Science Fair Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lincoln School Science Fair?

The science fair is a voluntary, extra-curricular opportunity for all students (K-5) to study a science-related topic outside the classroom by either performing an actual experiment or explaining a scientific process.

What is the purpose of the Science Fair?

The fair was started over 15 years ago by a Lincoln mom to encourage our children's scientific curiosity and introduce them to the many fields that comprise "science". We have had projects that investigated questions in biology, chemistry and physics. Children (with parental help) have grown plants, extracted iron from cereal, built electrical circuits using potatoes, and conducted surveys about whether individuals are more visual or auditory - just to name a few.

Why should my child participate?

It is a rare opportunity (perhaps the only) for your child to learn the steps of the scientific method in a hands-on way. The children will also get to practice their public speaking skills as they will present their projects to visitors who attend the fair. Your child will also get to see the projects of their classmates and learn new things in the process.

Is the fair judged?

No. The fair is not structured as a competition, and all students will receive a participation medal.

How do I get started?

You have a choice between 2 types of projects.

1. Do an experiment and structure it as listed below.

2. Present a topic of interest. i.e. insects

What should my project look like?

All projects should be submitted on a tri-fold display- sold at Michael's.

If an experiment is conducted, the tri-fold should be organized into sections and take into account the suggestions below, abiding by the guidelines of the scientific method.

They should be arranged on the tri-fold board in the order listed below.

1. Ask a **question**. This will serve as the title of your project
2. Do background **research** about your topic and display this on your tri-fold.
3. Form a **hypothesis** about what you think the answer to your question will be based on your research findings. State the hypothesis and a simple explanation as to why you formed this educated guess.
4. Test your hypothesis by performing an experiment. A section for materials and the procedure is expected. The materials section is just a list of things used in the experiment much like an ingredient list is for a recipe. The procedure section describes in a step-by-step fashion how the experiment was conducted. Explain to your child that these sections are important because it allows another person to re-create your experiment and try to reproduce your results.

5. State your **results**. This can also be called the observations section. This is often done via a chart or graph.
6. State your **conclusion**. State whether you proved your hypothesis to be correct or incorrect. Emphasize to your child that proving your hypothesis wrong is not a bad thing. Include some reflection about how you would change the experiment to improve it.
7. Bringing some samples or other visuals aids to enhance your display is recommended. However, please do not bring anything dangerous, such as open flames or volatile materials.

Can I work with a partner?
Yes, you may work with a partner. The maximum team size is 3.

There are many ideas online that are age appropriate and there are books in the Lincoln library that can be a source of ideas, as well. Here are some websites you can look at for ideas:

www.education.com/science-fair
www.sciencebuddies.org
www.sciencekids.co.nz
www.sciencebob.com/experiments