Important Changes and Reminders for Wyoming State Science Fair 2016

There are 10 IMPORTANT changes and reminders for the 2016 Wyoming State Science Fair:

1) Registration and check-in is Sunday March 6, 2016 from 3-8pm only.

2) We will have extended public viewing times for posters: Monday evening (with students) and Tuesday morning (without students). All posters will stay on display until after the Awards Ceremony.

3) Photos of winning research displays will be shown during the Awards Ceremony. Submit photos as high resolution jpgs with your registration.

4) Up to 40 Jr. and 20 Sr. division projects from each regional fair will qualify for the Wyoming State Science Fair.—Send us your best work!

5) All student research will be reviewed by the SRC/IRB and project displays checked by a Display and Safety Committee prior to the start of judging. Make sure your paperwork is completed accurately and submitted no later than Feb. 20, 2016.

6) Projects will have 4 feet of table display space. If you have the research, utilize the space (see ISEF Guidelines pg. 23 for display size specifications).

7) 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be given in all categories in both Jr. and Sr. divisions. You must be present to receive awards.

8) Additional special awards will be given throughout the fair. You must be present to receive awards.

9) ISEF Finalists must attend a required meeting following the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday.

10) You are invited to enjoy a new robotics demonstration in addition to Monday morning lab tours and the Pizza & Planetarium event Sunday night.

BE WYOMING’S BEST

It is a privilege to compete at WSSF. We are looking forward to seeing you in Laramie, WY
The overlay of map layers with species distribution maps allows users to engage in the scientific process—from hypothesis-making through data collection and analysis to conclusions. Lesson plans are included to connect students with Wyoming species and habitats, and to state standards. WyoBio is a collaborative project of the UW Biodiversity Institute, the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. Visit www.WyoBio.org, or contact the Biodiversity Institute at biodiversity@uwyo.edu for more information.

WyoBio is a new, interactive website where citizens of all ages and vocations can contribute species observations, and explore the observations of other citizen scientists. Observations, range maps, and predictive models are provided for hundreds of Wyoming's plant and animal species, based on data collected by professionals for more than 100 years.

The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he's one who asks the right questions. —Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Le Cru et le cuit*, 1964

**WyoBio — Citizen Science Opportunity & Valuable Science Research Resource**

**Websites on “Speed Dial” — References to Keep at the Ready**

1) WSSF Website — https://wy.zfairs.com/

2) Intel ISEF Website — https://student.societyforscience.org/intel-isef

**Library Research Guide**

University of Wyoming librarians created a library research guide just for you! This guide shows you how to search the WYLD databases, use scholarly websites, and what to do when you visit the UW libraries in person. There are also helpful hints for evaluating sources and writing proper citations.

If you need personal guidance, the librarians would love to hear from you!

http://libguides.uwyo.edu/sciencefair
From One Parent to Another: Science Fair Survival Tips

I’m the mother of your Wyoming State Science Fair Coordinator and 3 time ISEF Finalist. My daughter asked me to share tips that helped our family “survive” the madcap, wonderful adventure called science fair, 15 years ago.

1) Because mealtimes were often disrupted before and during Fair, we always had fruits, veggies, nuts, vitamin water, and power bars on hand.

2) Stock up on colored poster board, ink cartridges, various glues and tapes, and printer paper. Also locate 3-5 rulers, a T-square and knee pads. Keep gas in the car for midnight runs to the copy center.

3) Figure out how long it may take to assemble the display and then start 3x earlier. It’s inevitable that the dog will run away or some such when you are facing a deadline.

4) Make your child rehearse their speech — timed. You don’t have to understand their research — we didn’t. I’m an artist and Erin’s dad was a photographer.

5) Your child only needs one presentable outfit — something that is clean, conservative and professional. Discourage girls from wearing heels for the first time; neckties and belts sure make boys look sharp.

6) Stock up on sleep — you won’t get much during science fair week.

7) Meet all deadlines for paperwork, display set-up, etc. Just bite the bullet & ask the fair coordinator for help.

8) Be proactive about finding a mentor for your child if their research is outside the realm of your knowledge.

9) Show up at the Public Viewing time. Encourage your child and their competitors. Donate to an award. Applaud, cheer and smile at the Awards Ceremony.

10) Be proud that your son or daughter is excited and doing something that will make a difference.

Although sometimes hectic, stressful and sleepless, science fair was one of the most rewarding activities imaginable for our family and I wouldn’t have traded it for anything in the world. I hope it is similarly rewarding for you too. ~ Jeny Stoessel, Ph.D. (Education)

University of Wyoming Science Fair Virtual Mentoring Program

Why? To help students define and refine their research question, and to provide support in the methods and analysis of the research so that it’s realistic, attainable, and interesting.

Who? Mentors would be UW students who will help students in grades 6-12 with their science projects.

When? During fair season November-February, and March-April for ISEF finalists.

Where? Online through Google Hangouts Broadcasts, email, or Skype

Contact Cayleigh Brown if you have an interest in the program: uwsciencefairmentoring@gmail.com
Plans for the 2016 Wyoming State Science Fair are coming together. I’m excited to announce that fair attendees will get the chance to meet and hear from astrophysicists and TV personality, Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi. Dr. Oluseyi overcame personal and cultural obstacles to become a science fair winner and science professional.

The bar is set high. Let’s all work to meet the challenge and have a great time doing it. You can help:

- Encourage students, especially 9th-12 graders, to do science research.
- Learn the Intel ISEF guidelines and help students follow them.
- Publicize the science fair and associated contests by making window or bulletin board displays (write me to request posters and other promotional materials) and sharing Wyoming Science-Fair Facebook posts.
- Attend public science lectures and read/discuss science literature with your children or students, or find someone who can.
- Stay informed by frequently visiting the Wyoming State Science Fair website (https://wy.zfairs.com) and Facebook page.
- Review student paperwork and submit it on time.

~ Erin Stoesz

Wyoming State Science Fair Coordinator’s 2016 Vision:

“To continue to increase participation (especially in the Senior Division) in science fairs across Wyoming and improve the overall quality of student research by promoting and using existing science experiences as a springboard for student innovation.”