



To: Grade School Principals & Science Fair Coordinators

From: Edward J. Tinder, Executive Director

Re: CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair

The CYO proudly announces plans for the 2012 CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair. Please read all the enclosed materials, carefully, and note the following information:

1. The 2012 CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair will be Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the CYO Center Auditorium, 580 East Stevens Street, Indianapolis, IN 46203.
2. Enclosed is an *Entry Blank*, sample judging sheets, general judging instructions, and instructions for conducting your school fair. **Please note the deadline for entering the Archdiocesan Fair is Friday, February 17, 2012.**
3. The entry fee for the Archdiocesan Science Fair is \$50.00.
4. The fair will be conducted in one day with registration scheduled in the morning and judging and awards in the afternoon. *Students will be required to stay the entire day.* It is anticipated the fair will be completed by 2:00 PM.
5. **Only students in the seventh and eighth grades**, whose school has entered the Archdiocesan Fair, are eligible to participate.
6. Exhibits may be entered in the categories of Physical or Biological (Natural) Science with limitations on exhibits outlined in the enclosed "Instructions for Archdiocesan Fairs".

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We hope you encourage as many children as possible to participate in the science fair program. We look forward to having your school represented at the Archdiocesan Science Fair March 3, 2012.

**2012 CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair Entry Blank**

\_\_\_\_\_ School hereby enters the 2012 CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair to be conducted Saturday, March 3, 2012.

**Entry Deadline**      **Friday, February 17, 2012**- Return this entry blank to the Catholic Youth Organization, 580 East Stevens Street, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

**Entry Fee**            **\$50.00 Per School** Fee Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Later \_\_\_\_\_

The CYO Office must have the results from the school fairs and your Winners' List, **no later than Friday, February 24, 2012!**

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

**SCHOOL FAIRS CONDUCTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE ARCHDIOCESAN FAIR! PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST AN EXCEPTION; WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO BE FAIR TO ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING!**

What is the date of your school fair \_\_\_\_\_

Schools are eligible to enter eight (8) exhibits in the Archdiocesan fair. Please indicate the number of exhibits you plan to enter. \_\_\_\_\_

Schools entering the CYO Archdiocesan Fair are eligible to receive certificates for their school fairs. Please complete the blanks below, if you wish to receive this information:

a. List the number of certificates needed for the **7th and 8th grade participants**:

First \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ Third \_\_\_\_\_

**Science Fair Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will be able to judge the Science Fair March 3, 2012: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If there are other individuals interested in judging the Archdiocesan Science Fair, please list their information on the back of this entry blank.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title (Principal / Science Department Chairperson) \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for 20121 Archdiocesan Science Fair

1. The date for the Archdiocesan Fair is **Saturday, March 3, 2012**. The site is the CYO Center Auditorium, 580 East Stevens Street, Indianapolis (317) 632-9311. The entry fee will be \$50.00 per school.
2. Eligibility is limited to grades seven (7) and eight (8).
3. **The Entry Deadline for the Archdiocesan Fair is Friday, February 17, 2012.** The list of finalists entering the Archdiocesan Fair (The Winner's List) is due in the CYO Office **no later than Friday, February 24, 2012**. Please allow sufficient time for your School Fair in order to meet the above deadlines.
4. Exhibits may be in two categories: Physical or Biological (Natural) Science. Each of these may be divided into other areas of interest such as Chemistry, Electronics, Mechanical, Astronomy, Meteorology, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Ecology, Conservation or Dynamics.
5. Students who participated in the Archdiocesan Science Fair in 2011 may not enter the same project in the 2012 Archdiocesan Fair unless significant changes have been made to the project.
6. Schools are eligible to enter eight (8) exhibits in the Archdiocesan fair in either the Biological or Physical categories.
7. All exhibitors will be required to register, set up and be prepared for judging Saturday, March 3, 2012.
8. Once judging has begun, students will be not permitted to register or set up.
9. Students participating in the Archdiocesan Fair will be expected to stay with their projects until after the awards presentation. Also, no projects may be taken from the auditorium before that time. Please notify your students and their families in order to avoid confusion the day of the fair. Students are asked to bring a sack lunch; drinks will be available for purchasing.
10. Students are asked to limit their presentation from five to eight minutes when being interviewed by the judges. A question and answer session will then follow.
11. Judges will be provided for the Archdiocesan Fair by the Science Fair Committee. A sample copy of the judging sheet is enclosed. The CYO Office will complete the judging sheet for the participants.
12. Awards for the Archdiocesan Fair will consist of certificates and trophies.
13. Additional materials will be mailed after the Archdiocesan Fair Entry Blank is received.
14. All instructions pertaining to the school fair will apply for the Archdiocesan Fair.
15. We ask all contestants to confine their projects to 36 inches in length (left to right) and 30 inches in depth (front to back of one table). A maximum of 42 inches in length will be allowed. No portion of the exhibit may be off of the table.

