

Illinois Junior Academy of Science Region 5 Winter Mailing

January 2015

Dear Sponsors:

I hope your science fairs have gone, or are going, well! Once again, Region V has done very well at the State Exposition, and our quota for both numbers of projects and papers is stable. Well done! I know how hard all of you work to support your students and to ensure that they do high quality investigations.

Please review the State IJAS Winter 2015 Mailing, which will be emailed to everyone early February. Recall that the 2015 State Expo is at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, the 2016 State Expo will be at Millikin University, and the 2017 State Expo location is still to be determined.

Regional and State Paper Sessions Going Digital!

Important Dates for 2015:

- Deadline for Project Session Registration – March 3, 2015
- Region V Project Exposition at Northern Illinois University – March 21, 2015
- Deadline for Paper Registration and Paper Submission – March 6, 2015
- Region V Paper Exposition at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy – March 28, 2015
- State Exposition at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale – May 1 and 2, 2015

Important Dates for 2016:

- Region V Project Exposition at Northern Illinois University – April 2, 2016
- Deadline for Project Session Registration – March 15, 2016
- Region V Paper Exposition at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy – to be determined
- Deadline for Paper Registration and Paper Submission – to be determined
- State Exposition at Millikin University – May 13 and 14, 2016

NSTA National Conference in Chicago – March 12 – 15, 2015.

Note: I am the local arrangements coordinator for NSTA 2015 in Chicago. I really need everyone to submit student and judge data in a timely fashion so that I can balance all of my responsibilities.

Included with this letter is the information you need to participate at the regional level exposition.

1) Cover page for all the information you are sending me, just to make sure I receive it all.

Send to: Judy Scheppler/Region V IJAS, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, 1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora, Illinois 60506.

2) Regional Exposition Map and Schedule for March 21, 2015.

This is for you to duplicate as needed for your students and judges.

3) Information that we will be sending to judges. This is for your information only, and you do not need to give it to them, but you may if you wish. As a reminder, we need one judge for every two projects. For one project, send at least one judge; for four projects send two judges, and so forth.

Region V Paper Session

Paper Session and Essay Contest Registration is due March 6, 2015 for the March 28 Paper Session at IMSA. The cost is \$15 per paper. Judges will be emailed copies of the papers to read ahead of time. Send to: Vandana Chinwalla/Region V IJAS, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, 1500 Sullivan Road, Aurora, Illinois 60506.

Region V Project Exposition

This year the 2015 Northern Illinois Regional Exposition is on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at Northern Illinois University in the Holmes Student Center, in DeKalb, Illinois. Next year's date is April 2, 2016 at NIU.

You may enter up to ten projects or 3% of your school's seventh through twelfth grade enrollment, whichever is greater. If you would like, please designate some alternate projects and papers. Once I get entries, if we have space, I will add some alternates. Please list and designate alternate judges if you submit alternate projects or papers. I anticipate that I will be able to accept alternates.

You need to schedule your own fair so I can get all registrations in by the **March 6 deadline**.

We will be working to get more awards for students to make the effort even more worthwhile. If you know of a business or organization that would like to donate money for special awards, please let us know!

IJAS project entry will consist of mailing me the \$15 **entry fee** per project (make checks payable to IJAS Region V), and emailing me the **judges** information and **student information** in an excel spreadsheet. All of this information is due to me on March 3, 2015 and must be complete. Entries received March 4 - March 21 will require a \$5 late fee per entry. It is our goal to email you your students' project numbers the week of March 9, or sooner. It is optional to send me a copy of the project's **abstract, safety sheet**, and any vertebrate or other **endorsements**.

We are continuing our digital registration this year to cut down on paper work, to be more efficient, and to be more environmentally friendly. Please email (quella@imsa.edu) me your student information and then send your abstracts, safety sheets, and endorsements separately. Send checks as soon as your office can get them. The excel spreadsheet in which you should record your student information (student names, grade of students, project title, category) is attached. Please do not reformat the spreadsheet, so that we can merge data and spreadsheets from all of the schools participating in the fair. Please double check all name spellings and titles. Does the student prefer Joseph over Joe? Use title case for titles - capitalize most words.

Judges

You need to provide one project judge for every two projects entered. Send me their names, addresses, and email addresses. The spreadsheet for the judges' information sheet is also attached, and was sent last fall.

