

# CHICO SCIENCE FAIR

## Chico Science Fair 2012 GUIDELINES

Dear Students:

The **CHICO SCIENCE FAIR** will be held April 2 – April 5, 2012. Now is the time to be thinking about a science project that *you* would like to explore. Last year, over 727 curious Chico students investigated some part of our world and entered this local fair. All received a certificate and a participation gift and 83 received first place prizes.

Decide on your project and plan to exhibit, or come and see the Science Fair as a visitor. The fair will be at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Commercial Building.

Sincerely yours,  
**Marie Paquette, Jane Quan-Bell**

**Who is Eligible:** Any student in grade K-12, attending a public or private school in the confines of Chico or C.U.S.D. There are no space limitations on Jr. High and Sr. High projects. Elementary schools have a space limitation and your school will decide its allotted exhibit spaces. Please check with your teacher or principal on how your school will determine the projects that will enter in to the Chico Science Fair. If your school has a preliminary Science Fair, please understand that Chico Science Fair is separate and requires its own application.

**How to Enter:** Fill out the on-line application at [www.chicosciencefair.org](http://www.chicosciencefair.org). The **deadline is Friday March 16, 2012**. Applications for group projects will be picked up at your school office on that date.

**NO PROJECT WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT REQUIRED SIGNATURES ON ENTRY OR WAIVER FORM**

For Information, questions: CSF – Chico Science Fair  
P.O. Box 6832  
Chico, California 95927

Or check Web Site Contacts:  
<http://www.chicosciencefair.org/contact.htm>  
[chico.science.fair@gmail.com](mailto:chico.science.fair@gmail.com)

### Project Categories and Judging Standards:

Projects entered at the CHICO SCIENCE FAIR will be displayed and judged by grade levels and CATEGORIES. Students may enter a project in any one of three CATEGORIES.

**CATEGORY I** – Investigation using the Scientific Method (Sciencing), with unknown, or unpredictable results, OR experiments that verify a predictable or known result. (Problem, Background Research, Hypothesis, Procedure, Results, Conclusion.)

Projects in CATEGORY I will be evaluated in the following manner:

- A. Problem (clearly defined) or Statement of Scientific Principle, Background Research, Hypothesis, Procedures, Observations, Results and Conclusions... 50
  - B. ....Originality ..... 20
  - C. ....Completeness .. 10
  - D. ....Workmanship (Attractiveness) ... 10
  - E. ....Self-explanatory ..... 10
- 100 points possible

**CATEGORY II** – 1) Demonstrations such as: How a computer works, how a telegraph works, etc.; 2) Dissections with labels; 3) Models such as electricity; 4) Scientific drawing and displays such as: Drugs, body systems, parts of an animal.

Projects in CATEGORY II will be evaluated in the following manner:

A. ....Accuracy .....	40
B. ....Completeness ..	20
C. ....Workmanship (Attractiveness) ...	20
D. ....Scientific Objective.....	10
E. ....Self-explanatory .....	10
	100 points possible

**CATEGORY III** – Collections with identifications such as: Bugs, rocks, butterflies, plants, etc.

Projects in CATEGORY III will be evaluated in the following manner:

A. ....Accuracy .....	40
B. ....Workmanship (Attractiveness) ...	30
C. ....Self-explanatory (must include background information)...	20
D. ....Scientific Objective.....	10
	100 points possible

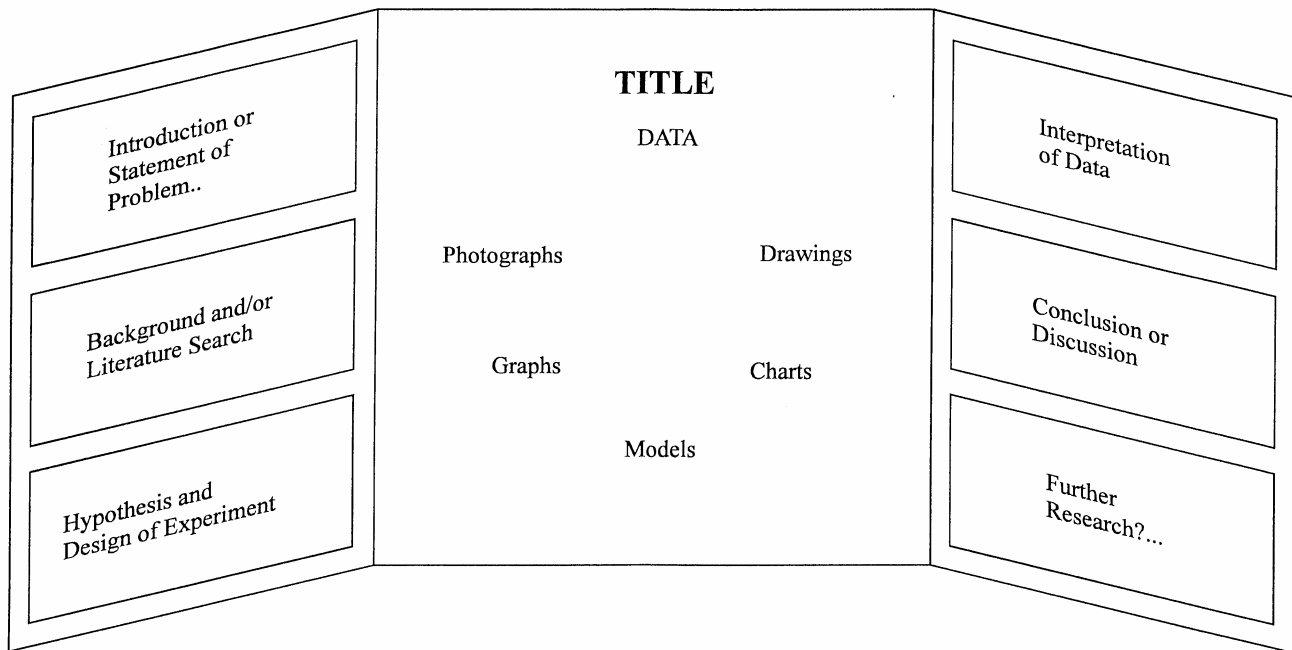
Young children will find CATEGORIES II and III easier to approach. However, they are not limited to these categories. Older students will find CATEGORY I more intriguing and challenging. They are strongly encouraged to consider projects that incorporate the scientific discovery process.

