Fall 2013

Dear Sponsors:

Welcome to another year of science fair! As you know, I’m the IJAS president for one more year, so I wanted to get a head start on our IJAS Region V business. In this letter are both State and Regional IJAS updates.

State IJAS Information
The State fall mailing was just sent. If you didn’t receive it, please let me know. It should also be posted on the State IJAS web site: www.ijas.org.

IJAS Policy and Procedure Manual 2012-14
The IJAS Policy and Procedure Manual was updated summer 2012. The manual continues to be available on the State IJAS web site: www.ijas.org. Recall that we added a new design project rubric and information. Please review the fall mailing and manual. In the State IJAS mailing, I’ve included some information from our new State Safety Chair, Christina Palffy; she noted some easy to correct safety issues.

State Membership
State membership is $75 for each school. The membership form is on the State web site, and registration is due by December 31, 2013. There are increased fees for registering late. You can check to see if your registration has been completed by checking the school list on the State web site. Please note that membership chair continues to be Jim Townsend, so make sure that you use the correct mailing address for State membership. Jim actually emailed individual forms to all prior sponsors a few weeks ago, so if you didn’t get one, please let me or Jim (jtown103@gmail.com) know, or go to the IJAS website and obtain a copy of the registration form. Please register by the deadline, as the number of schools in the region is counted in the calculation for the number of students that we can send to the State Exposition.

Region V Project Session
We hope that your school will participate in this year’s Northern Illinois Region V Science Exposition to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the Northern Illinois University Holmes Student Center in DeKalb, Illinois. If you are not participating this year, I would appreciate an email so I do not expect anything from your school. Registration materials are due to me by March 3, 2014. (I will try to schedule next year’s regional fair for mid-March in 2015, and will do our best to avoid conflicts and to provide as much time as possible for students to complete their projects.) Excel sheets for submitting student and project information are attached. We will continue to work digitally this year. I will send these again as the project session date approaches.

Region V Paper Session
The Paper Exposition is scheduled for March 8, 2014 at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy; the registration and papers are due to me by February 3, 2014. Mail papers to me, c/o IMSA, 1500 Sullivan
Project and Paper Session Quotas
Once again this year, we will consider accepting additional projects and papers over the stated quota. The quota has been determined by: Ten projects or papers or 3% of your school's seventh through twelfth grade enrollment, whichever is greater. We generally have additional room to accept more projects and papers than we get submitted. So if at all possible, we will accept additional submissions over the standard quota from each school, however I reserve the right to limit a school’s extra submissions if I find that we are reaching a number that simply can’t be accommodated well.

Safety/Scientific Review Committee/Endorsements
By December 31, 2013 students must apply for waivers, exemptions to safety policies, and so forth. You should access the Policy and Procedure Manual on the IJAS site: www.ijas.org. Don't forget to have your students complete any required endorsement forms; carefully review the safety section in the manual. Please contact me if you have safety questions. I am continuing as chair of the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) which addresses requests for exemptions from the State IJAS safety procedures. The State requests that only sponsors and teachers forward exemption requests; students and parents should not contact either the regional chair or the State SRC. Contact me for safety approval, and/or questions concerning humans, vertebrates, microorganisms, DNA, and so forth. If you have a question about a project, please contact me before the investigation begins. Limit the use of vertebrates; you may not change their normal environment. There is no waiver needed if the student is working in an approved lab. However, you will need to notify the state of this before the State Exposition; contact Christina Palffy at cpalffy@d125.org. Please see the State IJAS mailing on this. If you are uncertain, contact me or Christina. I repeating safety information from the State mailing, because this is very important.

