

Dear Fellow Educators,

The Virginia Junior Academy of Science is ranked one of the top three Junior Academies in the Nation. I encourage you and your students to participate in this program of scientific excellence by attending the annual meeting of the VJAS to be held at James Madison University May 19-21, 2010. This will provide a great opportunity to involve your students in scientific research. All you need to do is take a few minutes to visit our website at www.vjas.org and download the current handbook.

A membership form must be submitted along with the membership dues so that the office has an updated record on file. If you need financial assistance for research, then please request funds which deadlines December 1, 2009 but this year has been extended until December 31st. Make sure you mark your calendar with the paper due date of March 1, 2010. Hand delivered papers are due to the Science Museum of Virginia by 5pm on March 1. Papers being mailed must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.

JMU has suggested that students have flash drives since JMU does not live in a MAC world. We are looking at the use of two different buildings CISAT and Festival (CISAT has: Vista w/2007 Office Suite and Festival has: XP w/2007 Office Suite).

We are looking forward to seeing you at James Madison University in Harrisonburg May 19-21, 2010. Note: The annual meeting will start on Wednesday and finish on Friday. Currently, JMU is trying to provide field trips for those arriving early on Wednesday. A Sponsors meeting will be hosted by JMU but I will also be there in case there are last minute concerns. On Thursday at 8:30am, all students will be asked to report to their presentation rooms so that their presentations may be uploaded onto the computers and saved on a VJAS jump drive. This process is in an effort to have the day flow more smoothly. Any students applying for the VEE scholarships will have a second presentation time for the VEE judges. In the past VEE judges came to the student presentation but now the students are to come to a different room for this second presentation. These times will be posted at registration since these projects are not reviewed until after acceptances are posted on the website. Some other events will be a DJ event on Thursday evening with special dance trainers. Friday's awards ceremony will be supported by the Virginia Academy of Science which is giving a select group of winners the opportunity to present their findings to members of the senior academy.

If you are interested in judging or being involved with Dinner with the Scientists we are looking for people in their fields who would like to continue to support the youth. Judges will be sent papers approximately one month prior to the meeting to evaluate with the rubric provided and then come to JMU on Thursday morning for presentations. That night at dinner students may interact with judges and other scientists from the school and community. This is a great time to interact with the youth of the future so if you would like to participate then please let us know.

If you have any questions or concerns, then do not hesitate to contact me at susanscience@msn.com or by calling 757-874-3349. Please feel free to check the website for updates and once you have registered and been entered in the database you will receive notification of receipt of papers, estimated date to check the website on accepted papers and detailed schedule of events as we know them from our host institution. Also, our host institution will be supporting us by going online with an evaluation after the event so we can further enhance the program.

Respectfully,

Susan Booth
VJAS Director
