

Everything families need to know
about the March 2023

Blossom Hill
Science Fair



Key Dates

Registration is open January 11

Projects are due March 15

Science Fair March 16-17

Family Science Night March 17

Have fun. We can't wait to see you there!



The Blossom Hill Science Fair is...

A chance to “Bee Curious!”

A chance to use the Scientific Method to ask questions and solve problems creatively.

A way to have fun with science.

The science fair is a showcase, not a contest.



What is the Scientific Method?

It's a creative problem solving framework that can be used in all areas of our lives.

It's a way to help identify problems, make observations and look for solutions.

It's a way to help students understand the world around them.



Scientific Method

 **Ask a Question**

 **Gather Information**
Observe – look, listen, taste, touch, smell
Read. Ask an Expert.

 **Form a Hypothesis**
Guess the answer.

 **Test the Hypothesis**
Do an experiment to see if you're right.

 **Share the Results**
Tell other people what you learned.

Tips for using the Scientific Method:

Use **5 senses**: Sight, Smell, Touch, Hear, Taste.



Ask Scientific Questions:

- Start with question words like “What,” “Why,” or “How?”
- Scientific Questions sound like: "Where do owls live?" "What kind of clouds bring rain?" "When are shadows the longest?"
- Non-Scientific Questions sound like: "Can I play outside?" "Which park is by your house?" "What animal is your favorite?"

How does my student choose their project?

There are so many ideas out there! Here are some helpful tips...

- Ask a question about something they see or do every day
- Identify a problem that they think you can solve
- The student should be able to explain your project - Keep it simple!
- Conduct the experiment more than once...good results can be replicated
- Change only 1 variable each time you conduct your experiment

Let's look at a few helpful tips...



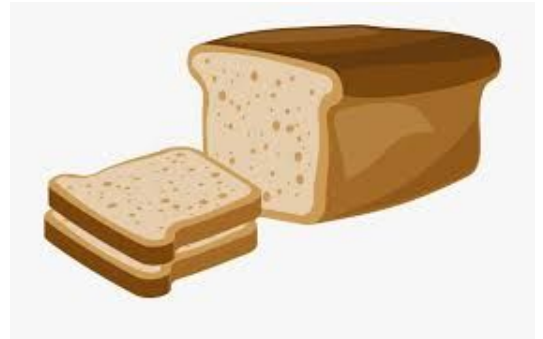
Ask a question about something in daily life like:
“What is the best setting for my toast?”

Gather information like:
“There are several settings on my toaster.”

Form a hypothesis like:
“Toasting bread on setting 3 makes great toast.”

Test the hypothesis like:
“If I toast country white bread on setting 3, it will be great!”

Share the results like:
“Country white bread on setting 3 wasn’t toasted enough but setting 4 was so delicious.”



Tips for running a good experiment:

- Run the test more than one time - change only 1 variable each time you run the test!
- Record the results and observations in a table, graph, photos, etc.
- Write a clear conclusion, “what did you learn”?
- We encourage students to use family members to help with the projects - good problem solvers utilize the resources and experts around them!



Tips on recording your experiment

Write like a scientist:

- Make sure to answer and write about the question asked.
- Write down the steps followed in the investigation.
- Include your data.
- Add charts, graphs, diagrams, or pictures.
- Words such as "First," "Next," and "Last:" help tell the order of your investigation.
- State facts and observations instead of opinions. A fact or observation can be supported by information gathered in an experiment. An opinion is a personal feeling or belief about something.

WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG!?!

- Something will always go wrong. It usually does.
- Relax and figure out how to change something and try again!



Will my child get to present their project?

Each class will walk through the MPR and see the projects. If there is not enough time to present during this visit, students may stand next to their boards at Family Science Night and present to the visitors.

How does my student present their project?

- Each student will receive a tri-fold presentation board to display their project.
- Props can be displayed, but we ask that nothing valuable is used as items will be left out for 3 days
- Be creative – it's always great to use photos and drawings on the boards

Evaluations

Remember, this is not a contest. However, we do have parent volunteers that will review every project and make sure the students are following the scientific method. Please see the example so you can make sure your child's project hits all of the target areas.

Blossom Hill 2021 Science Fair Project Feedback

Name: _____

Teacher/Grade: _____



Something we **really liked** about your project!

Board Section		✓ Good Job	✓ Room To Grow
Problem Question	What question are you trying to answer? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem is clear and specific• Text easy to read from a distance		
Hypothesis	What did you think would happen? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypothesis easy to understand• Hypotheses correct in format		
Procedure	What steps did your experiment follow? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steps listed in order and easy to follow• Procedure aligned to the problem		
Materials	What materials did you use? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All materials listed• Clear and easy to read		
Data / Results	What data and results did your experiment generate? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The data / results were clear and easy to understand• Includes pictures, tables, or charts as needed		
Conclusion	What did you learn? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was your hypothesis supported, or not supported, by the data <p>NOTE: the hypotheses does not have to be "correct"; disproving the hypotheses is also a success!</p>		

Remember...

Partners are allowed from the same classroom or household.

Your brothers and sisters, mom and dad, grandparents, babysitters can be resources to help you with your project.

Remember, the goal is to have fun and enjoy science and to learn something new.



If you need ideas or have questions...

Please visit our website for links to great science project resources -
sciencefair.blossomhill.org

