

# New Mexico Junior Academy of Science Paper Competition

## 2021 Judge's Instructions

Judging this year will be much different than previous years. The oral presentations will be virtual. The State Competition will be on the Zoom platform. The presenter will be allowed temporary hosting so that they can use their computer for the PowerPoint Presentation, everyone else will be muted. When the presentation is finished and/or after 10 minutes. The judges will be unmuted to be able to ask their questions. After presentations are completed the judges will caucus separately.

Please use the Manuscript Judging Form in advance of the oral session. Examine the papers carefully and score them in each category. We are emphasizing formatting as some of the papers will qualify for publication in the [New Mexico Journal of Science](#). We also would like to students to become familiar with technical formatting. We are looking for research papers not library research, collections or gadgeteering. But if a student has collected data, for instance from the Internet, and developed a way of looking at the data with software or statistics this is very acceptable. The process the student used should follow the scientific or engineering method. However, it does not necessarily have to contribute to the scientific or engineering base of knowledge. But it should address a unique problem.

The work we are judging is that of a middle school or high school student. It is not a Masters or Ph D thesis. Please keep in mind that some of these students have limited resources; certain rural areas have less accessibility to literature and professional help. A student **should not be penalized for taking help from others**; that is common in the research community. However, help should be acknowledged. Look for thoroughness and clarity in the paper. Try to determine if the paper cites the problem, addresses it, and presents conclusions without diverging from the main point.

Each student will have 10 minutes to present, with five minutes following for questions from the judges. You may want to prepare a few questions in advance. Questions to the student should be aimed at assessing the depth of the student's knowledge about the subject. Use the Oral Presentation Form to score the oral presentation.

After the presentations, please get the combined score totals from both judging forms, then caucus with the other judges to choose the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. If there is a good project as a close 4<sup>th</sup>, you may wish to give an honorable mention.

You are encouraged to give the students written comments on their papers and email them back. The email address should be on their Cover Page.

Also please fill out the "Judges Program Evaluation Form" as this helps us to evaluate the program and turn it in to the director.

Thank you so very much for your valuable input of time and expertise. You are an indispensable part of the NMJAS Paper Competition!