Commonly overlooked IJAS safety regulations include the following:

- All copies of the paper and the poster board must have a safety sheet that is signed by the sponsor. This safety sheet must have all safety hazards outlined and describe how the project was conducted in a safe fashion.
- If human test subjects are used for any exercise related projects, the student must have documentation that there is a physical on file for every test subject. This can be in the form of a signature from the school nurse.
- Any project using human subjects at all, even for surveys, requires a Humans as Test Subject Endorsement form.
- Students may not culture any microorganisms, unless the cultures were purchased from a reputable vendor. They may not grow bread or other food mold, nor may they swab people or objects to determine how much or what kind of bacteria are on a surface. Proof of the source of the bacteria (receipt or invoice or other verification) should be available in case the source is called into question.
- All projects involving microorganisms must be done in a classroom or laboratory. They may not be conducted at home.
- Students who produce alcohol in connection with a science fair project must obtain permission from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (1-800-398-2282)
- When working with chemicals, goggles must be worn. If students take staged photographs for their poster, make sure all safety protocols are being followed in those photos. There should be no photos displayed of students conducting unsafe experiments, even if the purpose of the photo is just to show the set-up, and is not of the students actually conducting the investigation.
Other Opportunities for Students
IJAS offers a number of other opportunities for students. There are essay and artistic design contests. This year’s theme is “It’s an Ice Day for Science!” going along with our State Exposition speaker, Dr. Ross Powell from Northern Illinois University. Students compete for cash prizes, and winning artwork is featured on the state t-shirt or the banquet and paper program covers. Students may also apply for grants of up to $250 to help support their work. Graduating seniors who have participated in IJAS and done well, may be eligible for an IJAS scholarships. And finally, students may volunteer as runners, or perhaps become members of the student board, which is responsible for the State banquet.

State IJAS Exposition
The State IJAS Exposition is May 3 (paper session) and May 4 (project session), 2013 at the Northern Illinois University. Future state fair dates are below. See web site www.ijas.org for details.
- May 2 & 3, 2014 - Northern Illinois University
- May 1 & 2, 2015 - Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- 2016 - Location to be determined; it will not be at UIUC.

Region V did very well at State, again, in 2013. This is due to your excellent work - keep it up! The number of students that a region can send to the State Exposition is determined by the number of gold and silver awards that a region receives the previous year at State, plus the number of schools registered in the region. So it is important that schools register with IJAS by the December deadline. Students who do not show up for State competition have negative ramifications on our State quota for the next year.

Intel ISEF
Region V is an affiliate fair of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF). In order to be eligible for Intel ISEF students must submit their project information (proposal and safety assessment) to me in the fall before the investigation starts so that it can be reviewed. Review is required whether there are safety concerns or not. This competition is open only to high school students. Students must compete at the Region V Project Exposition; only three projects from our affiliate fair can advance to Intel ISEF competition.

Broadcom MASTERS™ National Competition for Middle School Students
The Society for Science and the Public (SSP), which sponsors Intel ISEF and the Intel Science Talent Search, is continuing the Broadcom Math, Applied Science, Technology and Engineering for Rising Stars (Broadcom MASTERS™). More information can be found at: http://www.societyforscience.org/masters. As an SSP-affiliated fair, we will have the opportunity to name our top 10% of seventh and eighth grade students to be nominees for this national competition. Nominees will need to complete an on-line registration by June 2014. Three-hundred national semi-finalists will be announced in August. Thirty finalists will be selected and awarded an all expense paid trip for both the student and one parent/guardian to Washington DC to attend the finals in the Fall of 2014.

Opportunities for Region and State IJAS Leadership and Participation
Thanks to all who helped at the region and state fairs last year. We need your continued support as safety judges and judges at the regional and state levels. Since I have become the president of State IJAS, there is an opportunity for someone from Region V to additionally represent us at the State level. There are opportunities to support IJAS in a number of ways at either the State or Regional level. Some of this support can simply be taking on a responsibility on the day of the State or Regional Exposition, without a lot of advance work required. At the Regional level we might look for additional special prizes and/or consider some fund-raising efforts, for example. Let me know if you are interested, or have ideas. I would love to diversify leadership of Region V IJAS. If you’re interested, but don’t know what you can do, shoot me an email, and we can talk.