Each project will be evaluated according to point distributions within the CATEGORY *and* by the grade level of the student.

**Hints on Preparing Your Science Fair Projects:**

1. Start early with your planning.
2. Check the library science section for ideas. Check web site: <http://www.chicosciencefair.org>
  - a. Subjects may be taken from any branch of science, including, but not limited to:

Biology	Electricity	Earth & Space Science
Ecology	Physics	Chemistry
Geology	Human Body	Agriculture
Astronomy	Microbiology	Behavioral & Social Science
Botany/Genetics	Zoology/Genetics	
Mathematics/Computers	Consumer Science	
  - b. Analyze the possible project ideas—is it a problem-solving (question –asking) project that calls for some investigating? Is it a model or explanation on how something works? Which one of the three CATEGORIES would the project idea belong?
  - c. Read a lot about your project in order to find out what others have already found out about it.
3. Think of the steps that will be needed before you start your project and display.
4. Be sure to give your project a clear title. Describe the steps and the methods you used. Make charts and graphs that show your facts clearly.
5. Design your project to “tell a story.” It should be clearly understandable to the visitor.
6. If your project is of the investigation type (CATEGORY I), make sure you clearly state the scientific method as defined earlier in these guidelines.
7. If the project is a demonstration or a collection (CATEGORIES II and III), keep in mind that it, too, should have a scientific objective.
8. Make the title large, clear, and neat. Explanations should be clear and informative.
9. Acknowledge all important help.
10. Any construction should be durable.
11. Consider a wingboard for displaying your exhibit.
12. Use of photographs is permissible.



### SUGGESTED WINGBOARD FORMAT FOR STUDENT PROJECTS

Size and display is limited to 2 ½ feet deep by 4 feet wide by 6 feet high for grades 7-12 and projects for K-6 must be limited to 36" high unless it is a classroom project.

These are *maximum* sizes. **Exhibitors** are **encouraged** to **make projects smaller**, if possible.

### LOSS or DAMAGE

The CHICO SCIENCE FAIR assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to any project or part thereof. "Do Not Touch" signs will be supplied for each exhibit. Display of valuable or rare items are discouraged (photographs or simulated representations should be substituted in these cases).

### Rules for CHICO SCIENCE FAIR:

1. INDIVIDUAL projects are those done by only one student.
2. GROUP projects are those produced by two or more students. There will be *one* ribbon award or award per each winning project.
3. All exhibits should be of scientific value and should be ***done by the student*** with parent *supervision* only.
4. *Size* of the display is limited to 2 ½ feet deep by 4 feet wide by 6 feet high for grades 7-12 and classroom projects. Grade K-6 must be limited to 36" high unless total classroom project.
5. Information to accompany each exhibit:
  - a. For K-6 student, a brief explanation of the project, procedure, and data.
  - b. For students in grades 7-12, a more comprehensive explanation.
6. Dangerous chemicals, open flames, explosives, poisonous reptiles, starvation and pain causing experiments on animals will not be allowed.
7. The use of vertebrae animals in projects is permitted for observations, but not for experimentation.
8. Live animals displays are not allowed (substitute photographs or a model in exhibit).
9. Projects utilizing human subjects must insure the subjects are free from potential physical and psychological risks.
10. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of plants in their exhibits.
11. Electric power (110 volt AC) is available, but exhibitor must indicate this need on the application form. Exhibitor will also need to furnish his/her own extension cord(s).
12. Exhibits must be well constructed and capable of standing alone.

## RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS:

Carefully think about your project and consider what you will ask participants to do. You want to be sure that everyone who participates in your project is protected from physical and mental discomfort and harm. A good question to ask yourself is, "How would I feel if I were participating in this activity?"

Be courteous and respectful to those who participate in your project. Remember that each individual is helping you by participating in your project.

Respect a person's freedom to decline to participate. Do not force anyone to be part of your project against their wish.

## FAIR SCHEDULE

Check in and Set up Projects: Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Commercial Building  
<http://www.chicosciencefair.org/directions.pdf>

MONDAY, APRIL 2	12 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Judging, closed to public TUESDAY, APRIL 3	
Open to public, (including field trips by schools) WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, APRIL 5	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
RECEPTION Thursday Evening APRIL 5	4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Projects may be removed THURSDAY, APRIL 5	6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Pick up remaining projects FRIDAY, APRIL 6	8 am. – 10 a.m.

PROJECTS MAY NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL DESIGNATED TIME. THE CHICO SCIENCE FAIR SPONSORS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY EXHIBIT AFTER 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 6.

### Sponsored by:

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