Judges should indicate:

- Judging Category Preferences - Behavioral Science, Biochemistry/Chemistry, Botany, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Consumer Science, Earth Science/Environmental Science,

Health Science/Microbiology, Physics (*includes* Aerospace/Astronomy/Computer Science/Electronics/Engineering/Mathematics/ Physics/ Materials Science), Zoology.

- Lunch Preference: beef, turkey, ham, vegetarian, or none
- Judging Experience – please indicate years judged at various levels (local, region, state, and so forth)
- Judges Background

State Guidebook and Safety Information

You must access and download the guidebook and essay information by logging on to the IJAS site: www.ijas.org. The documents are longer being sent by mail. Please have all teachers and all students involved in science fair projects review the guidebook carefully. We continue to have projects that use **bacteria and/or vertebrates** in inappropriate and illegal ways. All projects that use human subjects, even surveys, need a human endorsement sheet filled out. Bacterial cultures from ground beef are not allowed. This is a culture from a vertebrate. This is written in the handbook. The purpose of this is to protect students. Bacteria in meat can be very harmful. Also, **no wild cultures are allowed** - this means that a student may NOT do an experiment growing mold on food.

Project Board and Display Reminders

Please make sure there are NO student phone numbers or addresses on the abstract since it is displayed on the poster board. This is a safety issue, and protects the students. If you have a question about a project, please call me or contact the State IJAS safety committee. Abstract and endorsement sheets need to be displayed on the board, and can be reduced to a half sheet of paper (8.5 inches X 5.5 inches). Stacking the sheets on the poster board is more advisable. Consistent with State guidelines, we will not be providing electricity and students may only have their board and a battery-operated computer on their display table. No apparatus of any kind may be displayed, and no items can be stored underneath the display table. Each year we have students remove items from tables, only to have them re-appear. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not advance to State.

NIU

The NIU website with Region V information is: <http://www.niu.edu/clasep/Fairs/Science/>

Intel ISEF

In order to be eligible for Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), students must submit their project information to me in the fall before the fair. It is now too late for this year. However, consider this for your top high school students next fall.

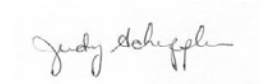
State IJAS 2015

The State Exposition is May 1st for the paper session and May 2nd for projects. There is no further cost if your student(s) is selected for state exposition, but I will need judges' information **right away**. You need to provide one judge for every two projects entered into State IJAS exposition. Also, you will need to let me know right away if a student selected for state exposition will **not** be able to make the State IJAS Exposition. **No shows for the state exposition cut down on our quotas for the next year!** Right away means letting me know at NIU on March 21, or the next week at the very latest. I realize that the week after the project exposition may coincide with spring break; please try and plan ahead to get me data.

Future State IJAS Dates

- May 1 & 2, 2015 - SIU at Carbondale
- May 13 & 14 - Millikin University
- May 5 & 6, 2017 - tentative
- May 4 & 5, 2018 - tentative
- May 3 & 4, 2019 - tentative
- May 8 & 9, 2020 - tentative

Thanks! I'm looking forward to seeing you on March 21, 2015, at Northern Illinois University's Holmes Student Center! If you have questions, please email quella@imsa.edu, or call me at 630-907-5899.



Judith A. Scheppler, Ph.D.
IJAS Region V Fair Director

Region V Project Session Coordinator
State IJAS President
State Scientific Review Committee Chair

Attachments:

- State IJAS project scoring rubrics - experimental and design
- State IJAS paper scoring rubrics - experimental and design
- 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 ProjectJudgeData, StudentProjectData, and so forth: IMSA5048StudentProjectData.xls

Region V Information

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

<p>Region V Fair: Saturday, March 21, 2015 at: Northern Illinois University-Holmes Student Center</p> <p>Registration forms will be sent out in February.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please send \$15 per project by March 3, 2015 to IJAS Region 5. Entries received March 4 - 21 will cost \$20 per project.2. Project and judge data must be submitted by email to Judy Scheppler using the supplied Excel spreadsheet. Please do not modify or reformat the spreadsheet cells. The data can be submitted no later than March 3.3. 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.4. By December 31, 2014 you MUST have applied for waivers for work with vertebrates, and so forth. There is 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. See the State IJAS information/ mailing about this.	<p>Paper Session: Saturday, March 28, 2015 at: IMSA</p> <p>See registration papers for this in this mailing.</p> <p>Papers must be new research - not just the paper from last year's project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Send \$15 for each paper by March 6, 20152. One judge for every 2 papers (Also another judge for every 2 essays.)3. Specific instructions for digital submission of papers will be coming soon. We will be using the State guidelines as much as possible. <p>Paper session at region and state going digital! Students will need to bring two hard copies of papers and signed endorsement sheets with them to the presentation.</p>
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Make checks payable to: IJAS Region V

