

# 2021 STEM Expo Guidelines Packet

## K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students

*For up-to-date information and all the forms: <http://www.ohef.org/stem-expo-2021.html>*

### Important Dates:

Wed Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Reply to Google survey to show interest
Tue October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Any 6 <sup>TH</sup> grader interested in advancing to the County Fair MUST contact Tonia by this date to discuss details of their project plan
Fri December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Registration forms DUE to <a href="mailto:tsymensma@gmail.com">tsymensma@gmail.com</a> (not to school office)
Mon January 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	PowerPoint or Google Slides document DUE by 9am to <a href="mailto:tsymensma@gmail.com">tsymensma@gmail.com</a>
Week of Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	-Poster judging for K-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade -Interviews for 3 <sup>rd</sup> through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
Friday January 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	STEM Expo Award Ceremony via Zoom – time yet to be determined

### Three Types of Projects for K-2<sup>nd</sup> Graders:

Type 1. Collection Projects

Type 2. Traditional Science Fair Projects

Type 3. Innovation Projects

*\*Please note, the younger student scientists/engineers in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade are not required to have a data log book/journal like the older students.*

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Guidelines for a **Collection Project**.....pages 2-3

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Guidelines for an **Innovation Project**....pages 6-8

## Type 1: Collection Project

This type of project works well for most K-1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Collect items of interest from the natural world then analyze/sort/examine them and record the similarities and differences.

Step 1. Choose a **TOPIC** you find interesting.

Examples: *insects, fossils, seashells, leaves, seeds, pond water from separate ponds, feathers, snails, orchard apples, sand samples from different beaches*

Step 2. Ask a **QUESTION** about that topic.

Examples: *Which types of insects live in my backyard (or in a park, or on a farm)?  
What kinds of leaves grow in my neighborhood?  
What shapes and sizes of seashells can be found at Carpinteria Beach?  
Do the snails in my friend's garden in Arizona look the same as the snails in my garden in California?  
How do sand samples from different beaches differ and how are they the same?*

Step 3. Do **BACKGROUND RESEARCH** to find information to help you better understand your topic. You will be learning about your topic by reading the work and research conducted by others. You should use **at least two different references** as sources of your background information. Make a list of the references you read and put that list on your poster.

### Types of References for Background Research

Encyclopedias/textbooks/books from the library  
Magazines - such as Scientific American, National Geographic, Time, Smithsonian  
Newspaper articles  
Respected websites on the internet  
Interviews with experts (*farmers, marine biologists, engineers, mechanics, physicians, exterminators, geologists, dentists, etc.*)

### Examples of How to List References

**Book:**

Smith, G. 2010. Weather Patterns and the Ocean. Little and Brown, Inc., Boston, 23-59.

**Magazine:**

Cochran, J.A., Wiles, G. and J. Manack. 2012. How Tesla Will Change the World. Smithsonian Magazine. Volume 34 (3): 47-55.

**Personal Communications with an Expert (via phone, email, or in person):**

Black, Dr. Charles -Interviewed via phone on December 16, 2015. Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

**Internet Resource:**

Saved by the Sun-Ask the Expert. Viewed on November 14, 2015. NOVA website.  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/solar/expert.html>

Step 4. Form a **HYPOTHESIS**, which is what you think will be the answer to your question from Step 2 above. It is your "best guess" before you actually go collecting.

*Examples: Insects found in my backyard will include beetles and pill bugs.  
A collection of fallen leaves from the local park will include oak tree leaves.  
More than 10 different types of seashells will be found at Carpinteria Beach.  
A garden in Arizona will have different types of snails than my garden in California.  
Sand collected from different beaches will contain different amounts of magnetic particles and broken seashells.*

**Step 5. Make your COLLECTION.**

**Materials:** Find all the materials you will need to gather/analyze your collection.  
**Collect:** Have fun collecting! *\*If your collection project involves living organisms such as insects, take photos and sort the photos rather than collecting and sorting the living organisms.*  
**Sort:** Once you have your collection together, sort it in two or more different ways. Group your objects in such a way that comparisons can be made.  
**Analyze/Examine:** How do these items differ, how are they the same, and can I measure any differences? Compare lengths, weights, shapes, colors, textures, presence of something or lack of something, etc.  
**Record Results:** Take photos or make drawings to record your results. How are the objects in your collection the same? How are the objects in your collection different? Make tables/figures to display the results/observations.

**Step 6. Write your CONCLUSIONS.**

What did you learn from studying your collection? What were the differences and similarities you noticed and what does that tell you about our natural world? What would you do differently in the future if you repeated this project? Look at your results and decide if your hypothesis was supported or not supported by your results. Was your “best guess” correct? Remember, it is absolutely OK if your hypothesis was not supported by your results. That is a normal part of the scientific process. There is no need to change your hypothesis to fit your results.

