











Santa Cruz County Science Fair

How to Get Started

 <h3>Explore</h3>	<p>Explore a variety of resources for meaningful project ideas; research books, periodicals, internet, community concerns, local environmental issues, look in your backyard, and garage. Explore your personal interests. The more interested you are in your subject, the more meaningful the subject matter; the more likely you are to success.</p>
<h3>Individual or Team Project</h3> 	<p>You may choose to work as an individual or a member of a team of 2 or 3 students. Note that judges have a much higher level of expectation for team projects. Get parent's and advisor's permission before choosing a team project.</p>
 <h3>Start!</h3>	<p>Read, research and search for ideas. Outline the PROJECT PLAN. Write an INTRODUCTION: Write a statement of purpose. Write an investigative question. Write a hypothesis that provides a basis for further investigation.</p>
<h3>Organize</h3> 	<p>The key to success is good organization. Use a calendar to organize your time. Work backward from the due date. Use a checklist to keep track of project accomplishments. Log all school projects extracurricular activities and personal commitments on your project calendar.</p>
 <h3>Design Your Procedure</h3>	<p>List MATERIALS and METHODS used in your experiment. Identify and control your variables. Repeat the experiment many times to validate your results.</p>
<h3>Experiment</h3> 	<p>Record all results and observations in a LABORATORY NOTEBOOK. Design charts and graphs that help you analyze and display your data.</p>
 <h3>Reach A Conclusion</h3>	<p>Write an explanation of your results. Relate conclusions to your hypothesis. Write a conclusion statement and discuss whether or not you met your project objectives.</p>
 <h3>Write a Report</h3>	<p>Write a science report. SCIENCE REPORTS SHOULD BE WORD PROCESSED.</p>
<h3>Create a Display</h3> 	<p>Design a 3-panel board. Outline the science fair report and display results. Design a display or model of the experiment.</p>
 <h3>Finish</h3>	<p>REGISTER FOR THE SCIENCE FAIR ON-LINE at science.santacruz.k12.ca.us. Prepare a presentation by assembling the PROJECT BASICS.</p>