

About the District & State Science Day Program

What are the Science Days of the Junior Academy?

The Junior Academy of the Ohio Academy of Science is dedicated to the promotion of science and science education for the benefit of the youth of Ohio. For this purpose, the State of Ohio is divided into seventeen districts. The Upper Miami Valley District (District 1) consists of Champaign, Darke, Miami, and Shelby Counties. At the District level, the affairs of the Ohio Junior Academy of Science are conducted by the District council, which includes one or more representatives from each county of the District.

One of the major activities of the Junior Academy is to guide and/or sponsor Science Days at the local, county, district, and state levels. For the series of science days, students in grades 5-12 should use the SCIENTIFIC METHOD to prepare all hypothesis based, non-engineering design projects for judging by teams of professional scientists and science teachers.

The judging criteria for hypothesis based projects include:

Effective use of the scientific method
Clarity of expression
Knowledge achieved
Originality and creativity

For engineering design projects, the design process followed by the student is evaluated.

The judging criteria for engineering design projects include:

Uses of engineering or technological design
Clarity of expression
Knowledge achieved
Originality and creativity

A project must be judged superior at each science day in order to be eligible for entry at the next higher level of science day, from Local or County, to District, to State. Any school, by itself or in collaboration with other schools, may organize a local science day.

Additional Project Requirements

Some UMV District Science Day students may become eligible to compete at the Buckeye Science & Engineering Fair, which is affiliated with the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). In order to meet ISEF requirements, student must follow stringent rules when their project includes the use of vertebrate animals, human subjects or tissues, microorganisms, recombinant DNA, or hazardous materials. Rules and appropriate forms to fill out were provided to teachers and students earlier in the project season. They can also be accessed from this website. Students with additional questions about project requirements should consult their teacher, or send inquiry via email to: info@ohioumvsd.com for clarification.

Special Awards at UMV District Science Day

Awards will be presented from local and regional organizations, institutions and businesses. These awards typically consist of merchandise, cash, medallions and/or certificates.

What about the Judges?

Judges are always needed at the District Day (especially science and mathematics teachers). Please send to the District Director's office the names and addresses of any potential judges so they may be contacted. It would be helpful if each participating school would provide at least one teacher to serve as judge for each six entries.

How are the projects judged?

All projects are judged by two judges. Individuals are judged on a 40 point while teams are judged on a 50 point system to include teamwork. Judges come from all walks of life including teachers, university and college professors, government, and industry professionals. Additional judges may interview students of a specific project for special awards. Students receiving superior or excellent may be eligible for these awards. Each special award has a specific list of criteria that the judges evaluate on each project they judge. The Special Award judges may interview a number of students to help them decide on the best project for their specific criteria.

State Science Day

The following policy was adopted at the OJAS Council meeting, September 1998, for use at all future District Science Days. When the number of superior-rated students at a district science day exceeds that district's quota for State Science Day, the district shall follow this policy for meeting the limits of the quota. Team scores are rated in identical fashion (with the 50 point scale adjusted proportionally to a 40 point scale)

Detailed instructions for students eligible to move onto State Science Day will be given to students at the awards ceremony during the UMV District Science Day. Any student who is eligible and wishes to enter State Science Day must themselves, or a designated substitute, be present at the awards ceremony to pick up the registration information for State Science Day.