



# Carlisle Area Science Advisory Committee

*To promote interest in science among our area's young people*

## **CARLISLE AREA SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CASAC) SCIENCE FAIR RULES AND REGULATIONS - ALL DIVISIONS**

**DON'T BE DISQUALIFIED \* READ ALL RULES CAREFULLY \*  
CONSULT YOUR SCIENCE TEACHER**

### **I. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The CARLISLE AREA SCIENCE FAIR will be a collection of exhibits, each of which is designed to show a scientific, mathematical or technical principle, or an industrial development of anything, which can fit into the broad concept of any branch of pure or applied science or mathematics. Results of scientific experiments performed and the interpretation of these results are most important and should be included with the project display.

**II. PARENTS ROLE:** The science fair committee hopes that parents will show an interest in their child's science fair project, as students need support for their efforts. However, help should be limited to encouragement and suggestions or advice. The actual experimentation and physical display should be the work of the students.

**III. APPLICATIONS:** Application forms may be obtained from the students' science teacher or school office. They should be legibly completed and returned to your science teacher for approval. A representative from your school should then return all applications to the science fair committee at the December meeting of CASAC.

**IV. DIVISIONS:** Elementary Division: Grades 4 - 5  
Junior Division: Grades 6-8  
Senior Division: Grades 9 – 12

### **V. RULES:**

1. CASAC supports and endorses the rules and regulations set forth by the International Science and Engineering Fair. If your project deals with vertebrate animals, human subjects (including surveys), D.N.A., tissue, pathogenic agents, or controlled substances, and there is a possibility that you may want to go on to further science fair competition, see your science teacher for additional information before beginning your experimentation.

2. Projects may be entered in the appropriate division by any student in the Carlisle Area School District, South Middleton School District, The Christian School of Grace Baptist Church, St. Patrick School, and the Carlisle Christian Academy. Home Schooled students may enter through their public school district.
3. No pupil may enter more than one exhibit.
4. Exhibits in the Elementary and Junior Divisions must be confined to a space not to exceed 30 inches wide and 30 inches deep. Exhibits in the Senior Division must be confined to a space not to exceed 36 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 108 inches high including the table. The weight of an exhibit should not exceed 250 pounds.
5. **Exhibits shown in a previous CASAC science fair may not be re-entered** unless there has been considerable expansion or development. Such expansion or development must be detailed in writing and the explanation attached.
6. Plants must be properly cared for. Live animals, dissected organisms, tissue mounts and organs **may not** be part of your display (you may design look-alikes for your display). **NO bacteria or mold may be displayed.** The use of photographs of such items is encouraged.
7. Dangerous chemicals in open containers, open flames, explosives, live poisonous reptiles and cruelty experiments on animals will be strictly prohibited. A project with a death rate of 50% or greater in any group or subgroup of vertebrates will be disqualified.
8. **Electrical outlets will not be available for project displays.** Open knife switches and doorbell push buttons must be used with batteries.
9. Other facilities, such as water or compressed air, must be provided by the exhibitor.
10. Neither the exhibitors name nor school should appear on the front of the display or the accompanying documentation; however they may be placed on the back of the display.
11. The Science Fair Committee will reject and remove any exhibit, which, in its opinion, is unsafe, unethical, inhumane, or constitutes a hazard in a public exhibition. There will be no exceptions to this rule. All decisions are final. If you have any questions, contact your school's CASAC representative.
12. Every effort will be made to protect exhibits against loss or damage, but all projects are entered at the risk of the exhibitors. Neither CASAC nor the school district will assume any responsibility for the loss of or damage to any exhibit.
13. The Science Fair will be open to the public as advertised.
14. CASAC prefers that there be no photos used that include the project author, however this alone is not grounds for rejection of any project.

**VI. CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITS:** Elementary Division and Junior Division projects are not subject to classification. All other exhibits will be categorized and judged in the Senior Division, using the following categories:

- Biology
- Behavioral
- Chemistry
- Earth/Space Science
- Physics
- Math/Computer

**VII. JUDGING STANDARDS:**

**All Divisions:**

1. The Carlisle Area Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) utilizes judges from the area surrounding the Fair site. The event is held on a single day at a central location. Since the presenters, judges, and support personnel converge on the venue on a single date, certain restrictions must apply as detailed here.
2. All judging will take place on the Friday evening of the Fair dates only (weather permitting). Once judging begins, only judges and committee members will be permitted in the exhibit area. The decisions of the judges are final. They may refuse to make awards in any division as they see fit. CASAC judges try to make the evaluations as objective as possible. They are polled before submitting their final results to ensure that the rubric scores and the awards are acceptable to them. If there is any disagreement, it is rectified before the judges' final submission. Once the judges leave, the score on the rubric and designation of the award is final. CASAC uses specially designed rubrics, judging orientation sessions, judging teams and judging committees to do their absolute best to ensure a fair result. There will be no "rejudging" of presentations.
3. Consideration will be given to each project as to whether it is an experiment or a display. Projects considered as displays (such as "How do Volcanoes Work") will only be eligible for participation awards.
4. Projects will be judged by a system which allows for multiple first, second, third and honorable mention ribbons. Each project is judged on its own merits and is never compared to others until grand champion status is considered after regular judging is complete. Points are based on five categories:

### **1. Creative ability**

- .a. Is a question asked
- .b. Approach to solving the problem
- .c. Analysis of data
- .d. Use of equipment
- .e. Design and construction of the project and display

### **2. Scientific thought**

- .a. Objective clearly stated
- .b. Procedure of experiment
- .c. Experiment scientifically done
- .d. Controls and variables clearly defined
- .e. Adequate data to support conclusions

### **3. Thoroughness**

- .a. Project completed within original aims
- .b. Conclusions based on experiment
- .c. Time spent on project and display
- .d. Project should show statistical analysis where appropriate

### **4. Skill**

- .a. Student has skills needed to complete project
- .b. What equipment sources/resources were used?
- .c. Proper use of grammar, spelling, and communication skills in the paper and display
- .d. Project neatly presented
- .e. All work done by student

### **5. Clarity**

- .a. Project goals are clear
- .b. Written materials are well prepared
- .c. Project phases orderly presented
- .d. Data clearly presented
- .e. Project display self-explanatory

## **VIII. PRIZES:**

Prizes will be awarded in each division at the discretion of the judges as follows:

1. Elementary and Junior Divisions: Ribbons will be given to all participants in each of the grade levels for every school.
  
2. Junior Division: All first place winners in the junior division will be eligible to compete for the Junior Division Grand Champion Awards. One first, one second, and one third place Junior Division Grand Champion will be chosen from Junior Division projects from all schools combined.

3. Senior Division: Projects in each category will be judged for first, second and third place honors. Each project will be judged separately with quality projects receiving top honors.

Top place winners from each category will be considered for first, second, and third Grand Champion Awards. Awards, ribbons, and cash prizes may be given for first, second and third Grand Champions. Additional honorable mention ribbons may be awarded at the discretion of the judges and CASAC.

**CASAC, The Carlisle Area Science Advisory Committee  
P.O. Box 465, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013**

Revision History

11.15.2010 Added wording to reflect issues with judging standards, points #1 and 2.

10.07.2011 Removed references to intermediate division. Updated names of two schools.