## CYO Archdiocesan Science Fair

### **Judges' Instructions**

Listed below are the guidelines suggested for judging of the students. Before judging begins, please take a moment to introduce yourself to the student(s). This is also a good time to try to put the student at ease.

- A. Judges will work in pairs, if possible.
- B. Judges will be assigned to exhibits by exhibit number; one pair of judges might be assigned to exhibits 8B-1 through 8B-10 (8th grade biological) or 7P-11 through 7P-20 (7th grade physical).
- C. The judging sheet is designed for written comments. The comments should be written in order to benefit the student. Also, keep in mind that the judging sheet is eventually returned to the student.
- D. Judging Categories: Points are listed below to consider when evaluating and writing comments as well as suggested questions to ask the student.

#### 1. Creativity

##### ***Points to Consider:***

- a. Does project show original approach in its design?
- b. Does the project display an appropriate level of difficulty for this age student?
- c. Did the student use outside sources to research the topic?
- d. Did the student use a novel or unique method in measuring the results of the experiment?

##### ***Questions to Ask to Clarify Above Points:***

- a. How did you become interested in this topic?
- b. What did you do to find out more about your topic?
- c. How did you develop the procedure you used to test your hypothesis?

#### 2. Scientific Value

##### ***Points to Consider:***

- a. Has the student followed proper scientific method in the procedure?
- b. Does the student understand the concepts directly related to the project?
- c. Can the student identify any practical applications for the project?
- d. Is the conclusion logically supported by the results?

##### ***Questions to Ask to Clarify Above Points:***

- a. Why do you think the results came out this way?
- b. If you were to do this project over, how would you improve or expand it?
- c. How can people use what you have learned from this project?

#### 3. Knowledge & Development

##### ***Points to Consider:***

- a. Did the student give a clear explanation of the procedure?
- b. Is the student dependent on notes or memorized explanations?
- c. Did the student answer all questions clearly?
- d. Did the student speak in a confident manner?

##### ***Questions to Ask to Clarify Above Points:***

- a. Ask any questions critical to clarifying procedure, results or conclusion.

#### 4. Neatness & Organization of Exhibit

*Points to Consider:*

- a. Does the display show careful workmanship in construction?
- b. Is the display attractive and eye catching?
- c. Is the display logically organized using the scientific method?
- d. Do tables and graphs accurately reflect the results?

*Questions to Ask to Clarify Above Points:*

- a. Ask questions regarding any construction aspects.
- b. Ask questions about tables and graphs.

E. Scoring: Based on a 1-2-3-4 scale for each of the categories listed above. The highest score is "1", the lowest is "4". Judges should understand this clearly, because a reversal of the point scale could be disastrous. Scores should be marked by each judge, according to this scale, for the round and the category shown on the sheet.

#### Important Notice - Regarding Scoring

Under the scoring area of the judging sheet there is a box near the left margin of the sheet. If an exhibit is, in the opinion of the judges in round one, worthy of further consideration in the second round of judging, an "X" should be placed in this box. This would apply, regardless of score, for one or not more than two of the exhibits handled by any pair of judges. Of course, the judges may also come to the conclusion that none of their exhibits are worthy of further consideration. Under no circumstances should you place an "X" in this box on more than two sheets before clearing it with a staff member.

Because one pair of judges or one judge, might score differently from another, the score is not important, if the exhibit still is worthy of further consideration. However, in most cases judging is consistent and the lowest scores normally are reflected in the final awards.

Prior to leaving the student and exhibit, please compliment and encourage the student on future pursuit of education. If the project should be developed further, please recommend this to the student.

Following the completion of round one, those exhibits involved in the second round of judging will be announced. Those exhibitors will be asked to remain and all others will be excused from the auditorium until the conclusion of the second round of judging. Those judges interested in participating in the second round of judging should contact a staff member.