Criteria for Judging

Please read and review the criteria outlined below prior to your orientation on Saturday, March 19. During orientation, we will go over this information in greater detail and answer any questions you might have. Please note that Team projects (those done by two or three students) are evaluated differently from individual projects.

Creative Ability  Individual: 30 points; Team: 25 points

**Idea for Project**
Credit for creative ability should be based on what the student has contributed and not for what others have done for him/her. For example, did the student get the idea for the project from a textbook or a suggestion, or did they develop the idea on their own?

**Methodology/Approach**
A student may have a very interesting approach to solving a problem, but it may have come out of suggestions made by a teacher or another scientist or engineer. A less sophisticated approach that originates from the student is more creative and deserves a higher score.

**Analysis and Interpretation**
Does the project show creative ability and originality in the analysis and interpretation of the data?

Scientific Thought  Individual: 30 points; Team: 25 points

**Problem Identification**
Is the problem stated clearly and unambiguously? Was the problem sufficiently limited so that it was possible to handle? Simply working on a difficult problem without getting anywhere does not make much of a contribution. On the other hand, neither does solving a very simple problem.

**Procedural Plan**
Was there a procedural plan for obtaining a solution?

**Defined Variables**
Are the variables clearly recognized and defined? If controls were necessary, was there a clear recognition of the need for them and were they correctly used?

**Assessment of Data**
Is there adequate data to support the conclusions? Are the limitations of the data recognized and understood?

**More Research Indicted**
Does the student understand how the project ties in with related research? Does the student have an idea of what further research is indicated?

Note: Do not let expensive equipment or fancy displays sway your decision. Collections are creative only if they are used to support an investigation and serve a purpose. It should be pointed out again that the student may have received assistance, and that it is important to estimate the extent of this assistance and what contribution it made to the project.

Skill  Individual: 15 points; Team: 12 points

**Knowledge of Resources**
Does the student have the skills required to do all the work necessary to obtain the data which supports the project? Laboratory skills? Computation skills? Observational skills? Design skills?

**Appropriate Use of Materials**
Consider workmanship and durability. Where did the equipment come from? Was it built independently by the student?

**Self-Managed?**
Was the project carried out under the supervision of an adult or did the student work largely on his/her own?