

# Aspen Science Fair 2023

## Information Packet



### Why Have a Science Fair?

An important part of science education is to engage students in scientific inquiry. A great way to stimulate scientific thinking is through independent and group research projects that give students the flexibility to take control of their education while covering national and state standards.

A Science Fair provides students an opportunity to explore science, math and technology hands-on. Whether it be a traditional science project, exploratory research on new technology or the application of math to conduct statistical studies, a Science Fair offers a forum for students to discover education in a whole new way. Furthermore, science research fosters autonomy and gives students a sense of gratification, regardless of the results of their investigation are what they wanted or expected.

### General Overview

#### WHEN:

- The Science Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 19th from 5-7 p.m. (Set-up from 4-5 pm)
- ***Project Proposals (attached) are due no later than Friday, March 10th.*** Students can turn them in to their teacher or the office. After a Project Proposal is submitted and approved, students will be given a Student Preparation Guide to help guide and organize their experiments.

#### WHO:

- All students Tk - 5th grades are invited to participate in the Science Fair
  - Even students not submitting a Science Project are encouraged to attend the event as there will be hands-on science experiments run by the Cal Lutheran Univ. Science Department, a Mad Scientist Demonstration, and free hands-on STEM Exploration stations to try out. In addition, we will be selling Excavation Eggs (dinosaurs, fossils, & gems) for those archaeological enthusiasts. There will also be a Make-Your-Own Mad Scientist Party Punch available for purchase. It is sure to be a fun evening for all!
- \*The money raised from the event will be used to purchase and stock a portable STEM Makerspace Cart for all classrooms to share.

### Science Fair Ideas and Resources

Potato Battery  
 Magnetic Rail System  
 Which Bubble Gum Makes the Biggest Bubbles?  
 Tooth Decay  
 Volcanoes  
 Bubble Shapes  
 Mixing Colors  
 Plant Growth

- [www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org)
- [www.stevespangler.com](http://www.stevespangler.com)
- [www.sciencebob.com](http://www.sciencebob.com)
- [www.billnye.com](http://www.billnye.com)
- [www.scienceclub.org](http://www.scienceclub.org)
- [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

GOOGLE: "Science Fair Ideas"; "Science Experiments"; "Science Project"

## Safety Guidelines

Proper attention to safety is expected of all science fair participants. Anything which could be hazardous to public display is prohibited. This includes:

- Syringes, pipettes and similar devices or any glass items
- Any flames, open or concealed
- Highly flammable/combustible gases, liquids, or solids
- Dangerous chemicals including caustic and acids
- Poisons, toxic and hazardous chemicals, drugs and other controlled substances
- Dry ice or other sublimating solids
- Tanks which have contained combustible liquids or gases, unless they have been purged with carbon dioxide
- Operation of a class III or IV laser
- Projects with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains and moving parts with tension or pinch points that pose a potential hazard to observers
- Batteries with open top cells are not permitted. Other types of batteries may be used for electrical power
- Animals
- Living organisms
- Spoiled foods, mold, bacteria, microorganisms or any other type of cultured growth unless they are in a sealed plastic container

## Tips for Parents

1. Let your child decide what he/she wants to do.
2. PLEASE read the Safety Guidelines/ENTIRE packet.
3. Sign and return the Project Proposal by the deadline.
4. Be there to offer help and encouragement, but NOT to direct the project! (Of course parents can help with display boards.
5. START EARLY! Avoid last minute frustrations! (Sample "Project Timeline" will be in Student Preparation Guide which your child will receive after submitting a Proposal)
6. Make this project about learning!
7. HAVE FUN!
8. There is NO judging at the Aspen Science Fair. Everyone who participates will receive a Participation Ribbon, but we do want to recognize students who go ABOVE & BEYOND, so some projects may receive a second "Special Recognition" Ribbon.
9. Keep it simple. Look for a project that you can do over a fairly short period of time!



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## Project Proposal

I give permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in Aspen Elementary's Science Fair on April 19, 2023. My student and I have read and understand the rules and safety guidelines regarding the Science Fair as outlined in the packet and I confirm that my child's project will be both safe and appropriate for my child's age.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Student Name    |  |
| Teacher / Grade |  |
| Parent Name     |  |
| Parent Email    |  |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Science Project / Topic       |  |
| Brief Description of Project: |  |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please remember to attach exact cash or check (made payable to Aspen PFA) for \$5.00 in order for your child to receive a display board at the beginning of April. If this is a financial hardship, please email me and let me know! We don't want anyone to be left out!*

**Return this form to the front office in drawer marked "Science Fair" or to your child's teacher no later than FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2023.**

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Nottingham at [jasmine.nottingham@gmail.com](mailto:jasmine.nottingham@gmail.com).

