

Florida Junior Academy of Science Handbook Revised 2009

I. Objectives

The Florida Junior Academy of Science (FJAS) strives to (1) discover and encourage scientific aptitude in Florida students, (2) foster fellowship between FJAS and Florida Academy of Sciences (FAS) members, and (3) develop a background in FJAS members that will eventually result in membership in senior organizations.

II. History and Organization

FJAS was founded by the FAS in 1939. FAS is affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and disciplinary organizations within Florida. FJAS and FAS meet jointly each year in March. FAS provides judges for FJAS and special programs which encourage interaction. The FAS Council votes on matters of policy for FJAS and makes administrative appointments. Ongoing programs are primarily administered by the FJAS State Director.

III. FJAS membership

There are two types of memberships: chapter and individual. Any Florida student in grades 6 through 12 may join. Chapter membership requires a teacher/sponsor, 5 or more members, a \$20 (twenty dollars) chapter fee, and a roster of members. Dues for chapter members are \$5 (five dollars) each while for dues for individual members are \$10 (ten dollars). "Web" members that only receive the receipt of dues and card are \$5 (five dollars). Students joining after December 31st pay the late "web" membership of \$10 (ten dollars). Chapters may enter two additional students in the preliminary competition because of the chapter fee that had been paid.

At the annual business meeting each chapter has one vote and all of the individual members have one vote.

To recognize our superior students, a "gold" card is given to those who meet at least 2 of the 4 criteria below for the previous year:

- GPA of 3.0 (unweighted on a 4 point scale)

- Competed at FJAS

- Competed at SSEF

- Attended a summer program such as SSTP

Sponsors are encouraged to join FAS. FAS publishes the quarterly, *The Florida Scientist*.

IV. Benefits of Membership in FJAS

1. By preparing a research paper for the annual FJAS competition, members are more prepared to enter other competitions including the Intel Science Talent Search (STS) and display competitions including Regional, State and International Science & Engineering Fairs. A well written research paper, and the poise gained from presenting that paper at a FJAS competition does help at other competitions. The STS competitions are for seniors only, while the FJAS competition is open to all students in grades 6 through 12.
2. Members enjoy meeting other students from across the state with interests like their

own. Both students and teachers can gain from interacting with other participants at the annual competition.

3. Three newsletters are sent to members directly or through their sponsor during the school year. These provide information about the FJAS competition and related topics.
4. High School winners at the FJAS competition are given the opportunity to attend and present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science Conference held with AAAS each winter. Juniors that placed may apply for a scholarship to attend the conference, the application is due September 1st.
5. Chapters can hold offices in FJAS. Chapters can be nominated with the agreement of the sponsor. Elections are held for the Presidential and Vice Presidential Chapters. The Presidential Chapter assists with the business meeting and awards ceremony. Both the Presidential and Vice Presidential Chapters provide snacks and/or small gifts to the finalists at the competition in addition to providing moderators for the sessions or manning the registration table. The Secretary-Treasurer Chapter assists the Director and is not elected.

V. Annual Meeting or FJAS Competition

To compete at the FJAS annual meeting, students must be a member by January 31st, submit their research paper by January 31st, and be selected by the preliminary competition judges. Approximately 60% of the students are selected to present. Category determination is up to the discretion of the State Director.

All FJAS members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting, whether or not they are presenting a paper. It is a valuable experience to meet other students interested in science and hear the presentations. The registration fee for ALL students is \$1 (one dollar). Everyone attending the meeting MUST register but adults do not pay registration fees.

While at the meeting adults are responsible for the conduct and behavior of students under their care. The travel and lodging arrangements are made by the individual chapters.

FAS and FJAS will incur no liability for any person attending the meeting.

A tentative schedule, based on previous meetings is below. More accurate schedules will be published in the newsletters with directions to the facilities.

Saturday

9 to 9:45 AM	Registration
9:45 AM	Welcome
10 AM to 12:30 PM	Presentation of papers
2 PM to 3:30 PM	Business Meeting immediately followed by Awards Ceremony.

Generally each room for presentations will have a computer linked to a projector and screen. Please see the Winter newsletter or letter regarding the competition for more details.

Constitution

ARTICLE I - Name and Organization Units - The name of this organization shall be "The Florida Junior Academy of Science". It shall consist of two operational units namely:

- (1) Chapters - local organizations within a particular school or community, and
- (2) State - the combined membership of all Chapters of the Florida Junior Academy of Science.

