



Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair



10 - 12 April, 2010

Why do a Science Fair Project?

Discovering Something Amazing

You'll almost certainly learn something you didn't know before you started, plus it's usually a lot of fun. You may find something new doing your own project, and you'll learn from other people. Students often become driven by their projects. Learning the outcome and finding the answer can be an electrifyingly powerful moment of discovery. It proves to you, and to others, that you were successful and that you did it on your own.

Developing Skills

You'll become better at science, plus you'll gain or practice several other skills. You may become more familiar with the library, learn to use a camera or word processing program, master a mathematical analysis, get public speaking practice, etc. Some of these skills may be intimidating to learn. When you're working on a science fair project, it's easy to get help, plus no one expects perfection. The benefits of the project go way beyond learning science. You'll become more confident, more mature, more disciplined, and more skilled.

Cash & Prizes & Help Getting University Scholarships

Your project can lead to cash prizes, scholarships, educational opportunities, and offers of employment. Science Fair participation looks great on your resumé: a big plus for university and job applications.

More than \$3000 in prizes are awarded at the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, and students with the top seven projects are sent to the Canada Wide Science Fair - this year in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

How to do a Science Fair project - A Six-Step Plan

- 1. Choose a topic you're genuinely interested in:** Aim to be innovative. Try preliminary experiments and look for unexplained or unexpected results. Find a mentor: • Student • Teacher • Professor • Parent • Industry professional.
- 2. Organize and Theorize:** Organize your research. Narrow down your hypothesis by focusing on a particular idea.
- 3. Conduct Your Experiments:** Keep detailed notes of every experiment, measurement, and observation. Change only one variable at a time when experimenting. Discuss your work with your mentors on an ongoing basis.
- 4. Examine Your Results and Draw Conclusions:** Examine and organize your findings. Analyze your data statistically. Which variables are important? Did you collect enough data? Do you need to conduct more experimentation?
- 5. Write Your Report:** Submit to VIRSF by 26 March, 2010
- 6. Attend the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair! 10-12 April, 2010**

Some winning projects from the last 2 years at the VIRSF:

Dynamic Testing of Strength and Vibration
Properties of Hardwoods
Breaking the Carbon Bond
Cottage or Castle-Which Was Warmer? An
Evaluation of Mediaeval Building Materials
Speeding Spins: The Physics Behind a
Figure Skating Spin
Raindrops on Rotors
Voila les Voyelles: Vowel Pronunciation at a
Victoria High School
Mechanical Properties of Hardwoods:
A New Test
Dissolving Rocks: the Effects of Acid Rain
on Historic buildings
Contribution to Sustainability in Cement
Manufacturing and Coal Production



Contacts and Information

Local: Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair: web.uvic.ca/~virsf

run by The Society for the Advancement of Young Scientists:

Contact: Randy Enkin, 250-384-4793, bild-enkin@shaw.ca

Provincial: Science Fair Foundation BC: www.sciencefairs.bc.ca/process.html

National: Youth Science Foundation: www.ySF.ca/ProjectHelp/