



Florida Junior Academy of Science

A Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences
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Welcome 2008-2009 members!

The Florida Junior Academy of Science (FJAS) welcomes you to our organization. We hope that 2008-2009 will be a good year for both you and FJAS. Many opportunities are available to students conducting scientific research. Below are deadlines of a few of the many competitions and events:

- Nov. 14 - entries due for Intel Science Talent Search (12th graders only)
- Jan. 31 - research papers due for FJAS preliminary competition
- Feb. 1-3 - Florida Junior Science Engineering & Humanities Symposium* at University of Florida in Gainesville - nominations are due in the fall
- Feb 12-16 - American Junior Academy of Science in Chicago, Illinois
- Mar. 21 - FJAS* competitions at St Leo University in St Leo
- Apr. 15-17 - State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida* in Lakeland
- May 10-15 - Intel International Science & Engineering Fair* in Reno, Nevada

*Students winning at these competitions may win trips to national or international events

Congratulations to AJAS Winner

Each year 11th graders that win at FJAS are offered the opportunity to apply to present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science and the annual AAAS meeting. This year Sabrina Prabakaran of Canterbury was selected for the full scholarship to share her research with scientists and peers from around the country.

FJAS Members Win More at SSEF

For the 11th year, FJAS members who competed at both FJAS and SSEF won significantly more awards at SSEF. It is not just the quantity of awards, proportionally, but the quality. FJAS competitors won significantly more First and Second Place awards. Help yourself win more by competing in FJAS. This difference is that FJAS offers you another opportunity to compete at the state level with the SAME scientific research, thus allowing more interaction with judges. But FJAS also requires students to improve their papers to make it through the preliminary competition. At the competition students also get to hear some of their competition at SSEF. This can then help the students as they prepare for the later competitions. Even though the format for the competition differs, board with question and answers at SSEF vs. 10 or 12 minute oral presentation with power point support at FJAS, the students need to focus on the meat of the project and communicate with the judges. Another advantage of FJAS is

speaking in front of others, including parents, who might be able to give constructive suggestions for later competitions.

Hope to see you at St. Leo University on March 21, 2009

Hotel information will be posted in the Call for

Abstracts on the FAS website.

www.floridaacademyofsciences.org

The Choice is Yours - Experimental or Literary?

Experimental research allows the student to test a hypothesis and draw conclusions using their data while following the Scientific method. Literary research allows the student to thoroughly investigate an area where experimentation is impossible due to costs, regulations, ethics or moral grounds, or the impracticality of experimental design. Experimental research offers more opportunities to compete. See an extended list of competitions on the website: www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/fjas.htm

Guidelines for the two types of papers are available online at the FJAS website - See the "Paper Instructions" link

Judges Comments

Last year one of the judges made a few comments that need to be passed on since these can help with selection in the preliminary competition. (my suggestions follow - P.Zalo)

1. Does anyone (teacher/mentor) read the papers before they are submitted?
(numerous grammatical errors are found)
2. Do the students understand what 'plain English' means?
(the guidelines state that the title and abstract must be in lay language - this is what can be found in a newspaper that any 7th grader could understand)
3. Most scientific papers these days are written in the first person (I/we) and not the third person (it) format. Why do students use the third person?
(this is a change in the last 10 years - passive voice is also no longer suggested)
4. I wonder if some of the students have paid attention to the structure of a scientific publication. They cite lots of them but
(use your references as guides for your own paper)

For Seniors Only

Once seniors have been notified in February that they have been selected to present their experimental research at the FJAS competition in March they can complete the application for the special awards:

Two students will win scholarships to a Florida university or college

Two are awarded AAAS memberships

The applications must be mailed and received by March 7th to be included in the

selection. The applications will be sent with the notification to present.

**You can't win if you don't compete
You can't compete if you don't get to work!
Don't delay what you can do today!**

Submission of papers - Jan 31st deadline

Last year the submission of papers online went well for most students. Papers will be accepted by mail also. No matter the method the papers **MUST** be received by January 31. Because of the change in the method of submitting entries - ISEF forms will not need to be submitted with the papers. It is expected that all experimental research submitted to FJAS were reviewed **PRIOR** to experimentation following the guidelines of the Intel ISEF. These rules are available at www.societyforscience.org
The state rules are more restrictive in requiring SRC approval for all projects under the Hazardous Chemical, Activities, and Devices **PRIOR** to experimentation.

Check the website for the news and more -
www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/fjas.htm