

Annie E. Vinton

Science Fair

April 7th, 2009



Dear Scientist,

Congratulations! In deciding to join the 2009 Annie E. Vinton Science Fair, you have made a decision that may bring you hours of fun and adventure. Please read these guidelines carefully. You will need to refer to them as you're creating your science project.

- 1. Make a list.** First you need to find something you wonder about. This should be something you are familiar with. As you go through your daily routine, look for things that make you curious. Make a list of all your questions. Here are some examples:
 - **What makes a ball bounce?**
 - **What makes it snow?**
 - **How are icicles formed?**
 - **Where do insects go in the winter?**
 - **How can water travel along a string?**
- 2. Choose a project.** Select three things from your list that interest you the most. Discuss them with your parent and decide together which one would make the best science fair project. Ask yourself:
 - **Is this interesting enough for me to spend time working on it?**
 - **Is this something I can do?**
 - **Do I know enough about this to get started, or know where to find more information?**
- 3. Fill out the Entry Form.** Complete the entry form at the end of this packet and hand it in to Ms. Barrow's Enrichment Basket by March 20th. This tells us what you plan on doing and what needs your project will have when displayed.
- 4. Begin a science journal.** Keeping accurate notes of the process is an important part of your project. Find a blank notebook and write your name, grade, teacher and school on the first page. You will also write the title of your project on this page later. On the next page, put the date and write about how and why you chose this project. You will be writing in this journal a lot.

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5. **Do some research.** Discuss your idea with your parent or teacher and decide if you need to learn more about your topic. Could it be through... Books? Magazines? The Internet? An adult? A visit? This is called research, and it will help you make your project even better! Every time you learn more about the project, write an entry in your journal. Put the date on your entry and write what you learned. If you have notes or other papers from your research, you can attach them in your journal with tape. You might attach photographs you've taken or found during your research.
6. **List all the materials.** Think of everything you need to have to do your project. Make a list and put it in your journal. You should try to use materials you can find, but if you *must* spend money try to spend as little as possible. The best solution is to reuse and recycle other items.
7. **Write your steps down.** Think about what steps you need to do in your project. Scientists often try their experiments several times to make sure they really will work each time. Each time you do something for your project, write a journal entry about what you did and what you learned that day. Make sure each journal entry is dated.
 - As you are completing each step try to draw a sketch or diagram of your experiment and the results.
 - Be sure to record the data and final results each time you practice your experiment or demonstration. Identify problems and look for solutions before you try it another time.
8. **Display boards.** Once your experiment or project is finished, you will make a display board. These can be purchased from Ms. Barrow or an office supply store. Make sure to put your name, grade, teacher and school on the board. Put the title of your project at the top of your board. Your display board must clearly state the following things:
 - Your question
 - The materials you used
 - The procedure you followed
 - The observations you made
 - What you learned from the project

Use any pictures or diagrams you have for your project, and include a little information about the scientist (you!). The display should be neat, attractive and easy to read. Part of your project is to attract and teach other children. You can do both by creating a neat and interesting display board.

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9. **Completed projects.** As soon as your project is finished, contact Ms. Barrow and bring it to your classroom. Projects are due by April 6th, or sooner. You will be asked to bring your inventions to the all purpose room at the end of the day on Monday, April 6th, .

10. Notes on Project Displays:

- Exhibits should be ready for viewing by 9:15AM on April 7th.
- Exhibits should be free-standing and take no more than 2 feet of table space.
- All titles and names should be clear, large, and neat.
- Charts and pictures should have a clear explanation.
- No dangerous chemicals or open flames may be displayed.
- *You must notify in advance if access to an electrical outlet is needed.*
- Contact Ms. Barrow if any special arrangements need to be made.
- All projects should be taken home on the evening of April 7th.
- All participants receive a certificate of participation!

*** Remember to ask for help when you need it, but try to do as much as you can on your own. The most powerful part of your project is the learning that takes place. You learn by doing. If you're the one that's "doing," then you're the one that's learning! Your parents, and Ms. Barrow are available and will be happy to help and support you. Have fun!!**