ARTICLE II - Philosophy and Purposes - It seems highly desirable, even necessary, that the students in Florida be encouraged and provided with a means to develop their knowledge, experience and skill in science and in the democratic operation of organizations among scientists. The purposes therefore are to provide the stimulation and encouragement to students who have definite interest in science and to provide the opportunities to pursue those interests, under council, and to present the result of their work in papers, and/or exhibits at Chapter and State meetings.

ARTICLE III - Membership - Any student in the 6th through 12th grade in a public or private school in Florida may become an active member of the Florida Junior Academy of Science as provided by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV - Meetings -

Section 1: There shall be regular Chapter meetings as specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2: There shall be one State meeting each year. Other meetings may be ordered by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE V - Officers -

Section 1: Each unit of the Junior Academy shall have (a) a President, (b) a Vice-President, (c) a Secretary-Treasurer, (e) a Unit Sponsor (Director at the State level) and any other officers necessary for the functioning of the organization.

Section 2 - Each unit shall have an Executive Board composed of the officers specified in the section one of this article together with other members to be selected as indicated in the By-Laws. The Board of the State Unit shall be the governing body of the Florida Junior Academy of Science, taking such action as may be necessary between membership meeting; however in all matters affecting the whole organization which have not been ordered by the action of the membership, approving vote of the members is necessary.

ARTICLE VI - Finances - Each unit may make arrangements as necessary to cover its operational costs; the State assessing the Chapters and the Chapter their membership. Further, The Florida Academy of Science shall not be responsible for the financial obligations incurred by the Junior Academy.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments - The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at any State meeting or by a two-thirds favoring vote by letters of the Chapters, provided members through their chapters at least one

month prior to the time of voting.

Nothing in the Constitution shall be interpreted as to conflict with the Constitution of the Florida Academy of Sciences.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - Membership

Section A: Any student in the 6th through 12th grades in a public or private school in Florida may become a member by paying the annual dues.

Section B: A Local Chapter as well as the State organization may elect adult Honorary Members and/or Honorary Sponsors.

Section C: In order to organize a chapter, there must be at least five members from the school or community in which it is to function. A chapter may be composed of members from two or more schools, public or private. In those schools in which no chapter exists, any student may become an "individual" by making written application to the State Director.

ARTICLE II - Meetings -

Section A: State meetings: The annual State Meeting shall regularly be held at the time and place of the annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences. The Executive Board may, however, when it seems advisable, arrange for an annual meeting at another time and place.

Section B: All voting shall be done by Chapter with each Chapter having one vote. Individual members shall vote as one unit having one vote.

ARTICLE III - Officers - Election and Terms -

Section A: All officers except State Director and State Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority secret ballot vote. Nominations will be made from the floor. Only members in good standing may nominate.

Section B: Chapters shall be elected as State officers. To be eligible for a State office, a Chapter must have been a member Chapter of the Florida Junior Academy of Science for one year, attended a previous State meeting, and must have paid their dues by December 31.

In order to facilitate communications between the State Director and the Membership, the office of State Secretary-Treasurer will automatically be the Chapter which is designated by the State Director.

Section C: The powers and responsibilities of these officers: Presidential Chapter and Vice Presidential Chapter; shall be the same as customary.

Section D: The terms of office for the State Director shall be three years. To be eligible for the office the candidate shall have: served as Co-Director. Nominations for the Director will be made by the Chapter sponsors at every third State Meeting. The Senior Academy Executive Council will review the nominations and appoint the Director. The Co-Director will be elected by the Chapter sponsors. When a Co-Director is not elected the Director will take on the duties.

Section E: It is recommended that the State Director appoint an Executive Committee consisting of other nearby Chapter Sponsors and/or students. The purpose of this committee is to assist the Director, particularly in relation to the state meeting.

ARTICLE IV - Finances -

Section A: Annual dues will be paid to the Chapter Treasurer who will forward them to the State Director.

ARTICLE V - Committees -

SECTION A: There shall be two types of committees recognized as follows:

- (1) Continuing - Members of these committees will serve for one year or until new committees are appointed. Membership, Program, Exhibits, Publications, and Constitution and By-Laws Committees are of this type.
- (2) Temporary - The duties and existence of these committees terminate with the completion of the special assignment or upon the submission of their reports. Example of these committees are Nominations and Local Arrangements.

ARTICLE VI - Amendments - The By-Laws may be repealed or amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present, provided notice of the proposed action of changes be given to all members at least one meeting or one month before the vote is taken.

(Revisions in 2009 reflected the name change of the Coordinator as voted by the FAS council in addition to the deletion of the Science Talent Search in 2008)