
WHY DO SCIENCE FAIRS? (FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS)

Getting students interested in science fairs can be the first step in learning to solve problems and to ask questions about why things are the way they are.

Science is often thought of as being a dry, dull, solitary pursuit. Delving into the real world of science shows that it goes well beyond the stereotype!! The goals of a science fair are quite far reaching:

- it can enhance a students' self esteem;
- it promotes logical decisions and conclusion drawing;
- enhances an awareness of the environment around the student; and
- builds on important communication and time management skills.

The first step is to get students interested in doing a project. Libraries and the Internet can provide many project ideas, but the best source of topics will come from the students! **Take the time to brainstorm ideas.** Have students (individually or as a group) write down as many questions as they would like answers to. This should get the creative juices flowing and excite students to find out more about their question(s).

Note: Live vertebrate animals are forbidden in displays although students may use insects. Any experiment, which causes harm or discomfort to vertebrate animals, will be disqualified.

Check with your **school librarian** for science fair resource materials; the internet is also a great place for information. Go to <http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/innovators/sciencefair/> for more information and links.

For the school fair you will need a large room, probably the gym, and enough tables for all the projects to be set up on. Some students may also require power for their display (e.g., for lamps or computers). Any electrical equipment must meet safety requirements and pass Canadian Standards Association standards. Contact the **Innovators in the Schools** office (Tel: (867) 668-8739; Fax: (867) 668-8734); E-mail: innovators@yukoncollege.yk.ca) if you need judges and we will do our best to help you out.

A school science fair is held to provide students the opportunity to share their newfound knowledge with others. Projects will be judged against other projects and the ones that qualify can go on to compete in the Regional Science Fair and the winners will go on to the Canada-wide Science Fair.

Science Fairs are an opportunity to celebrate and share science between students and their community. Thank you for your support, and for starting many a student on the beginning of a lifetime of interest in, and knowledge of, the world around them!
