

Florida Junior Academy of Science



Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences
Volume 28, No. 1 Fall 2009

Welcome 2009-2010 members!

The Florida Junior Academy of Science (FJAS) welcomes you to our organization. We hope that 2009-2010 will be a good year for both you and FJAS. Many opportunities are available to students conducting scientific research. Below are deadlines of a few of the many competitions and events:

Nov. 18 - entries due for Intel Science Talent Search (12th graders only)

Jan. 24-26 - Florida Junior Science Engineering & Humanities Symposium* at University of Florida in Gainesville - nominations are due in the fall

Jan. 31 - research papers due for FJAS preliminary competition

Feb 18-22 - American Junior Academy of Science in San Diego, CA

Mar. 11-17 - Intel STS in Washington DC

Mar. 20 - FJAS* competition at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce

Apr. 7-9 - State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida* in Orlando

May 9-14 - Intel International Science & Engineering Fair* in San Jose, CA

*Students winning at these competitions may win trips to national or international events

Congratulations to AJAS Winner

Each year 11th graders that win at FJAS are offered the opportunity to apply to present their research at the American Junior Academy of Science and the annual AAAS meeting. This year Samantha Taylor of Pine Crest was selected for the full scholarship to share her research with scientists and peers from around the US.

FJAS Members Win More at SSEF

For the 12th year, FJAS members who competed at both FJAS and SSEF won significantly more awards at SSEF. It is not just the quantity of awards, proportionally, but the quality. FJAS competitors won significantly more First and Second Place awards.

Help yourself win more by competing in FJAS. This difference is that FJAS offers you another opportunity to compete at the state level with the SAME scientific research, thus allowing more interaction with judges. But FJAS also requires students to improve their papers to make it through the preliminary competition. At the competition students also get to hear some of their competition at SSEF. This can help you prepare for the later competitions. Even though the format for the competition differs, board with question/answers at SSEF vs. 10 or 12 minute oral presentation with power point support at FJAS, the students need to focus on the "meat" of the project and communicate with the judges. Another advantage of FJAS is speaking in front of others, including parents, who might be able to give constructive suggestions for later competitions.

**Hope to see you at
Indian River State College
in Fort Pierce, FL
on March 20, 2010**

Hotel information will be posted in the Call for
Abstracts on the FAS website.

www.floridaacademyofsciences.org

Life Star Foundation Award

Based on his presentation of a paper entitled "Striated Skeletal Muscle Analogue: A Design and Analytical Comparison", **Aaron Enten of American Heritage High School** was issued a \$500 award by the Life Star Foundation. The Life Star Foundation works in conjunction with the Florida Academy of Sciences to recognize, encourage, and award research which has potential contribution in the field of regenerative medicine.

The Choice is Yours - Experimental or Literary?

Experimental research allows the student to test a hypothesis and draw conclusions using their data while following the Scientific method. Literary research allows the student to thoroughly investigate an area where experimentation is impossible due to costs, regulations, ethics or moral grounds, or the impracticality of experimental design. Experimental research offers more opportunities to compete. See an extended list of competitions on the website: www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/fjas.htm

Guidelines for the two types of papers are available online at the FJAS website - See the "Paper Instructions" link

For Seniors Only

Once seniors have been notified in February that they have been selected to present their experimental research at the FJAS competition in March they can complete the application for the special awards:

Two students will win scholarships to a Florida college or university

Two are awarded AAAS memberships (one female, one male)

The applications must be mailed and received by March 7th to be included in the selection. The applications will be sent with the written notification to present.

Judges Comments

Last year some of the judges commented on the courtesy of the observers. They saw later speakers texting on their phones, playing games on their computers, and dozing off. It is important that every student has the opportunity to have an attentive audience. The judging criteria changed last year for the oral presentation. Papers are still the basis of selection to speak as they have always been with 10% from following the rules. Now the judges are not bound by the similar criteria at the competition, instead they are looking for the students that can best explain their research and answer the questions. The judges still read the papers and use it as part of the final evaluation and selection of the winners.

Submission of papers - Jan 31st deadline

Last year the submission of papers online went well for most students. Papers will be accepted by mail also. No matter the method the papers MUST be received by January 31.

More information will be in the winter newsletter regarding the paper submission

Following the "Rules"

Because entries for the preliminary competition is generally online, photocopies of the ISEF forms are no longer submitted for review with the papers. It is expected that all experimental research submitted to FJAS was reviewed PRIOR to experimentation following the guidelines of the Intel ISEF. These rules are available at www.societyforscience.org. The state rules are more restrictive in some areas please see their additional rules at www.floridassef.net. If you have any questions regarding the rules please contact Pat Zalo at pzalo@yahoo.com.

Check the website for the news and more -
www.floridaacademyofsciences.org/fjas.htm