



2022

Western Manitoba Science Fair

Guide

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WMSF 2022 Entry information

The fair will be held on Tuesday April 12, 2022 at The Healthy Living Centre at Brandon University. Information for participants can be found in this guide, with additional resources available on our website at www.wmsf.com. It is important for students, teachers, parents, mentors, and judges to read through all of the information available in order to be fully prepared and aware of what is expected of them. Detailed schedules will be available on our website close to the fair date, including a timeline for the day, parking information, maps, etc.

WMSF 2022 will be a modified in person fair, following all provincial COVID guidelines at a minimum. **Masks are required while at the science fair**, regardless of what provincial restrictions are in place at the time. This year our top 4 finalists from grades 7-12 will move on to the virtual Canada Wide Science Fair.

About the WMSF

The Western Manitoba Science Fair is the Regional Science Fair for Southwestern Manitoba and has been in operation since 1969. It provides an opportunity for students to showcase their scientific talent for their parents, teachers, and the community. Applicants come from grades 1 through 12.

WMSF Objectives and Aims

- To develop a respect for and an understanding of humanity's quest for knowledge. To encourage natural curiosity. To provide a basis for creativity.
- To develop in students an understanding of the necessity for organization, planning and experimentation in research. To encourage independent thinking. To develop mechanical skills.
- To expose students to and acquaint them with the use of scientific methods through practical application.
- To provide an opportunity for self-expression. To emphasize the necessity of having and developing the ability to communicate ideas.
- To aid in channeling students into worthwhile science endeavors. To provide stimulation for scientific hobby pursuits. To meet the needs of talented students.
- To offer an opportunity for students to consult and work with specialists in science fields in the community and elsewhere. To provide constructive suggestions for teachers and pupils of science.
- To serve as a showcase for scientific talent. To report to parents and the community about one phase of the academic performance of students and thereby stimulate a greater interest in science by all.
- To encourage teachers of Western Manitoba to view science fairs, projects and displays as an integral part of their science program.

Academic Integrity

One of the most important traditions in the scientific community is the tradition of academic integrity. Scientists build on others' achievements and they must be able to trust the integrity of the published literature they build on. Students want to work in communities where competition is fair, integrity is respected and cheating is not tolerated. At all science fairs, including the Western Manitoba Science Fair, students are required to present work that is the result of their own efforts. All assistance received from others must be acknowledged, and all written material that draws on the work of others must be accompanied by appropriate references. Specific examples of violations include:

- Plagiarism – presenting the work of others as your own without acknowledging the source. This includes work done by a family member or a mentor.
- Fabricating or falsifying data
- Forging signatures
- Fabricating or falsifying registration information
- Entering a project that is either derived from a previous project or is a continuation or revision of a previous project by the student (or by another) without documentation of the previous work.

Entries

We have removed the participation fee for 2022! Students may register on their own if their school is not doing a science fair. Students in grades 1-12 in Western Manitoba are eligible to enter. If you are not sure if you fall within our region please contact us at 204-727-4700.

Deadline: The entry deadline for the Western Manitoba Science Fair is Friday, March 18, 2022. This is a firm deadline, so please make every effort to have entries in on time. For school coordinators we advise making your deadline for entry forms from students several days ahead of time so you are able to get your entries package to us by our deadline. Entry forms and all applicable documents may be mailed or emailed to the address listed on the entry form. If you are sending via mail please make sure it is sent in time to arrive by our deadline.

Within a few days of the entry deadline, all of the entries we have received will be entered into our database. At that time, an email will be sent to the coordinator email address listed on the entry form; this email will contain the entry information for your school. There will also be information for parents and students with schedules for the day. It is VERY IMPORTANT for the school coordinator to check the information carefully and report any corrections or changes immediately. Within a few days of sending this confirmation, the information starts to flow to other areas, to prepare the fair day project layout, and all the forms needed for setup and judging. Once this starts, it is very difficult, and sometimes impossible to make changes.

Official Entry Form: Can be found at <https://www.wmsf.com/resources>. Make sure all sections are completely filled out, and signed by parent/guardian. Only one form per project is needed. Group projects have room for two students' information and parent signatures on one entry form. Class projects (grades 1-2 only) will have to attach a list of

students with the appropriate information. Project title should be under 35 letters long. Long names will not print properly on certificates and other lists.

