

AWARDS & THE AWARDS CEREMONY

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF AWARDS?

Divisional Awards

- Gold, Silver and Bronze medals
- Can be based on either challenge categories (e.g. Health Science, Engineering, etc.) or based on division and age group
- Many fairs will have multiple projects getting gold. You can base the number of divisional awards on the size of your regional fair

Grand Awards

- Advancing to the next level of competition

For example:

- Grand Award winners at a school/district fair advance to the regional fair
- Grand Award winners at a regional fair advance to the national fair (Canada-Wide Science Fair)

Special Awards

- Can have specific categories/characteristics, or be given at the discretion of the organizing/judging committee

For example:

A sponsor from an IT company is offering a \$500 cash award for a project in the Senior category that shows the best use of new technology in the design of the project

University Entrance Awards

- A university or college in your area may be willing to provide scholarships as an award

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HOW DO I CREATE CRITERIA FOR AWARDS?

HOW DO I DETERMINE WINNERS OF EACH AWARD?

Divisional & Grand Awards

- Typically given out based on judge scores

For example:

- The highest scoring project receives the Gold medal, the second highest scoring projects receives the Silver medal, and the third highest scoring project receives the Bronze medal
- Depending on how many projects your fair is allowed to send to the next level of competition, the highest scoring projects also get Grand Awards and earn a spot to compete at the next level (regionals, provincials, nationals)

Special Awards & University Entrance Awards

- Can be given out based on judge scores for specific categories
- Someone from the sponsor organization may come to judge at the fair and select the winner of their Special Award based on their chosen characteristics
 - If the sponsor does not select the winner themselves, then as a committee you can decide the winner based on the needs of your fair
- Some fair organizers want to encourage many students and “share the love” by using Special Awards to reward some projects that may not be competitive enough to reach Divisional Awards but have shown strong scientific method, lots of originality, etc.

HOW DO I COMPILE JUDGE SCORES TO DETERMINE AWARD WINNERS?



- The method for compiling judge scores is unique to each fair
- In the past, Science Fair In A Box automated the process by calculating judge scores
- Youth Science Canada's new portal (portal.youthscience.ca) will have a judging component but the details around timeline and features are still forthcoming
- In recent virtual fairs hosted by SFFBC, scores were entered by each judge through an online form to create a database where the final scores were calculated to determine award winners

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WHAT IS THE TIMELINE BETWEEN RECEIVING JUDGE SCORES, ASSIGNING AWARDS, AND ANNOUNCING WINNERS AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY?



- Usually less than 24 hours but it could depend on the length of your fair
- If your fair is over three days, you could do the judging on the first day and plan the ceremony on the third day to give yourself some time
- If your fair is 48 hours, plan your awards ceremony towards the end of the afternoon on the second day
- The goal would be to have all the awards decided the day before the award ceremony to give the emcee or award ceremony organizer time to fill in the slides with names of the winners and practice reading the students' names out loud
- For 1-day fairs, start with judging early in the day. The awards ceremony can be the last event of the day, or announce winners at an assembly a few days later (for school fairs)
- It's about what fits your fair's culture the best!

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COMPONENTS OF AN AWARDS CEREMONY



1. The ceremony often starts with a speech from one of the main sponsors (e.g. if the fair is being held in a university/college) or the chair of the fair committee
2. The emcee thanks sponsors for their support
3. The emcee thanks all of the volunteers for their time and hard work
4. Many fairs will take pictures during the fair and show a montage/video at the beginning of the ceremony
5. Award winners, starting with Special Awards, then Divisional Awards (keeping gold for the end)
6. Grand Awards: those participants advancing to the next level of competition (regionals, nationals)
 - For Canada-Wide Science Fair participants, it's nice to have an alumni introduce the CWSF and talk about their experience from previous years to build energy before these awards are announced
 - After the ceremony, it's also good to have all CWSF winners stay and have their parents/guardians attend a meeting to get the information about registration and what to expect for the trip