

Peterborough Regional Science Fair
www.peterboroughsciencefair.com

Judging Workshop

Brian Patrick, Chief Judge

Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 7:00pm

Gzowski College (ENW 114) at Trent University

Fair Day

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 8:00am

Science Complex Lecture Hall (SC 137)

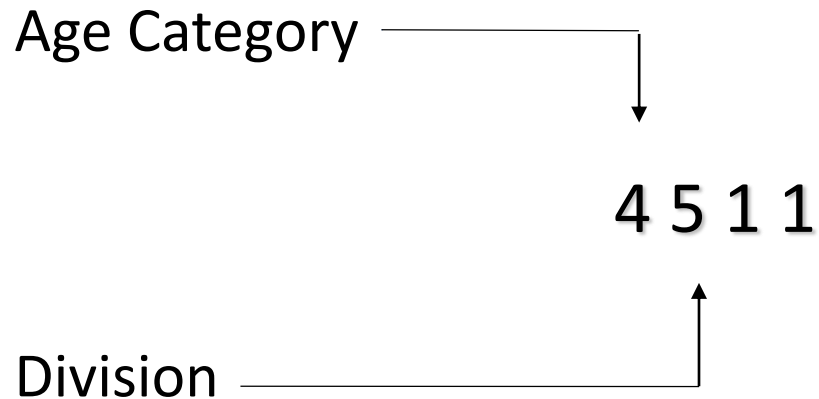
Categories and Divisions

At the PRSF, there are five age categories, separated each into one or more divisions.

Category	Grade	Division
Primary (1)	K-3	General Science (GS - 1)
Elementary (2)	4-6	Biological Science (BS - 2) Physical Science (PS - 3)
Junior * (3)	7-8	Earth & Environmental Sciences (EE - 4)
Intermediate * (4)	9-10	Health & Life Sciences (HL - 5) Computer & Engineering Sciences (CE - 6)
Senior * (5)	11-12	Physical & Mathematical Sciences (PM - 7)

* Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) eligible

Project Number



In this case, 4 is Junior and 5 is Health and Life Sciences

Judging Assignments

Divisional Judging

1. You will be assigned to a team of judges (typically four) who will evaluate the same set of projects.
2. Your team will select its own **Team Leader**. Note that the team leader at the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior levels is expected to participate in the Canada-Wide Selection Meeting at 13:00 in SC 103.
3. You will be assigned to categories and divisions according to **need** and to your educational background, preferences, and experience.

CWSF Panel

A separate panel(s) of judges will review all projects at the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior levels and will also participate in the Canada-Wide Selection Meeting at 13:00.

Special Awards

Special Awards judging is usually, but not always, performed by the sponsors or their representatives.

If you are sponsor or representative of a Special Award, please indicate on your registration.

Schedule

Time	Activity
8:00 – 9:00	Registration and Preparation
9:00 – 11:30	Judging Period
11:30 – 13:00	Team Meeting and Evaluations Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	CWSF Selection Meeting Team Leaders + CWSF Panelists

Registration and Preparation (8:00 – 9:00)

1. Report to the Judging Room (SC 137) by **8:00 am**.
2. Outside the entrance to SC 137, you will be given your name tag and team number.
3. Proceed to where your team is located. There, you will meet the other judges on your team and receive your judging package.

4. The judging package will include:

- A written abstract of each project to judge
- A **Project Mark Tally Form** for each project
- A schedule – Note that your schedule may include projects in different **age categories**, different divisions, different rooms, or different buildings (ESB, SC, or CSB). 😊

If there are more judges than judging packages for a team, then you will pair up with a fellow judge on your team.

5. Before going out to judge:

- Print and sign your name at the bottom of the second side of each **Project Mark Tally Form**.
- Review the abstract of each project and assign a mark for the **Written Report** section of the **Project Mark Tally Form** for each project.
- The Primary category is not required to have an abstract. Therefore, simply record a mark of 10 in this section.

Judging Period (9:00 – 11:30)

1. Proceed to the classroom(s) and/or lab(s) to judge your projects at the scheduled times. You are expected to spend approximately 10-15 minutes at each project. Each project has a maximum of two students.
2. Introduce yourself at each project and take a minute or two to review the display. Use the criteria on the **Project Mark Tally Form** to assign a mark for the **Display**.

