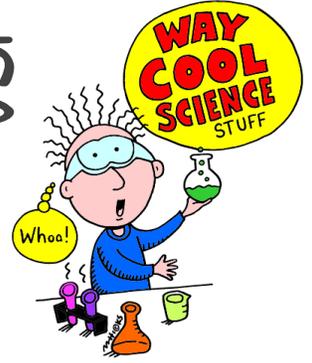




Science Fair Projects



1. Keep a Lab Notebook

Before you start your project, start your lab notebook. A composition book is a perfect lab notebook, but you can make your own or use other formats. Every day you work on your project, write the date and time in pen on top of a new page. Write down everything you did on that day. Even if you were just thinking of ideas for your project, write it down. When you start experimenting, be sure to write down everything you can think of. You can use as many pages as you want per day. Be sure to date each page. Number all pages in the notebook. Some kids like to write on only the right hand pages (not the back) then when they get pictures developed, they can paste pictures on the back of the pages to go with what they wrote.

2. Think of an Idea

This is probably the hardest part of the whole project! Think of a general topic that interests you, or look on the internet for ideas. Research the topic and come up with a question. Be sure to keep research notes in your lab notebook. You can also print off articles and paste them in your lab notebook. A good project will not be a demonstration or a yes/no question. Rather, a good project might investigate “how does A affect B?” Decide how you will conduct the experiment. Make sure that you find a way you can measure your results (ruler, stopwatch, scale, counting, etc.) Your results should be numbers that you can graph.

3. Read & Get Signatures on the Official Science Fair Registration Form

Follow all rules on the registration form. This form should be filled out before you start your project. The Elementary Division Registration Form can be found at <http://cusef.byu.edu/students>

4. Use the Scientific Method to Conduct your Experiment

State the purpose of your experiment — your question or your problem — what are you trying to find out. Select a variable (one thing you change.) Keep everything else the same.

State your hypothesis.

Conduct your experiment.

Write down everything you can think of in your lab notebook. Take pictures.

Repeat the experiment multiple times.

After you analyze your results, state your conclusion.



5. Prepare Charts and Graphs

Hand draw graphs or use Excel. Put some in your notebook and some on your display board.

6. Construct an Exhibit

See the official registration form for size restrictions and items that are allowed to be displayed. Use 16pt. or larger fonts on display boards. Do not put words on top of pictures or patterned paper.

7. Practice Your Presentation