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

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

**Illinois Junior Academy of Science Northern Region 5
Semi-Final Exposition
SATURDAY, March 21, 2015
Northern Illinois University Holmes Student Center
Schedule for the Day**

7:30 - 8:30AM - Holmes Student Center Opens for Project Set-Up (Duke Ellington Ballroom and Regency Room)

Project numbers will be posted. (We hope to get all this information out to sponsors early.)

8:00 - 8:30AM - Judges Arrive and Sign In (Carl Sandburg Auditorium)

Look for signs indicating the location of the judges' room. NIU is providing juice, coffee, and rolls for the judges. Box lunches will also be provided for the judges, once they have completed judging. **Thanks to NIU and Mark Pietrowski!** Judges should find their category; we will assign judging teams in advance. Judging is done in pairs; one experienced judge is partnered with one inexperienced judge, and judges from the same school will not be paired together.

8:30AM - Noon - Only Safety Inspectors, Judges, and Students Allowed in the Project Judging Areas

Parents may leave the building or stay in the designated areas, but they will not be allowed in the project session areas with students.

8:30 - All Students Set-Up and in Place Ready for Safety Inspection (Duke Ellington Ballroom and Regency Room)

7:30 - 9:00AM - Safety Inspection for Students

Safety inspectors are putting out the judging forms for each student. A safety inspector should visit each project by 9AM. Please contact someone in the scoring room if this doesn't occur.

8:30 - 9:00AM - Judges Meeting in the Judges Room (Carl Sandburg Auditorium)

Judges will receive instructions and any last minute information.

9:00AM - Noon - Project Judging (Duke Ellington Ballroom and Regency Room)

There will be only *one* official judging conducted by two judges, together. At 9AM, or shortly thereafter, your official judges should stop by your poster to briefly introduce themselves.

For Students

Your project presentation should last no more than 10 minutes. Questioning from judges should last about 5 minutes, and then the judges will take your paper for review. Make sure that you get your paper back from them when they give you your comment sheet. Once you have been judged you may leave your project board. Your paper should remain with your board and be on display for the special judging, which *may* occur later.

Noon – 2:30 PM - Science Fair Open to the Public

Please leave your projects boards up and on display. Go to lunch.

2:00 – 2:30 PM – Sponsors Meeting – Ellington Room, Holmes Student Center

Agenda: 1. Review of the day; suggestions for improvement
2. Preparation for State IJAS Fair
3. Policy and Procedure Manual revision

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM - Awards Ceremony – Carl Sandburg Auditorium

Parents, sponsors, and other guests are invited. We will announce all outstanding awards!!!

3:30 – 4:00 PM - Take down your display boards.

The fair is finished. Any unclaimed boards will be discarded.

Judges' Information

February 2015

Thank you for volunteering to judge our Regional Exposition on Saturday, March 21, 2015. If you know someone else who is willing to judge, please have them come on Saturday. We always need extra help!

Location: Holmes Student Center at Northern Illinois University

Date: March 21, 2015

Time: Arrive between 8:00 – 8:30 AM

Judges Meeting: 8:30 AM

Attached is the general schedule for the day and a judging sheet for your review. Below are instructions about your responsibilities as a judge.

8:00 - 8:30AM - Judges Arrive and Sign In (Carl Sandburg Auditorium)

Look for signs indicating the location of the judges' room. NIU is providing juice, coffee, and rolls for the judges. Box lunches will also be provided for the judges, once they have completed judging. **Thanks to NIU and Mark Petrowski!** Judges should find their category and sit in teams.

8:30 - 9:00AM - Judges Meeting in the Carl Sandburg Auditorium

Judges will receive reminders, instructions, and last minute changes. Judging is done in pairs; one experienced judge should partner with one inexperienced judge. During this time, projects in each category will be assigned to judging pairs and you will receive judging sheets for each project. Please make sure that you are not judging a student that you know.