3. Give the student(s) a few minutes to explain their project.
4. Make sure to ask lots of questions to show your interest and to ascertain the contribution and the knowledge of the student(s).
5. At the end of your visit, please sign your name at the time slot on the student's schedule and thank the participant(s).

6. Now, away from the student(s):

- Jot down some comments on your **Project Mark Tally Form** to help your team in completing the **Judges' Feedback Form** later on.
- Use the criteria on the **Project Mark Tally Form** to assign marks for **Oral Presentation**, **Original Creativity** and **Scientific Thought**.

Notice that in each of these categories, you select a level (1..3/4) and then choose **one** mark from that level.

In the case of Scientific Thought, before selecting the level, first decide whether the type of project is an **Experiment**, a **Study** or an **Innovation**.

7. All three types of projects are **equally valid**.
8. In addition to these three types of projects, the Peterborough Regional Science Fair allows demonstration-type projects in the Primary and Elementary divisions.

Feel free to visit other projects as long as they are **not** scheduled for judging.

Team Meeting (11:30 – 12:30)

1. Once your judging is complete, proceed to Room SC 137 to meet with the other judges on your team.
2. This meeting will be chaired by your **Team Leader**.

3. At this meeting, you will discuss your marks/comments for each project with the other judges on your team and fill out an additional Judging Tally Sheet for a single “**consensus**” mark (out of 100). This mark is then entered for each project on a separate green **Judging Team Tally Sheet** (provided). The consensus mark is **not** an average.

The mark for each project in a particular age category and division should be **unique and objective**. Hence, it is expected (but not always) that marks for younger categories will be lower than marks for older categories.

Complete the green **Judging Team Tally Sheet** **before** completing the Judges’ Feedback forms.

4. Each team also completes a yellow **Judges' Feedback Form** (provided) for each project, incorporating comments from all judges. The team leader will sign the form.

This form is very important since it is the only formal feedback that the student receives from the fair. It should be positive and constructive, and bear in mind the following two points.

- What we **particularly** liked about your project
- What we suggest to make your project **even better**

Make your comments specific to the project.

5. Once everyone is satisfied with the “consensus” marks and all feedback forms are complete, the Team Leader will gather and return **ALL Project Mark Tally Forms**, project descriptions, **Judging Team Tally Sheet** and **Judges’ Feedback Forms** to the front of SC 137.

Nothing leaves the room

5. Enjoy lunch!

CWSF Selection (13:00 – 14:00)

1. After lunch, only the Team Leaders from the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior categories along with the CWSF Panelists meet in SC 103 to select the three finalists who will represent the Peterborough region at the Canada-Wide Science Fair at the Edmonton EXPO Center in Edmonton, AB from May 23 to May 30.
2. The meeting will be chaired by me.

3. Projects for the Canada-Wide Science Fair must adhere to strict guidelines for **safety, ethics, and ingestion**.
4. We will strive to select one project from each of three eligible categories (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior), but the onus is on sending the **best** projects to Edmonton.

Evaluation

Using the **Project Mark Tally Form**
(online under Judges - Downloads)

Part	Marks
A - Written Report	10
B - Display	20
C - Oral Presentation	20
D - Original Creativity	15
E - Scientific Thought	35
Total	100

Sample Displays









Points to Bear in Mind

- The Fair is not only a competition, but also an inspiration.
- Most students enjoy talking to the judges and, in many cases, these conversations are the high point of the Fair for both the judge and the student.
- As a judge, **ask questions but don't give answers.**
- Parents who are present should refrain from coaching. Feel free to ask them to step back.

- Every student deserves a fair proportion of your time as a judge.
- Be respectful of all participants, especially those with learning disabilities.
- It is critical that **ALL** exhibitors receive encouragement. Comments on the Judges' Feedback Form should be positive, constructive, and tactful.

- As a judge, it is your responsibility to ensure that no indication of which projects are in the running for prizes is divulged to any student, adult, or friend. **Confidentiality is important.**
- Be careful of comments made to other judges that may be overheard by students.
- All material must be returned and remain in SC 137.

- Commercial equipment and extensive outside help can result in an impressive display. But as a judge, it is your task to determine (through interviews with the students), the role that the student actually played in developing the project.
- Major senior prizes are seldom won on the first attempt, but rather are the result of several appearances at the Fair.

- Wear your identification badge at all times.
- Advise the Chief Judge of any potential conflicts of interest.

Your biggest role as a judge is
being a role model.

Optional Tour

Thank-you so much
for your help!