



23rd Annual Missouri Southern Regional Science Fair

(Affiliated with the Society for Science and the Public)

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Dear Science Instructor:

It is time to start thinking about the **23rd Annual Missouri Southern Regional Science Fair** (MSRSF)! We hope you are planning to enter student projects in the 2012 Fair. A change to a one-day fair has been instituted. The fair will be held Tuesday, **March 27, 2012**. The Fair will again be in the Ballroom of Billingsly Student Center at MSSU. The Awards Ceremony will again be held in Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall (formerly Matthews Hall) at MSSU. The projected schedule will have set-up of projects from 8-9:30 a.m. with judging from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Students will then be released to participate in on-campus activities run by MSRSF. The awards ceremony will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and projects will be removed after the awards presentation from 4:30-5:30 p.m. I hope this change (discussed at the 2011 science fair sponsor meeting) will allow more schools to participate due to lower costs and only one day of travel required.

Dr. Donna Johnson will again be the chair of the SRC committee. However, the procedure for submitting has changed slightly. All forms for projects can be hand-delivered to Karen Wade in RH217A or be faxed to 417-625-3169. Dr. Johnson will be on campus once a week to receive these forms. She will continue to communicate using email. However, make note that her email address has changed (src.msrsf@gmail.com).

Because of the sensitive nature of working with human subjects, we are **continuing the stringent oversight for projects requiring IRB approval**. This process is as follows:

1. **Before experimentation**, the project needs local IRB approval at your school. (Please note that the local IRB at your school **cannot** include an LPN as the medical member.)
2. After receiving local IRB approval, but **before experimentation** begins, all IRB protocol papers will be sent to the MSRSF SRC by the Jan. 20, 2012 deadline. (Note this deadline is a received by deadline not mailed by).
3. SRC will review the protocol and give final approval for experimentation to begin.

All protocol papers for projects requiring SRC approval **before experimentation** can begin are also due Jan. 20, 2012. Please check that **all** forms are completely filled out, especially dates and signatures, and don't miss the deadlines.

Category winners in both the Junior and Senior Divisions will receive a minimum of \$25. Category winners who are graduating High School Seniors will receive **scholarships to MSSU** for one semester of tuition (renewable for a second semester with a minimum grade point average). Two Junior grand prize winners will each receive a minimum of \$100. A maximum of two Senior grand prize winners will receive **paid trips to enter the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)** in Pittsburgh, PA May 13–18, 2012. In the past, approximately **30% of the entries received placement awards!**

The MSRSF is open to middle school and high school students in these counties: Dade, Cedar, Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barry and Lawrence in Missouri; and the counties of Neosho, Crawford, Montgomery, Labette, Cherokee and Bourbon in Kansas.

The website for the MSRSF has teacher and student information, rules, dates, and entry and protocol forms to view, print or download. The site is available at www.msrsf.org. If you have colleagues who did not receive a mailing from us, they can obtain all the entry information on the website. All forms can be edited online and printed out.

The **2012 Science Fair Schedule and SRC Guidelines letter** are enclosed. **All forms and rules are available on the MSRSF web pages**. Please return the enclosed yellow **INFORMATION FORM** to let us know if you plan to attend, and if you wish to receive the MSRSF entry forms in the mail. The MSRSF is trying to go green with electronic notification rather than through the mail; please send us your email address so you don't miss any communications.

Questions regarding the Science Fair may be sent to msrsf@mssu.edu or to me at: roettger-v@mssu.edu or to Dr. Donna Johnson (Chair of SRC) at src.msrsf@gmail.com.

An excellent web site to help your students in every step of the science fair process is www.sciencebuddies.org. Though not affiliated with MSRSF or Intel ISEF, we highly recommend this site. The site contains an interactive project finder, which helps students match their interests with types of questions to start asking. The site then has a detailed "how-to" section that offers guidance and examples. The site also offers an "Ask an Expert" on-line bulletin board where students can post questions that expert scientists and engineers answer and view all questions to see if their question has already been answered.

One additional piece of information regarding MSRSF for 2012, the student/sponsor must provide an extension cord if electricity is needed for the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie Roettger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Vickie Roettger, Ph.D. Director, MSRSF