



Mercer Science and Engineering Fair

Mercer Science and Engineering Club

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Dear Students,

Have you heard about the annual Mercer Science and Engineering Fair? We hope so. We would like to see your project at this year's fair.

The Mercer Science and Engineering Fair is the regional science competition opportunity open to all students attending school in Mercer County. The fair takes place every March at Rider University, and draws over 1,500 Mercer County students, parents, and industry leaders each year. The fair is held in cooperation with Society for Science and the Public (SSP) that administers the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the Broadcom Masters competition.

The competition is for individual projects. They can be done in conjunction with the school or club but that is not a requirement. You can also present work you have done on your own. This might be part of a summer project or something you are interested in. Have you built a robot? Are you breeding tropical fish? There are lots of engineering, math or science projects that are can be presented at the fair.

If you worked on a project as part of a group you may still be able to compete in the fair. In this case you need to present the aspect of the project that you were responsible for.

We usually have an open house meeting in the fall to answer questions about the fair. We are also available via phone and email to answer questions. Check our website for more information. You can find all the dates for the upcoming fair as well as forms used to enter the fair.

The fair is divided into three divisions: an Elementary Division for grades three to five, a Junior Division for grades six through eight, and a Senior Division for grades nine to twelve. The Senior Division Grand Award winner receives an all expense paid trip to compete in ISEF in May of that year. In past years our Grand Award Winners have received a variety of prizes and acknowledgements, for example the 2006 grand award winner, Rohith Chandrasekar, received the First Place Award from the American Vacuum Society for his project, *Design of An Aerodynamically-Enhanced Plasma for Synthesis of Nanoparticles*, in Phoenix, AZ. The 2004 grand award winner, Laura Wong, was awarded a trip to the London International Youth Science Forum by the U.S. Army. She also placed 2nd in the ISEF Computer Science division with her project, *Fault Tolerant Behavior-Based Robots*.

David Sharples of East Windsor was named one of "The Final Forty" in the 2004 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (DCYSC) competition with his project: *A Study of Resonance*. David, a 7th grader at Chapin School in Princeton, NJ, spent a week in Washington, D.C. for the final competition. Elizabeth Rory Nachbar is a 2005 semi-finalist with her project: *Can You Power a Light Bulb with Other Fruits Besides a Potato, and When the Energy Runs Out, Can You Recharge It with Solar Energy?* Nicholas Stewart was chosen to compete in Disney's Iron Man 3 Inventor and Innovator Fair in 2013.

All students prepare a presentation board that is displayed at the fair. Materials like a lab notebook or research paper can also be included. Elementary and Junior Division projects will be judged based on this material and the board. Senior Division students must also attend an interview session on Monday morning. Judges include local professionals and researchers that will talk to you about your project.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair. Project set up is on Sunday and the award ceremony is on Tuesday.

Information contact

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