

2019 STEM EXPO LETTER for 6TH GRADERS

Co-Sponsored by your PTA and the Oak Hills Educational Foundation

Attention:
6th Grade
Scientists and
Engineers



Dear 6th Grade Students at Oak Hills,

Our annual Oak Hills STEM Expo Week will take place January 29th–Feb 1st, 2019. All 6th graders are encouraged to participate in the STEM Expo, and a set of Guidelines/Rules/Registration Forms will be provided to you. *Find the IMPORTANT DATES and the STATEMENT OF INTENT FORM (due Wed Oct 3rd) attached.*

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for 6th Grade STEM Expo Award Recipients: **Advancing to the County Science Fair**

After judging/interviews, our volunteer STEM Expo Judges will choose which projects receive awards, and recipients will be announced Friday February 1st, 2019 at our Awards Ceremony (6:30-7:30pm). Our 6th grade award recipients are highly encouraged to represent Oak Hills by advancing to the “County Fair” – aka The Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair held yearly in Pasadena. **The County Fair will take place March 28th-30th, 2019 which lands right at the beginning of our SPRING BREAK. Participating in the County Fair will require three trips to Pasadena (provided by the family).** Find more information here: <http://lascifair.org/>

PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY!

The County Fair has strict regulations and a pre-approval process in November for all projects using the following:
any human, opinion surveys, vertebrate animals, cells/tissue lines, microbes and hazardous materials

IF YOU HOPE TO ADVANCE TO THE COUNTY FAIR, you MUST contact Mrs. Cohen by Friday October 26th (tsymensma@gmail.com) to discuss your project OR choose a project that would NOT require pre-approval by the County Fair.



See the next page for examples of project subjects that do NOT require pre-approval for the County Fair.

So, participating in the County Fair after receiving an award at our STEM Expo means:

1). You must contact Mrs. Cohen at tsymensma@gmail.com or 310-466-3309 by Friday Oct 26th to discuss your plan for your project and determine if it requires pre-approval by the County Fair. If it does, don't worry Mrs. Cohen will guide you through that online process.

2). Transportation must be provided by your family to the Pasadena Convention Center on THREE days (March 28th-30th, 2019) for poster set up, interviews, and awards/poster take down. **These dates are part of our SPRING BREAK.**

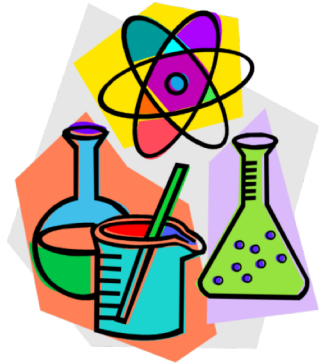
Let us know if you have any questions and good luck to all our Oak Hills Scientists and Engineers!

Sincerely,

Your STEM Expo Co-Chairs

Mrs. Wetterau, 3rd Grade Teacher at Oak Hills and Lover of Science
and

Tonia Symensma-Cohen PhD, PTA Mom and former Microbiologist



EXAMPLES OF SUBJECTS THAT DO **NOT** REQUIRE PRE-APPROVAL:

1. Safe plants, plant tissues, seeds
2. Invertebrates including arthropods (*e.g.* spiders and insects), crustaceans (*e.g.* hermit crabs), mollusks (*e.g.* slugs, snails, clams, oysters), echinoderms (*e.g.* starfish), worms, and protists (protozoa, slime molds, algae)
3. Animal tissues that you can purchase commercially (*e.g.* from a butcher shop)
4. Hair clippings (if they do NOT contain the follicle)
5. Observing NATURAL behavior of vertebrate animals in the wild or captivity (as long as the student researcher does not manipulate anything that could alter the behavior)
6. Battery-operated remote control cars
7. Water-propelled or air pump-propelled rockets
8. Using a calorimeter to burn solid substances (must be done with adult supervision under a fume hood or outside)
9. Candles (as long as you use an aluminum drip pan, safety goggles and gloves)
10. Dry ice/solid carbon dioxide (as long as you have adult supervision, use insulated gloves and wear eye protection)
11. Safe household chemicals including vinegar, baking soda, baking powder, Borax, laundry soap, dish soap -- (bleach and ammonia are considered hazardous and DO require pre-approval)
12. Baking with yeast
13. Mold on food items (as long as it is grown OUTSIDE of the house/school and then the experiment should be ended at the first sign of mold growth and discarded into an outside trash bin)
14. Regular batteries (wet cell batteries are hazardous and DO require pre-approval)