



# Science Fair

## Tips for Working with Your Students



### REMEMBER . . .

Primary communication with Coaches and Sponsors is done through e-mail provided with the School/Group Registration done online. If a coach or sponsor is not receiving e-mail information about the contest, he or she should check Spam/Junk folders on the computer and contact Academic Rodeo for assistance with getting the current information.

Deadlines exist for a reason. Please be aware of them and follow them. The **Academic Rodeo Calendar** in a true calendar format is on the Getting Started and General Info pages. The **Science Fair Timeline** is on the Science Fair page and gives specific details about deadlines and submissions. If you have a problem with a date or deadline, please contact Academic Rodeo, realizing that usually it is not possible to make a change or give “grace” for deadlines. Often judging or other timings are scheduled close to the due date. To be sure your students get to participate, follow the deadlines.

Please read the Information and Responsibilities for All Coaches and Sponsors.

The following tips and suggestions may be helpful to you in working with your students.

- Start projects early with completion scheduled well in advance of the deadlines for submitting journals and projects. Remember that journals will be submitted up to 3 weeks before the actual Science Fair. This allows ample time for judging of the journal and makes judging at the contest go much more quickly.
- Have your own Science Fair to choose the projects for Academic Rodeo.
- Journals/Notebooks are most often the weakest component of the student’s project in both Experimental and Model/Demonstration Divisions.
  - For Experimental projects, it should be a thorough documentation of all stages of the project. A template is available on the Science Fair page to assist with this. Also, The Globe Project – <https://www.globe.gov/news-events/globe-events/virtual-conferences/2020-international-virtual-science-symposium/resources> - provides several helpful resources, including templates and sample projects.
  - For Model/Demonstration projects, it is an essential part and will not be eligible for judging if the journal is absent. It lays out the scientific principals of the object/event modeled and explains why the student(s) has/have chosen the particular materials and methods for demonstrating.
- Please enclose all papers in some type of notebook or folder.
- References are important. If the student is expanding someone else’s research, the original research **MUST** be referenced, and the student should indicate how this project expands and changes the original research.
- Be sure students understand that a failed hypothesis does not mean a failed project. In the conclusions, students should explore why their original thinking was in error or if their methods produced a false hypothesis.
- **When project is completed by a team of 2 students, each journal entry should note the student making the entry.**

- Label each Journal/Notebook on the back side of the journal with a label indicating the student's name, grade, Division (Display, Experimental or Model), Category if an Experimental Project (Behavioral, Biological, Chemistry, Environmental, or Physical), and school.
- Also label the back of Project Display boards and any display items with the same information.
- **Hazardous materials are NOT permitted.** Check before bringing items requiring electrical outlets. These may not be allowed depending on the project.
- Illustrations must be labeled on the back using the Illustration Label on the Science Fair page.
- Projects remain in the Academic Rodeo display until the Awards Celebration unless special permission is given to remove the project. When a student is given permission to remove the project for another contest, it must be returned before the Awards Celebration and the sponsor should be sure that a photo has been taken of the project before it is removed.