Important Judging Reminders

- Only projects with green dots are eligible to win prizes. If you see a red dot, the project has been disqualified due to a violation of the Rules and Guidelines. We hope you don’t encounter any of these but if you do, please interview the student so that he/she can have a beneficial learning experience but do NOT award the project any prizes.

- Judges are asked to evaluate the quality of a project based on originality and on how well a student understands the project and the subject matter in which they are working.

- Interviews are an essential component of the judging process. Only through extensive questioning can a judge obtain a good grasp of what the student has done and what he/she knows. The physical display is a secondary consideration.

- Keep in mind that these are junior high and high school students and not Ph.D. candidates or professionals. Compare their projects to others at the Fair and not to those executed elsewhere, under different circumstances.

- Judges are encouraged to talk with students as much as possible, but please be aware of time restraints and please be considerate of other judges.

- Try to ask only questions that are necessary for the purpose of evaluating the project.

- No student should be passed over, regardless of what you think of their project. Judging is an educational process as well as a selection process, so it is important to give all students as much time as possible. Most students will appreciate your encouragement and suggestions on how to improve their research. Please continue your interview even if you doubt the project will qualify for an award. Many students really enjoy talking to the judges and say it is the high point of their experience at the Fair.

- As a general rule, judges should never diminish the significance of any project. Always give credit to the student for having expended the effort to present and prepare a project which was sufficiently better than others within their schools and districts.

- We have tried very hard to assign you to one of the categories you requested, but please be aware that you may be shifted to a category where there is a critical need. We appreciate your flexibility and cooperation!

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### Additional Suggestions

1. Please bring **clipboard and calculators**.
2. Wear comfortable shoes.
3. We will provide #2 pencils for you to use on your forms. You might want to bring a pen and paper for your own comments and notes.
4. Please familiarize yourself with the enclosed forms. We will review them during orientation on Saturday, March 19.
5. Have fun! Thank you again for your participation!