

Helpful Hints

- Get started early.
- Turn in all materials on time (parent letter, proposal, and project).
- Work only with someone that you can depend on.
- Make sure your parents will provide transportation if you work with a partner.
- Follow the rubric exactly – you must address each and every item on your backboard.
- Name goes on back of board.
- Choose a topic that interests you.
- Do not underestimate the time necessary to assemble the back board. It's a full day!!!
- Plant projects must be started well in advance.
- Gas is expensive. Plan well and make lists to avoid unnecessary car trips.
- Even projects with good intentions can sometimes not turn out like you planned. Allow plenty of time to redo trials if necessary.
- Good science projects do not have to cost a lot. Make sure you know what you are getting into cost wise (i.e., batteries, electrical supplies, and model airplanes can get expensive).
- Never attach Petri dishes containing biological agents to your back board!!
- Ask for help from your teacher if you need it.
- Yes, if it's on the rubric you must have it.
- **DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT PLAGIARIZING!**

Students who are chosen to attend the Tidewater Science Fair in March

- Application deadline is final (dates to be determined). **No exceptions for deadline!!**
- Projects require a good amount of paper work that must be submitted on time – NO EXCEPTIONS!! Five sources are also required.
- **Projects involving human subjects** under the age of 18 require that each subject's legal guardian sign a consent form (Warning: human subjects do not always get the consent form in on time thereby disqualifying you from the fair).
- You may not work with **body fluids** (blood, urine etc).
- Tidewater Science Fair judges are looking for projects that are unique, useful to society/humanity/environment, and high level. They love environmental projects (i.e., drinking water, oil spills, Chesapeake Bay).
- There are more applicants than can be accommodated at the fair – your project must be very well done if you plan to attend.
- There are lots of prizes to be won.

Unacceptable projects

- Below grade-level projects
- Projects involving volcanoes, animal cruelty, or “musical heartbeats”
- Most psychological projects unless you have a large number of human subjects (Note: 1 or 2 subjects representing an age or sex category is not enough)
- Projects involving cookie or cake baking
- Projects involving growing mold on food
- Projects that put you or others in danger