Levels are by grades; 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. Students on Individualized Education Plans or taking modified high school credits are also listed as IEP or Modified. These projects are judged separately and marked accordingly.

Project types include individual, group and class. An individual project is done by one student. A group project is two students, and a class project (only available in grade 1-2 level) is 5 to 15 students from the same classroom, under the direction of a teacher. The teacher of a class project cannot be in the project area during judging, but all students in the project may be there.

Please note if you have a group project that crosses two levels, the project is entered and judged at the higher level. For example, if student in grade 4 and a student in grade 5 have done a group project they will be entered and judged in the grade 5-6 level at WMSF.

Student information must be completed in full. Be sure to show both first and last names.

Self-nominated Awards List: This is page 2 of the entry form. Certain sponsors provide special awards with specific criteria. Please nominate yourself for up to five awards by checking the appropriate box, and submit with your Entry Form. Some students may find that they are not eligible for any self-nominated awards. This self-nominated awards list is finalized in early March, so if you print off your entry form before then you may not be getting the full list. It is best to wait until early March to print off and complete your entry form.

Registration Summary: Schools must complete this form. The e-mail address for contact is absolutely crucial. Home school students and others entering without coming from a school fair, must also send a Registration Summary.

Abstract and Project Summaries:

Grades 7 - 12 MUST prepare a minimum one-page typed abstract. This abstract will be given to judges before they see the project. It is a very important part of the judging process and is mandatory with your entry. Format is IMPORTANT - the abstract must include:

- The project name and name(s) of students
- A statement of the basic problem or question
- A brief summary of observations and/or data
- A summation of the conclusions drawn as a result of the investigation.
- Good grammar and no spelling errors
- SI (metric units), if applicable
- Bibliography and references

Grades 5 and 6 should prepare a Project Summary to submit with their entry form. This project summary will be given to judges before they see the project and is a very helpful part of the judging process. The project summary should include project name and student name(s), a brief description of the question/problem, and a general summary of observations or conclusions. You may follow the guidelines for the Abstract in the section above,

but that format is not mandatory.

Grades 1-4 may prepare a Project Summary to submit with their entry form, but it is not mandatory.

Project Size and Safety Regulations

- Maximum dimensions for projects, including backboards, are 0.8 metres from front to back, 1.2 metres from side to side, 2.0 metres high. No oversized projects will be accepted for entry unless it has been given approval in advance by the Western Manitoba Science Fair Committee. An approved oversized project is to have a backboard that does not exceed regulation size.
- Exhibits should be durable, with moving parts securely fastened and safe. Self-supporting backboards and extension cords are to be furnished by the exhibitors. Paper on backboards should be securely applied so there are minimal air pockets behind the paper. Overlapping or loose sheets of paper should be stored in a data book.
- Local fire regulations must be followed. No flammable liquids, compressed gas cylinders or open flames may be used.
- Dangerous chemicals may not be exhibited. Simulations may be used for display purposes.
- All extension cords and 110 volt alternating current apparatus must be CSA –approved. No exposed live parts over 36 volts are allowed. Current (amperage) must be low so as not to cause any discomfort or danger if touched. Wet cells are not allowed because of the hazardous chemicals involved.
- No firearms or ammunition are allowed at the fair. Experiments using firearms must be carried out in accordance with federal and provincial legislation.
- Lasers, radioisotopes and x-ray or radiation producing apparatus may not be displayed. High voltage apparatus capable of generating in excess of 10kV is considered an x-ray hazard.
- Biological hazards, including live cultured bacteria, cells and tissues, or any material which may decompose are suitable for research under controlled laboratory conditions, but may not be displayed at the fair. Simulations (must be labeled ‘simulated’) or pictures may be displayed. Live plants can not be brought to the fair. Example: Displaying pictures of plant growth cycle is proper; bringing the actual plants is not allowed.
- Living vertebrate animals are not to be used in experiments for the Western Manitoba Science Fair with the following exceptions: observations of normal living patterns of wild ani-

mals in the free living state or in zoological parks, gardens or aquaria, and observation of pets, fish or domestic animals. No live animals, mounted specimens or animal parts may be displayed at the fair.

