



Using Science Fair Projects For Credits

Student Booklet

Manitoba Education and Youth allows up to three credits toward graduation requirements for Student Initiated Projects (SIP's). Each credit must involve a minimum of 110 hours of work.

The Western Manitoba Science Fair provides information and opportunity to earn these credits. As a regional science fair affiliated with Youth Science Foundation Canada, it also sends a number of students to the Canada Wide Science Fair each year. Although it is not necessary to do your project through the Western Manitoba Science Fair to obtain a credit, doing so provides excellent research guidance and an appropriate method of evaluation.

The registration process for Student Initiated Projects is quite simple, but must be done at the beginning of the research, not after completion. School division superintendents have the authority as the Designated Representative of the Manitoba Education and Youth to approve SIP's and register the credits.

To do a science fair project for credit, use the following checklist:

1. Choose an area of research and several possible questions to be answered or problems to be solved.
2. Find a mentor. This person should be a teacher, professional scientist or someone with experience in the field of research undertaken. Their role will be to give advice on research methods and safety issues, encourage proper documentation and provide an initial evaluation of your final project. More than one mentor is allowed, depending on the roles they fill.
3. Register your project by completing the form at the end of this booklet and forwarding it through your school to the school division office.
4. Begin your research. Remember that the Western Manitoba Science Fair takes place in mid March, and the entry deadline is about the third week of February. Check the YSFC web site for any possible safety or ethics issues. The url is www.ysf.ca
5. During your research, use the judging form from the Western Manitoba Science Fair as a guide to improve your project. If you have any concerns or questions, contact help@wmsf.com.
6. Enter your project in the Western Manitoba Science Fair. Entry forms should be available at your school. If they are not, they may be downloaded from www.wmsf.com.
7. Have your project evaluated using the guide on the next page, and have your principal submit your evaluation to the superintendent for approval. Your school will then record the credit in the usual manner.

Suggested evaluation process for science fair projects being used as Student Initiated Projects:

- The judging forms used by the Western Manitoba Science Fair are the same as those used at the Canada Wide Science Fairs. They consist of a number of rubrics that are suitable for grades 7 to S4. Proper use of this form should provide a reasonable assessment of the project.
- An initial evaluation should be done at the school level, or by the appointed mentor. In the event that the mentor is a parent of the student, an unrelated third party should do the evaluation.
- A second evaluation will be done at the Western Manitoba Science Fair. The judging form is not usually made available, but may be requested if the project is being used for credit. A judge with expertise in the field will be found and a formal judging form will be provided. The principal of the student's school may then average the two marks using any weighting deemed appropriate.
- If the student wins a gold medal at the Western Manitoba Science Fair, the minimum mark should be 80%.
- Winning an all expenses paid trip to the Canada Wide Science Fair should guarantee a minimum mark of 85%.
- Any award at the Canada Wide Science Fair should guarantee a minimum mark of 90%.
- The Canada Wide Science Fair typically give out prizes worth over \$300,000. A gold medal carries a prize of \$1500.00 and the best of the fair wins a minimum of \$11,500.

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