Project Types	Explanation
PreK - 8th Grade **Experiments**	• All grades can participate in the experiment type; however, everyone 4th grade - 8th grade MUST perform an experiment. • An experiment requires something to be tested with a variable. *Variables pose a question, like "What if I change…"* • Students select an experiment in one science category. • Experimental science projects should include all steps of the scientific method. Students should write the information about each step of the project in a science journal or log book. • A lab book/journal is required

PreK - 3rd Grade
 	
Models of Systems
	• This project type is for PreK-3rd grade only.
	• When participating in this project type, students will research a system and construct a model of the system.
	• Students should be able to answer the following questions based on their model:
	  ○ 1. What system, or systems, did you observe during your investigation? Name the system and give the purpose of the system.
	  ○ 2. What are the parts of each system? Describe the job of each part of the system. What is their purpose to the system?
	  ○ 3. Could some parts be removed without changing how the system functions? What job does this part do for the system and how does the removal of this part not affect the function/purpose of the system?
	  ○ 4. What parts could not be removed without changing how the system functions? What happens if parts are removed from the system?
	  ○ 5. What would happen if different parts were added to the system?
	  ○ 6. What can you learn from constructing models of system within our science world?
	• A lab book/journal is required.
	• This is NOT a research project. Research is included in the background information, but an investigation on the selected topic must be included.

PreK - 3rd Grade **Observations/ Investigations**	• This project type is for PreK-3rd grade only. • An observation or investigation requires recording data and use of senses to document events and things learned from the observation/investigation. • Observations and Investigations are typically used to illustrate a science concept. • This is **NOT** a research project. Although some research is included in the background

	information of the project, an investigation on the selected topic must be included. ● This type of project will answer a specific science question ● Observations and Investigations do **not** test multiple variables. *Variables pose a question, like "What if I change…"* ● A lab book/journal is required.

The difference between examples of an observation/investigation vs experiment:

Observation/Investigation	Experiment
Will a paper towel absorb water?	Which paper towel absorbs water the best?
Can plants grow in sand?	In which soil do plants grow best?
What happens when Mentos are dropped in soda?	Which type of soda creates the highest geyser when you add Mentos?
Does sunscreen protect your skin?	Which sunscreen protects your skin the best?