Participation of Humans in Research Projects

Human Research refers to any project that involves the generation of data about persons. Examples of such projects may include:

- Some surveys
- Some food and drink projects
- Some caffeinated beverage projects
- Some absorption through the skin projects
- Some exercise projects

If your project involves collecting data about persons, you must adhere to the Participations of Humans in Research Policy available at www.wmsf.com/humanparticipation, including completing any applicable consent forms and approval requests. If you have any questions about this please contact us at 204-727-4700 or info@wmsf.com.

Special Note for 2022: if you are doing a project that involves human participation you must show that all local COVID regulations were followed when conducting your research with your study participants.

Judging

Judging will be based on standards and official forms set by the Western Manitoba Science Fair Committee to ensure all projects are assessed critically and fairly. All projects are judged based on the four criteria detailed on the Judging Forms included at the end of this guide. These criteria are Scientific Thought and Understanding, Originality and Creativity, Communication, and Mentorship. To get a full understanding of what the judges will be looking for, students, teachers, parents and mentors should read the Judging Booklet on our website www.wmsf.com/judging.

Regular awards (gold, silver, and bronze medals) are assigned by the judges to the best eligible projects on the basis of ranking projects relative to others in the same level at the Western Manitoba Science Fair.

Special Awards, or Self-Nominated Awards are only open to projects within specific scientific focus areas. Entrants must have selected the awards that their project may be eligible for on the self-nominated awards list and submitted it with their Official Entry Form. These awards are for outstanding projects that meet specific criteria within a particular aspect of science and often reflect the special interests and criteria of the sponsoring foundations, companies and professional associations.

Participant Responsibilities During the Fair

Please ensure that you arrive early enough to have your project set up completely before the end of setup time, in order not to delay judging. Depending on numbers we may decide to allow set up the evening before as well. That info will be updated on the Schedule of Events on our website closer to the fair. The following schedule for fair day is subject to minor changes, and is meant to be a guideline only. You must check the Schedule of Events on our website closer to the fair for the finalized schedule and detailed information about fair day.

8:00 am - 9:15 am Project Setup

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Judging and Special Judging

There will be no entertainment, tours, or award ceremony at the fair this year due to COVID. The award ceremony will be held virtually that evening, or the following day. There will be no designated lunch time for students as the fair will be over by 12:30. If you require food while you are at the fair please bring a snack to eat at your project.

Exhibitors are required to remain with their projects during the duration of the fair. We are trying to ensure that contact between students is at a very minimum. Only leave your project if you are taking a quick bathroom break, as you do not want to miss being judged.

All participants are required to show respect and courtesy to all other students, judges, security, and any other fair attendees. Disrespectful or bad behavior will not be tolerated. **Masks are required while at the science fair**, regardless of what provincial restrictions are in place at the time.

Please bring a pair of indoor shoes to change into at the Healthy Living Centre, as they will not have the floor protectors down this year.

Mentorship Guidelines

Science fair projects from time to time will be mentored, or receive outside assistance. Mentors may be scientists, teachers, parents or, sometimes, other students. It is important to understand that mentorship is not at all discouraged; it can be a useful way for students to conduct research and gain knowledge pertaining to their project. Mentorship will not be considered an 'unfair advantage' as long as the following guidelines are strictly followed:

- Always keep in mind that the project is the student's and not the mentor's. It is the student's role, and not the mentor's, to conceive the project's specific topic.
- All data taking and analysis of the data must be the student's own, unless the student does not present it as his or her own and credits the actual data taker properly. When mentors take over these responsibilities, they deprive students of valuable learning experiences.
- If a project has been mentored, it should be declared in the references and or bibliography in the accompanying project report/abstract
- The student must be knowledgeable in the subject/project, and can answer all questions about information they've presented in the project.

Project Judging Summary Form



Part A: Scientific Thought		Judging Notes
Level (1-4)	Rating (0-9)	
Part B: Originality & Creativity		
Level (1-4)	Rating (0-9)	
Part C: Communication		
Level (1-4)	Rating (0-9)	
Part D: Mentorship		
Level (1-4)		
<p>Feedback for the Finalist(s) - It is VERY important to leave adequate and constructive feedback for EVERY project. A copy of the Project Summary Form will be sent to each student.</p>		
Strengths		
Recommendations		
Judge's Name (Please Print)		Judge's Signature

Feedback for the Finalist(s) - It is **VERY** important to leave adequate and constructive feedback for **EVERY** project. A copy of the Feedback will be sent to each student.

