

TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

2011 ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD COMPETITION

The Texas Academy of Science announces the 2011 competition. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting to be held at St. Edwards University, Austin, TX. The competition is organized in three categories, one for students conducting Ph.D. research, one for students conducting Master's research, and one for students conducting undergraduate research. Three awards will be given in each category. First place awards will be for \$2,000, second place for \$1,500, and third place for \$1,000. All students enrolled in a math, science, or science education curriculum in the State of Texas and out-of-state students in both the U.S. and Mexico conducting research projects in Texas are also eligible for the awards.

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION OF THE TAS RESEARCH GRANT

To be considered for the grant, the student must:

- Be a member of the Texas Academy of Science prior to submitting the proposal.

If the student is NOT an Academy member, obtain a membership form from the Academy's web page (<http://www.texasacademyofscience.org> fill it out and submit it, with a dues check, directly to Andrew Kasner, Executive Secretary, 1900 W. 7th, CMB 629, Plainview, TX 79072, well in advance of submitting the proposal. If the dues are being paid by the student's institution, start the process early. Proposals will not be sent for review until membership is confirmed.

- Agree to attend the 2011 annual meeting.

The student shall be preregistered and shall have paid the registration fee before submitting the proposal. Failure to attend the banquet and personally receive the award will result in forfeiture of the award. Do NOT submit a copy of your check with proof of registration. . If the registration fee is being paid by the student's institution, start the process well in advance of submitting the proposal.

- Propose to conduct an INDEPENDENT STUDY, i.e. a research project in which the student is the principal project architect and will conduct the majority of the work. Included in the proposal package shall be a letter from the student's advisor (not a letter of recommendation) testifying that the work is truly independent. The committee will not consider a submission in which a student has been assigned a portion of an existing research project in which he/she has no opportunity to design and carry out truly independent research.
- Propose to conduct laboratory and/or field research. Literature reviews are not eligible.
- Submit an electronic PDF document written in the style appropriate to the discipline. A well-written proposal is defined as one that is relatively brief (up to 10 pages, not counting the Literature Cited) and could be submitted to a funding agency in the student's field. Include a detailed budget and a Curriculum Vitae/resume. If multiple funding sources are being sought, the portion funded by TAS should be clearly identified. The entire proposal, including cover sheet and advisor's letter, should be contained in one PDF document.
- * Agree to present the results of his/her research at a Texas Academy of Science meeting within two years of receiving the award, and that if receiving an award, to allow the proposal to be posted on the TAS website.
- * E-mail the proposal file by 15 January 2011 to:

Donald E. Harper, Jr., Chair, TAS Student Research Awards Committee
at harperd@tamug.edu
409-996-3090

NOTE: If you do not receive an acknowledgment from Dr. Harper within a week of submitting, please contact him to verify that your proposal has been received.

**COVER SHEET
TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
STUDENT RESEARCH PROPOSAL
2011 COMPETITION**

Name: _____

Department: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

Degree sought: _____ B.S. _____ M.S. _____ Ph.D.

Title of proposal: _____

Research advisor: _____

Key words/Fields (up to three): _____

The following should be completed prior to sending the proposal package:

_____ Cover Sheet information complete

_____ Proposal complete

_____ Budget complete. If multiple sources being sought, the amount requested of TAS well defined

_____ Curriculum Vitae included

_____ Preregister for annual meeting (will be checked before proposals are sent out for review)

_____ Academy membership current (will be checked before proposals are sent out for review)

I hereby agree, if I am an award winner, to present a paper at an Academy meeting within two years.

Signed _____ Advisor's signature _____

I hereby agree, if I am an award winner, to allow publication of the proposal on the TAS web site.

Signed _____

FOR THE STUDENT'S AND ADVISOR'S INFORMATION

THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS ARE SENT TO THE REVIEWER WITH THE PROPOSAL

To the reviewer:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this year's TAS research proposal competition.

Please evaluate the research proposal as you would a proposal received from NSF or any other granting agency, but at the same time, keeping in mind that the proposal writer is an **(undergraduate or M.S. or Ph.D. student)**

The student should be conducting an INDEPENDENT STUDY, that is a research project in which the student is the principal project architect and will conduct the majority of the work. A letter from the student's advisor testifying that the work is truly independent should be included. The advice and input from a mentor is necessary and valuable to the student. The committee will not consider a submission in which a student has been assigned a portion of an existing research project in which he/she has no opportunity to design and carry out a truly independent research project.

The student must propose to conduct laboratory and/or field research. Literature reviews are not eligible.

The student should have submitted a proposal written in the style appropriate to the discipline. A well-written proposal is herein defined as one that is:

- relatively free of spelling and grammatical errors;
- relatively brief (up to 10 pages, not counting the Literature Cited);
- contains the latest relevant references;
- written in the style consistent with proposals/publications in the field;
- could be submitted to a funding agency in the student's field, and;
- includes a detailed budget and a Curriculum Vitae.

The proposal must be sole authored.

This is a "one-shot" competition. The students do not have an opportunity to revise the proposal and resubmit.

Finally, we believe the student is most benefitted if the reviewer takes the time to write in the comments section why the various categories were scored they way they were.

Best regards

The TAS proposal competition committee.

THE EVALUATION SHEET USED BY REVIEWERS

NOTE THE POINT VALUE FOR EACH SECTION

The proposal scoring system is as follows:

Experimental design and feasibility of completion: 35 possible points _____ points awarded

The hypothesis is clearly defined: 10 possible points
The experimental method is well thought out: 10 possible points
Relevance of the proposal to the field: 10 possible points
Probability that the project can be completed: 5 possible points

Contribution to knowledge: 30 possible points _____ points awarded

The proposal involves new ideas: 10 possible points
The research method is innovative: 10 possible points
The research will probably be publishable: 10 possible points

Proposal format: 15 possible points _____ points awarded

Conforms to "normal" journal formatting style: 5 possible points
Correct grammar, punctuation and spelling: 5 possible points
Correct literature citation style used in text: 5 possible points

Adequacy of literature cited: 10 possible points _____ points awarded

Lit. cited section contains most/all relevant literature: 5 possible points
Lit. cited section conforms to "normal" journal formatting style: 5 possible points

Adequacy of budget to complete the project: 10 possible points _____ points awarded

That portion of the total budget funded by TAS clearly defined: 5 possible points
Probability of completion of project if only TAS funds obtained: 5 possible points

Comments: