

A Beginner's Introduction to BASEF

The fair takes place over a period of four days in late March/early April of every year. On line student registration starts in February and closes approximately 3 weeks before the fair. This allows the fair organizers enough time to ensure that registration documents are complete and project safety/ethical guidelines are met. We also want to ensure that the official Fair Program accurately reflects all exhibitor information.

Fair Schedule:

Project Set Up/Safety Checks: Wednesday, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Judging without students present: Thursday, 8:00 am - noon

Student Activity Events: Thursday, 8:30 am - noon*

Judging with students present: Thursday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Public Viewing: Saturday, 9:30 am - noon

Awards Ceremony: Saturday, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Project Take Down: Saturday, 3:30 pm

(After awards ceremony ONLY!)

***Please note: To accommodate concerns regarding transportation and school absences, Student Activity events will be held at Sheridan College on Thursday morning before judging in the afternoon.**

Levels and Divisions

Students compete for **Merit Awards** within 3 separate grade levels and in one of the six project divisions.

Levels (three):

Junior: Grades 7-8

Intermediate: Grades 9-10

Senior: Grades 11-12

Divisions (six):

Biotechnology,

Earth and Environmental Sciences,

Engineering & Computing Sciences,

Health Sciences (Human),

Life Sciences (Non Human),

Physical & Mathematical Sciences

(A flow chart on the BASEF web site is designed to help you determine the division of your project.)

Teams: Students may compete individually or as a two-member maximum team. Team members must be in the same level.

Merit Awards

Merit Awards recognize the tremendous amount of research and effort that has gone into the projects entered. All projects are judged by a minimum of four independent judges. Gold, silver and bronze medals, and honourable mention certificates (along with cash awards) are awarded in **each** division of **each** level based on the following scoring.

Gold: over 90% and in top 7.5% of division

Silver: over 80% and in next 10% of division

Bronze: over 75% and in next 12.5%

Honourable Mention: over 75% and not in the top 30% of division.

Special Awards

Special awards are donated by organizations and groups to recognize deserving projects that deal with topics of interest to the donor. At BASEF 2007, over \$20,000 in cash and scholarships were awarded.

Grand Prize Trip Awards

Grand Awards are given to the top projects in the fair, based on merit award scores. The Grand Trip Awards are all expenses paid trips to the national and international science fairs. Chaperones from BASEF provide additional mentoring to these students and accompany them on the trips. All students are eligible to win a place on Team BASEF and go on to compete at the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF). Only high school students are eligible to win trips to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (IISEF), held in the United States.

Grand Prize Awards

Best in Fair Pinnacle awards are presented to the top three projects in the fair, based on Merit award scores. Each winner receives an engraved plaque and a trophy for display at their school.

Pfizer Canada Award of

Excellence is given to the top project in the fair that is advancing to CWSF.

Roy Middleton award is given to the top Junior level project.

Herb Gildea Trophy is awarded to the high school accumulating the most points from the number of entries and merit awards won.

BASEF Committee Trophy is awarded to the elementary school accumulating the most points.

Merit Award Judging Criteria

Projects are judged out of a total score of 100, broken down into five sections. The sections are weighted as follows:

Scientific Thought/Creativity: 45%

Project Display: 10%

Project Notebook: 20%

Abstract: 5%

Interview: 20%

The judging forms and criteria are available on the BASEF website in the Judges section.

Our Gold medalists (scoring over 90%) enter projects that are well designed from inception to completion. The research and experimentation is complete, the work is well documented in their notebooks, and their displays are an attractive summary of their complete project. They are knowledgeable about their work and are able to enthusiastically explain it to the judges because they practice their presentations and prepare for the interviews.

Project Resources

The "Science Success!" student and teacher materials are available for download at www.basef.ca and include an extensive reference list. Additional recommended site: www.sciencebuddies.org