**Step 7. Make your Collection Project presentation** (in Google Slides or PowerPoint) and submit to [tsymensma@gmail.com](mailto:tsymensma@gmail.com) by 9am on Monday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document may contain a single embedded video if you wish, but the video must be NO LONGER THAN 1 MINUTE TOTAL IN LENGTH. A video is not required. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document should only be 9-15 slides long. The list below is simply a suggestion for how to organize your presentation.

Example - For a **Collection Project** your submitted document could include a:

Title slide  
Hypothesis/Question slide  
Introduction/Background Research slide  
List of Collected Items/Location Found slide  
Explanation of How Items Were Analyzed/Sorted slide  
Figures/Photos/Tables/Graphs slides (showing any observations, measurements and data)  
Explanation of any Data  
Conclusions and Future Directions slide  
List of References slide

## Type 2: Traditional Science Fair Project

**Conduct an experiment using The Scientific Method which includes:**

Selecting a **topic** of interest → Asking a **question** → Planning the experiments → Doing **background research** → Making a **hypothesis** → Collecting **materials** and writing out the steps of the **procedure** → Conducting the **experiment** (at least 3 times) → **Measuring and recording the results** → **Showing the results** in pictures/tables/graphs → **Stating your results and conclusions**

Step 1. Choose a **TOPIC** you find interesting.

*Example: I see interesting ants...in my backyard and at my picnic!*

Step 2. **All great science fair projects start with a great question!** Ask a **QUESTION** about your topic that can be answered with an experiment.

### Three Types of Questions for Traditional Science Fair Projects

#### The "Effect" Question:

What is the effect of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_?

sunlight	plant height
different oils	the speed at which an item slides down a ramp
local wildfires	air quality

#### The "How Does/Affect" Question:

How does \_\_\_\_\_ affect \_\_\_\_\_?

temperature	how far a hockey puck will slide
moisture	the distance snails can travel
wearing makeup	people's opinions about celebrities

#### The "Which/What and a Verb" Question:

Which/What \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) \_\_\_\_\_?

amount of salt	decreases	the temperature at which water boils
paper towel	is	the most absorbent
smells	attract	ladybugs

*Example: My observation is that ants seem to be attracted to sugary foods.*

*My question is: Which type of sugar best attracts ants?*

*Step 3.* Plan an **EXPERIMENT** that is not costly or dangerous, and has **SOMETHING YOU CAN MEASURE** (such as number, length, time, distance, speed, temperature, weight, etc.). Use metric units if possible.

*Example: I will count the number of ants from an anthill that are attracted to different types of sugars.*

*Step 4.* Do **BACKGROUND RESEARCH** by reading at least two references about your topic. See page 2 of this Guidelines Packet for a list of “Types of References for Background Research.” On page 2 you can find examples of how to properly list your references. Show your list of references on your poster.

*Step 5.* Write a **HYPOTHESIS**, which is what you think will be the answer to your question from Step 2 above. It is your “best guess” before you actually do the experiment. A hypothesis is sometimes written as an If-Then statement.

*Example: If ants have a choice between imitation maple syrup (Log Cabin brand) and real maple syrup, more ants will move toward the real maple syrup.*

*Step 6.* Find the **MATERIALS** you will need for your experiment.

*Example: an active anthill, 3 small clean dishes of the same size, one grocery-store purchased bottle of Log Cabin brand imitation maple syrup, one grocery-store purchased bottle of real maple syrup (made from the sap of sugar maple trees), ruler, timer*

*Step 7.* Carefully plan your experimental **PROCEDURE** and write out the step-by-step directions. Conduct your experiment and repeat it at least three times.

*Example: 1) Put 50 milliliters (mL) of Log Cabin syrup into a small clean dish. 2) Put 50 mL of real maple syrup into another small clean dish. 3) Place both dishes 1-inch away from an active ant hill. 4) Place an empty dish 1-inch away from the same anthill to serve as a control. 5) Wait three hours. 6) Count the number of ants in each dish. 7) Record the data. 8) Repeat the same experiment two more times, at the same time of day but on different days. 9) Take photographs of your procedure steps and the results to display on your poster.*

*Step 8.* Analyze your **RESULTS** by summarizing your findings in the form of data tables, photos and/or drawings. Explain what happened in your experiment and what the data might mean.