PART A: SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT - First choose which ONE of the following three categories the project falls under, then work down that column to determine the level:

Experiment	Innovation	Study
Undertake an investigation to test a scientific hypothesis by the experimental method. At least one independent variable is manipulated; other variables are controlled.	Develop and evaluate new devices, models, theorems, physical theories, techniques, or methods in technology, engineering, computing, natural science, or social science.	Analysis of, and possibly collections of, data using accepted methodologies from the natural, social, biological, or health sciences. Includes studies involving human subjects, biology field studies, data mining, observation and pattern recognition in physical and/or socio-behavioural data.
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 1
Replicate a known experiment to confirm previous findings	Build a model or device to duplicate existing technology or to demonstrate a well-known physical theory or social/behavioural intervention.	Existing published material is presented, unaccompanied by any analysis.
LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 2
Extend a known experiment with modest improvements to the procedures, data gathering and possible applications.	Improve or demonstrate new applications for existing technological systems, social or behavioural interventions, existing physical theories or equipment, and justify them.	Existing published material is presented, accompanied by some modest analysis and/or a rudimentary study is undertaken that yields limited data that cannot support an analysis leading to meaningful results.
LEVEL 3	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 3
Devise and carry out an original experiment. Identify the significant variables and attempt to control them. Analyze the results using appropriate arithmetic, graphical or statistical methods.	Design and build innovative technology; or provide adaptations to existing technology or to social or behavioural interventions; extend or create new physical theory. Human benefit, advancement of knowledge, and/or economic applications should be evident.	The study is based on systematic observations and a literature search. Quantitative studies should include appropriate analysis of some significant variables) using arithmetic, statistical, or graphical methods. Qualitative and/or mixed methods studies should include a detailed description of the procedures and/or techniques applied to gather and/or analyze the data (e.g. interviewing, observational fieldwork, constant comparative method, content analysis).
LEVEL 4	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 4
Devise and carry out original experimental research in which most significant variables are identified and controlled. The data analysis is thorough and complete.	Integrate several technologies, inventions, social/behavioural interventions or design and construct an innovative application that will have human and/or commercial benefit.	The study correlates information from a variety of peer-reviewed publications and from systematic observations, and reveals significant new information, or original solutions to problems. Same criteria for analysis of significant variables and/or description of procedures/techniques as for Level 3.

PART B: ORIGINALITY & CREATIVITY

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
The project design is simple with little evidence of student imagination. It can be found in books or magazines.	The project design is simple with some evidence of student imagination. It uses common resources or equipment. The topic is a current or common one.	This imaginative project makes creative use of the available resources. It is well thought out, and some aspects are above average.	This highly original project demonstrates a novel approach. It shows resourcefulness and creativity in the design, use of equipment, construction and/or the analysis.

PART C: COMMUNICATION

The level is based on four elements: visual display, oral presentation, project report with background research, and logbook.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Most or all of the four elements are simple, unsubstantial or incomplete. There is little evidence of attention to effective communication. In a pair project, one member may have dominated the presentation.	Some of the four elements are simple, unsubstantial or incomplete, but there is evidence of student attention to communication. In a pair project, one member may have made a stronger contribution to the presentation.	All four elements are complete and demonstrate attention to detail and substance. The communication components are each well thought out and executed. In a pair project, both members made an equitable contribution to the presentation.	All four elements are complete and exceed reasonable expectations of a student at this age/grade. The visual display is logical and self-explanatory, and the exhibit is attractive and well-presented. The project report and logbook are informative, clearly written, and the bibliography extends beyond web-based articles. The oral presentation is clear, logical, and enthusiastic. In a group project, both members contributed equitably and effectively to the presentation.

PART D: MENTORSHIP

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
The project is mentored. The student has limited knowledge of the material presented in the project.	The project is mentored. The student has moderate knowledge of the material, but gaps in knowledge of the project exist.	The project is mentored. The student knows most of the material however minimal gaps in knowledge of the project exist.	The project is not mentored, or The project is mentored however the student is very knowledgeable in the subject, and can answer all questions about information presented in the project.