



# Florida Junior Academy of Science

A Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences

Volume 31, No. 2

Winter 2012

## Call for Research Papers

All FJAS members are invited to submit their scientific or literary research papers to the preliminary FJAS competition. Because many students competing with experimental papers will also be competing in Regional, State, and Intel International Science & Engineering Fairs, it is imperative that appropriate requirements for these competitions be met including:

- proper completion of forms and approvals PRIOR to experimentation.
- experimentation does not exceed 12 months and was begun after January 1, 2012.

Forms are NOT sent to FJAS. If I hear that a potential FJAS speaker has problems with their forms at the SRC review for the State Science & Engineering Fair on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the student can still present at FJAS but will NOT be awarded any recognition at the awards ceremony. It is critical that experimental projects meet all of the criteria for Intel ISEF and the State Science & Engineering Fair.

## Research Paper Guidelines

See complete instructions and judging rubrics on the Junior Academy pages first for the experimental with the literary information following. To not lose any points the paper MUST meet these guidelines:

- Title page ONLY has a lay-language title (maximum of 75 characters) and the lay-language abstract (max of 100 words).
- NO mention of student's name, school, acknowledgments, mentor or facility can appear in the paper.
- Maximum of 20 pages double-spaced

## Submitting the Research Paper

All papers should be sent electronically, if at all possible. If unable to submit electronically, papers can be mailed and will then be scanned. All papers are sent electronically to the preliminary judges.

After preparing the paper please save the paper in **pdf, rtf, or doc (NOT docx)** with a filename less than 30 characters using the key words of the paper title. Do NOT name the file with

- your name (all papers must be anonymous)
- a generic title such as "FJAS paper"

The attachments are not renamed and are sent directly after sorting to the preliminary judges if other criteria are met.

Some common errors last year which decreased the score for "following directions" were:

- the attachment was larger than the maximum of 2 MB
- student's name is in the attachment's file name or within the paper
- abstract is too long or is not written in lay-language
- acknowledgments

Entries that are too large or in an unacceptable format will be returned to the student to edit and not forwarded for judging until corrected. If this delays admission, the paper may not be accepted. Please follow the guidelines the first time.

An e-mail will be returned within 24 hours of receipt. Papers can still be mailed to Pat Zalo if received by January 31<sup>st</sup> at 2812 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Dr W Bradenton FL 34205-3707

## Preliminary Competition Procedures

Sessions are assigned for each paper from the information within the email and the number of papers submitted.

It is the goal of the FJAS Director to place similar papers in the same session and to allow for equal chances for all submissions. For this reason papers are sorted by:

- grade level (middle school or high school)
- type of paper (literary or experimental)
- general area for the experimental papers (Biology, Environmental, Medical, or Physical)

If the different sessions for each grade level have different number of submissions then papers will be moved at the discretion of the FJAS Director. It is the goal for each preliminary judge to review between 15 and 25 papers and to select the best 10 which will be invited to compete at the FJAS competition.

## Special Award for Seniors

Once high school seniors are selected to present at the state competition, an application will be available to submit information for the scholarship presented at the FJAS competition in addition to the place awards. These applications will be sent with the confirmation of presenting students and the competition registration forms. Scholarships are only given to students that remain in Florida to attend college.

## Last Call for memberships - Don't miss out

To be able to compete you must be a member. The last chance to pay dues without the late charge is December 31<sup>st</sup>. **Late membership is accepted until January 31<sup>st</sup> but it may delay acceptance of the paper. PLEASE turn in your applications and dues.**

## 2013 FJAS Competition

The **2013 Florida Junior Academy of Science Competition** will be held March 9th at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. More details about the campus and lodging are available on pages 3 and 4 of the "Call for Abstracts" found on the [www.floridaacademyofsciences.org](http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org) website in the "What's new" under the "Welcome" tab.

The tentative schedule is:

9:45 AM	Welcome
10 AM to 12:30 PM	Judging sessions
2 PM to 3 PM	Awards Ceremony after the Business Meeting

## Guidelines for Presentations

Students have 10 minutes to present their material. The judges then have 3 minutes to ask the presenter questions. A moderator should be in each room to insure that everyone follows these guidelines. Students are encouraged to practice their presentations to insure coverage of the entire presentation in the allotted time. The list of presenters will be sent to the sponsors in mid February.

**Detailed information regarding the equipment available at the competition will be sent with the letter confirming students selected to present.** It is generally suggested that each student bring their presentation on a flash drive and download it onto the computer in the room PRIOR to the welcome, if possible. More details will be available in the letter. Generally the universities have PC's and not Macintosh computers so plan accordingly. If multiple students from one school are in the same session it may save time for the multiple presentations to be saved on one flash drive.