



Florida Junior Academy of Science

A Division of the Florida Academy of Sciences
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Call for Research Papers

All FJAS members are invited to submit their experimental or literary research papers to the preliminary FJAS competition. ALL entries MUST be received by January 31, 2016.

PLEASE NOTE the changes for this year –

submit all middle school papers to: rknk108@yahoo.com

submit all high school papers to: leya.joykutty@ahschool.com

Sponsors are asked to submit a list of projects entered to: zalop@manateeschools.net

Research Paper Guidelines

See complete instructions and judging rubrics for both papers on the Junior Academy section of the www.floridaacademyofscience.org website. The paper MUST meet these guidelines:

- Title page ONLY has a lay-language title (maximum of 75 characters) and the lay-language abstract (maximum 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.

Since the papers are submitted and sent to judges electronically there are additional requirements.

- file name less than 30 characters with key words of the title - Do NOT use your name, school, or generic title of "FJAS paper".
- save the file in **pdf, rtf, doc, or docx**
- files MUST be 2MB or smaller - do not include too many pictures - if a large file is submitted I will remove ALL pictures and graphics - please follow this criteria so your paper is not altered and you will not lose points since you didn't following the criteria.

Submitting the Research Paper

All papers should be sent electronically. Failing to follow the guidelines above deducts 10 points from the scoring.

The email should include:

- student's name
- school
- grade in school
- Type of paper: Experimental or Literary
- For Experimental papers ONLY the area of study: Biological, Environmental, Medical, or Physical
Please list both the first choice and the second choice, if applicable to project.
(Behavioral projects can list that category as a second choice)
- Exact Title of the paper

An email showing receipt of paper is generally sent within 24 hours.

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 was in the attachment's file name or within the paper
- abstract was too long and/or not written in lay-language
- acknowledgments were included in the paper

Preliminary Competition Procedures

Papers are assigned to sessions from the information provided in the email and the number of papers submitted.

It is the goal of the FJAS Director or designee to place similar papers in the same session and to allow for equal chances for all submissions to be selected for the March 19th competition. For this reason papers are sorted by:

- grade level (middle school or high school)
- type of paper (literary or experimental)
- first choice category for the experimental papers (Biology, Environmental, Medical, or Physical)
(Behavioral projects could be given a half session or session dependent on the number of papers)

If the sessions for each grade level have differing number of entries then papers will be moved at the discretion of the FJAS Director or designee using the second choice provided on the email. It is the goal for each preliminary judge to review approximately the same number of papers and to select the best 10 which will be invited to compete at the FJAS competition. This gives the students equal opportunities of being selected.

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 31st. **Late membership is accepted until January 31st but it may delay acceptance of the paper. PLEASE turn in your applications and dues.**

2016 FJAS Competition

The **2015 Florida Junior Academy of Science Competition** will be held March 19th at St Petersburg campus of the University of South 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 website in the "What's new" under the "Welcome" tab.

The tentative schedule is:

9 AM-9:40	Registration and check on rooms
9:45 AM	Welcome
10 AM to 12:30 PM	Judging sessions
2 PM to 3 PM	Awards Ceremony after the Business Meeting

Registration, Business meeting and Awards Ceremony will be held in the USF student center so there will be no snacks or beverages brought by the elected chapters this year. The student center has a Coffee shop and full food court.

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.

Each room at St Pete USF is equipped with a PC computer, LCD projector, ELMO document camera and DVD player. MAC computers can be connected to the projector, but presenters are advised to bring their own connector cables.