Contact Information
Judy Scheppler (quella@imsa.edu, 630-907-5899) - IJAS Region V Director
Region V Project Session Coordinator
State IJAS President
State Scientific Review Committee Chair

State IJAS:  www.ijas.org
Region V Information:  http://www.niu.edu/clasep/Fairs/Science/

I am, as always, looking forward to working with all of you this year! Please contact me if I can provide any assistance or answer any questions.

Judith A. Scheppler, Ph.D.

Attachments:
- Excel file for submitting project information to Region V
- Excel file for submitting judges’ information for project session to Region V
- Excel file for submitting paper information to Region V
- Excel file for submitting judges’ information for paper session to Region V

Note – When you email a spreadsheet, please label it with your school name and IJAS number, plus Project Judge Data, Student Project Data, and so forth: IMSA5048StudentProjectData.xls
Region V Information

For religious reasons only, arrangements can be made for Friday 5 PM judging at Northern Illinois University. Contact Judy by March 3 to arrange this.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region V Fair: Saturday, March 22, 2014 at: Northern Illinois University Holmes Student Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registration forms will be sent out in February.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Please send <strong>$15 per project</strong> by March 3, 2014 to IJAS Region 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Please - No late projects;</strong> late projects may be charged an additional $5 fee for entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Project and judge data must be submitted by email to Judy Scheppler using the supplied Excel spreadsheet. Please do not modify or re-format the spreadsheet cells. The data can be submitted no later than March 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A copy of the abstract, safety sheet, and any microorganism and/or vertebrate endorsements used can be sent by US Mail with your application check. These will not be returned to you. The purpose is to provide a double check for proper endorsements, and so forth; sending these to me is optional.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. By December 31, 2013 you MUST apply for waivers for work with vertebrates, and so forth. There is <strong>no waiver needed if students are working in an approved lab, however you must send a copy of the approved lab procedures to the state.</strong> See the State IJAS information/mailing about this.</td>
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<th>Region V Paper Session: Saturday, March 8, 2014 at: IMSA</th>
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<tr>
<td>See registration papers for this in this mailing.</td>
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<td><strong>Papers must be new research</strong> - not just the paper from last year's project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Send $15 for each paper by February 3, 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Paper and judge data must be submitted by email using the supplied Excel spreadsheet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. One judge for every 2 papers (Also another judge for every 2 essays.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Send four copies of the paper. These will not be returned to you. The paper maximum is 30 pages including everything – figures, tables, bibliography, and so forth. Note that papers may be double-sided this year, however.</td>
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Make checks payable to: IJAS Region V

Mail checks, abstracts, forms, papers and so forth to:

Judy Scheppler  
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
1500 West Sullivan Road  
Aurora, IL 60506  
Phone: 630-907-5899  
Fax: 630-907-5939  
Email: quella@imsa.edu

Secretary: Maria Magana, 630-907-5084
The paper session is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (for directions to IMSA, see www.imsa.edu).
Papers are due by February 3.

To enter a student's paper in the regional paper session, send the following by February 3:

1. $15.00 entry fee to cover paper session expenses.
   Please make checks payable to IJAS Region 5 - $15 per paper entered.
2. Four stapled copies of the student's science project report, no more than 30 pages total.
   Send copies; students must always keep their original.
   This paper must be original research this year - not last year's project.
3. Name and address of a qualified judge for each two papers entered - round up.
   (1 paper requires one judge, 3 papers require 2 judges, and so forth.)
   Judges will receive the papers by mail this year, so they may read them ahead of time.
   Judges should not mark on the papers; and should make sure to return all of the papers to
   Region V IJAS on the day of paper judging.

Tentative Schedule of Events at Paper Session
8:30 am. Meetings for judges and contestants

9:00 Paper presentations begin. Limited to 10 minutes with 5 minutes for questions by judges.
   2-3 judges per room. Each room will have 5-6 papers to read and judge.
   Only one student will be in the room at a time with the judges.
   (If necessary, students may leave after their presentation.)

12:30 or so - Generally presentations are finished; awards announced ASAP
   Paper session people will know who is going to State.
   Essay contest entries will be judged and notified later.