*Example: Data (number of ants) was collected three times on different days using the same anthill and photos were taken. Real maple syrup attracted 32, 29 and 33 ants and imitation maple syrup attracted 11, 9 and 6 ants. No ants were found in the empty dishes. In this experiment, more ants were attracted to the natural maple syrup (made from tree sap) compared to the empty control dish and the dish containing the imitation maple syrup. Imitation maple syrup contains large amounts of high fructose corn syrup. The main sugar*

*found in real maple syrup is called sucrose. The behavior of the ants in this experiment suggests that ants are more attracted to sucrose than to high fructose corn syrup.*

**Step 9. Write your CONCLUSIONS.** What did you learn from your experiment? Look at your results and decide if your hypothesis was supported or not supported by your results. It is absolutely OK if your hypothesis was not supported by your results. That is a normal part of the scientific process and there is no need to change your hypothesis to fit your results.

*Example: In conclusion, this experiment showed that more ants were attracted to real maple syrup compared to imitation maple syrup. There may be another ingredient in the imitation maple syrup that the ants don't like. Or, the ants may prefer sucrose because it is a quicker source of energy for the ants. The hypothesis for this experiment was: If ants have a choice between imitation maple syrup (Log Cabin brand) and real maple syrup, more ants will move toward the real maple syrup. The hypothesis was supported by the results from this experiment. In the future, more experiments could be performed testing different types of sugary foods or using ants from an ant farm.*

**Step 10. Make your Traditional Science Fair Project presentation** (in Google Slides or PowerPoint) and submit to [tsymensma@gmail.com](mailto:tsymensma@gmail.com) by 9am on Monday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document may contain a single embedded video if you wish, but the video must be NO LONGER THAN 1 MINUTE TOTAL IN LENGTH. A video is not required. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document should only be 9-15 slides long. The list below is simply a suggestion for how to organize your presentation.

Example - For a Traditional Science Fair Project your submitted document could include a:

Title slide

Question and Hypothesis slide

Introduction/Background Research slide

List of Materials slide

Step by Step List of your Procedure slide

Figures/Photos/Tables/Graphs slides (showing your observations, measurements and data)

Explanation of the Data slide

Conclusions and Future Directions slide

List of References slide

### **Type 3: Innovation Projects**

**These types of projects seek to solve a problem by 1) creating something new or 2) taking something old and making it better. These projects involve:**

Defining the **problem** → Proposing a **solution** → Doing **background research** → Collecting **materials** and writing out the steps of the **procedure** → Making and testing a **prototype** → Recording the **results** → **Making design changes to prototype** based on results → **Re-testing prototype** → Stating your **results and conclusions**.

*Step 1.*

What is a **PROBLEM** you would like to solve? What can you create to **SOLVE** this problem? Or how can you modify something that already exists to solve the problem? Also, think about what or who could benefit from this project.

Examples:

*\*How can I improve the design of a vacuum handle so my grandma with arthritis can more easily use the vacuum?*

*\*How can my dog get in and out of the house without using a traditional doggie door?*

*\*How can I help my little sister get up and down the stairs safely?*

*\*How can we stay cool while sitting in the sun at this sporting event?*

*\*How can I design a better life vest for water safety?*

*\*How can I help my grandparents be more active by creating a new app on their phone?*

*Step 2.*

Perform **BACKGROUND RESEARCH**: Find different references and **read** about your chosen problem and the other solutions people may have attempted to solve this problem. You should use **two different references** for your STEM Expo project - see page 2. Also, on page 2 you can find examples of how to properly list your references.

*Step 3.*

List all the **MATERIALS** you will need and the **PROCEDURE** for testing your prototype (which is your first model of your creation).

*Step 4.*

**BUILD/CREATE** your prototype and then **TEST** its function.

*Step 5.*

**RECORD** exactly what happens and write the **RESULTS**.

*Step 6.*

**REDESIGN** and **RETEST** your model – were the results reproducible? Make adjustments and redesign and retest again!

*Step 7.*

Report your **RESULTS** and make **CONCLUSIONS**. Does your design effectively solve the problem or meet the need? Who or what will benefit from your innovative project?

*Step 8.*

Make your **Innovation Project presentation** (in Google Slides or PowerPoint) and submit to [tsymensma@gmail.com](mailto:tsymensma@gmail.com) by 9am on Monday Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document may contain a single embedded video if you wish, but the video must be **NO LONGER**

THAN 1 MINUTE TOTAL IN LENGTH. A video is not required. The PowerPoint or Google Slides document should only be 9-15 slides long. The list below is simply a suggestion for how to organize your presentation.

Example - For an **Innovation Project (engineering/design/computers)** your submitted document could include a:

Title slide

Problem to be Solved slide

Proposed Solution slide

Introduction/Background Research slide

List of Materials slide

Step by Step Process of the Creation of your Prototypes(s) slide

Prototypes slide (containing an embedded video 1 min or less showing your prototype in action)

Drawings/Photos/Graphs slides (showing what you observed and any data from testing your prototypes)

Explanation of the Results slide

Conclusions and Future Directions slide

List of References slide