

PROFILE OF AN EXPO FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS JUDGE

Judges should keep in mind that participating in the Expo for Young Scientists is not only a competition, but an educational and motivating experience for the learners. The best part of the Expo experience for most of the participants is their interview.

A GOOD EXPO JUDGE MUST BE:

- a volunteer who is committed to the entire judging process including using the Expo judging sheet when assessing the projects
- professional in their dress and demeanor
- a good team worker who values the opinion of his/her co-judges
- qualified to judge in a particular category either academically or vocationally
- interested in children and their view of the world
- empathetic towards others and a good listener who is willing to learn from a child
- non-judgmental and unbiased / fair/impartial/objective rather than subjective
- good at communicating both verbally and non-verbally
- understand the impact of the judging process especially the interview on the participant(s)
- able to find something good about every project even if it has been done many times before by other learners
- discrete in his/her assessment and discussion with co-judges
- non-confrontational in his/her relationship with the participants and co-judges
- able to make the interview experience a positive one for every participant which fulfills the aim of the Expo which is to inspire individuals and their love of science

A GOOD EXPO JUDGE LOOKS FOR:

- clarity of purpose (aim) and thought in the project
- knowledge and understanding of the topic under investigation
- originality in procedure and genuine scientific breakthrough while acknowledging guidance given
- thoroughness in research and investigation
- evidence to back up ideas eg research articles read and original data generated
- creativity in presentation of the data and of the project
- good science which follows the steps of the scientific method which includes well expressed discussion of results and their importance
- understanding of the limitations of the investigation
- proof of effort and time spent
- honesty and spontaneity in answers rather than learnt speeches
- investigations that have a real world application

Some information sourced from:

<http://www.exposcience.co.za/guidebook/judging.html>

<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/projects/advice.html>

http://www.ehow.com/how_2044404_judge-science-fair.html

<http://www.super-science-fair-projects.com/science-fair.html>

http://www.societyforscience.org/isef/judges/judges_criteria.asp