so that the children will not trip over them.

F. Attend the Science Fair and admire everyone's hard work!

Take your project home the evening of the Science Fair.

Science Fair Chairmen:

Amy Greebon 713-647-6288 or Melissa Evans 713-722-7805