

## **Steps to Prepare a Science Fair Project**

### **1. Select a Topic**

Remember a Science Fair Project is a test you do to find an answer to a question, not just showing what you know about something.

### **2. Gather Background Information**

Gather information about your topic from books, magazines, the Internet, people and companies. Keep notes about where you got your information.

### **3. Use the Scientific Method to prepare your experiment**

- State the Purpose of your experiment - What are you trying to find out?
- Make a prediction about the answer to the question. In science this is called the hypothesis. You are making a "guess" about what you think the answer to your question will be.
- Decide how to answer the question. This means you have to design a test to help you answer your question. In science, we call this the experiment.
- Write out the PROCEDURE you will follow, step by step, to answer your question.
- Make a complete list of equipment and materials and gather them together.

### **4. Run Controlled Experiment and Record Data**

Do the experiment as described above. Keep notes in one place. Write down everything you can think of, you might need it later. Make your conclusions. Does your data agree or disagree with your hypothesis. Hypotheses are never right or wrong; they are just supported or unsupported. What do your data presentations mean? What did you learn? What do you need to investigate further?

### **5. Graphs and Charts**

What happened? Answer that question, then put the results in graphs and charts.

### **6. Construct an Exhibit or Display**

It has to be neat, but it does NOT have to be typed. Make it fun, but be sure people can understand what you did. Show that you used the Scientific Method. Make sure your display is free standing.

### **7. Practice Presentation to Judges**

Practice explaining your project to someone (parent, friend, etc.) This will help you be calm on Science Fair Day. The judges are very nice and will be interested in what you did and what you learned.

### **8. Come to the Fair and have fun! See you there.**