

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair needs your help as a judge!

The Science Fair will be held at Radford University in Peters Gym on March 3 - 4, 2017. Participants in this Regional Science Fair come from sixteen counties, as well as the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton, in southwest Virginia and include students of two home-school organizations. The 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will compete in the Junior Division and the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students compete in the Senior Division.

Participants enter their projects in one of the following categories: Animal Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Biomedical and Health Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Computational Biology & Bioinformatics, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Embedded Systems, Energy: Chemical, Energy: Physical, Engineering Mechanics, Environmental Engineering, Materials Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics and Astronomy, Plant Sciences, Robotics and Intelligent Machines, Systems Software, and Translational Medical Science. The Science Fair committee reserves the right to combine categories once projects are submitted.

First, second and third place awards will be given in each category. A number of Special Awards will also be given. Two Grand Prize winners from the Senior Division will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Phoenix, Arizona on May 14 - 19, 2017, where they will compete against approximately 1700 local, regional, and state science fair winners from 70 countries for 5 million dollars in prizes. At the 2016 International Science and Engineering Fair, Emily Llaneras won third place in Animal Science and Julian Elmasry won fourth place in Biomedical and Health Science. Both students attended the Southwest Virginia Governor's School in Pulaski.

The previous Annual Regional Science Fairs were an overwhelming success; therefore, we are very excited about being able to continue to offer students in Southwest Virginia this exceptional educational experience. By having a Regional Science Fair in this area, many schools that would not have held local science fairs have now been stimulated to do so, thus enhancing their scientific curriculums.

On Saturday, March 4, we will begin with a brief organizational breakfast and meeting at 7:30 a.m. The judging will then begin. Award selection will be based not only on the merits of the project, but also on a personal interview with the student contestant. Judging will be concluded by lunchtime.

The Blue Ridge Highlands Science Fair website is located at <http://sciencefair.asp.radford.edu/>. In addition to information about the Science Fair, there is information on contributing to the Science Fair through donations or placing advertisements in the Program Book.

Please email me the attached form by February 20, 2017. Prior to the science fair, I will email you a judge's packet with the judging manual, directions to the school, and a link to the science fair abstracts. The entire Science Fair Committee looks forward to working with you.

Please forward this letter to anyone else that you think would be interested in being a judge.

Sincerely,

Christine K. F. Hermann  
Co-Director, Blue Ridge Highlands Science Fair