9:00AM - Judging Begins (Duke Ellington Ballroom and Regency Room)

Please remember to turn off all cell phone before judging!

- 1) **Visit** each of the projects you have been assigned to judge *before you begin judging* and let the students know you are their official judge. A safety inspector will have left paperwork for you to complete for judging at each student's display. Students who have *safety violations* will need to correct them before they get judging rubrics and comment sheet.
- 2) **Double check** each project for safety violations when you judge them. Let us know in the scoring room if someone needs to be disqualified from going to state exposition - you are checking for project violations.
- 3) Let the students **present** their project, *before* you begin **asking questions!** Many of them may be nervous, so please listen, be interested, be polite, and be pleasant.
- 4) After you have **looked** at their paper and talked with the student(s), **fill in the judging rubric** completely. The rubrics will be given back to the sponsors, but not the student(s). You can give the students' sponsor suggestions for the future.
- 5) Judges **do not** have to **agree on a score**; you can complete this independently. The two judges' scores are averaged. Students *will not* receive their judging rubric back; however they will receive your *comment sheet*, which you should give them. Do not tell the student their score from the rubric. Add the score correctly and please double check it. In the scoring room, *we do not double check your math* – students *may* need over a score of over 95 to advance to the State Exposition.
- 6) **Complete** the *comment sheet*, give it to the student(s), and please **be kind**. Make *constructive* suggestions, especially if the student is going to the state exposition. Let student(s) know *why* they did not receive an "Outstanding score" if there was something wrong. **Do not tell student what their rubric score is or give them their rubric.**
- 7) Do not keep a copy of their paper. Give it back to the student(s) after you have looked at it and reviewed it.

8) Give only your judging sheet to a student runner or turn it into the scoring room. Please, do not save these until the end of the day, so that we can begin recording scores.

Noon – Judging Ends

When you are completely finished with judging all your projects, please **sign out** at the scoring room.

Please - Hand in the index cards of the projects you judged! This is important so we can document judging. Please let us know if there were students who did not show up.

If you cannot make it Saturday, March 21, please find a substitute and let me know who that person will be. Email quella@imsa.edu or call 630-907-5899.

Illinois Junior Academy of Science - Northern Region 5
REGIONAL SEMI-FINALS
Project Session: Saturday, March 21, 2015
Paper Session: Saturday, March 28, 2015 at IMSA
Cover Page for Entries

School _____ IJAS number: _____

Name of Head Sponsor: _____

Email: _____

Paper Session: We will email you the paper schedule the week of March 16, 2015, or sooner.

Project Session: We will email you the list of project numbers the week of March 16, 2015, or sooner.

1. Number of papers or projects you are sending: _____ (May be up to 10 or 3% of population). Please send data (title of project, category, number of students doing each paper/project, student names, and so forth) in the provided Excel files. For a group paper/project, one student needs to be designated as the *primary* student. Any awards will be given to this student; they will be responsible for dividing monetary awards. Please double check spelling of the student(s)' full name(s) as what is provided is how the names will appear on their certificates. The primary student's last name is used to help organize our data.

2. Enclose check for \$15 per paper/project. Check should be payable to: IJAS Region V.

Check Number _____ Amount of check enclosed: _____

Check is from: _____

3. You may enclose copy of abstract, safety sheet, and any required vertebrate endorsements for each project you enter. Staple the 2 or 3 pages for each project together with abstract on top.

4. Number of judges you are sending: _____. You must send at least one judge for every two papers/projects that you are bringing. You cannot send a paper/project without a judge! One project equals at least *one* judge. Please provide judges' information in the Excel files; I need the judge's name, address, phone, email, and background. Also indicate the judges' first, second, and third choices for category to judge and lunch preference (project session only).

Project Session: Please remind judges to be at NIU on March 21, 2015 before 8:30AM.

Paper Session: Please remind judges to be at IMSA on March 28, 2015 before 8:30AM.

5. The project entry deadline is March 3, 2015. (\$5 per project late fee for March 4-21.)

6. The paper entry deadline is March 6, 2015.

Send all of your entries to: Judy Scheppler/Region V IJAS
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 W. Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506