

Oklahoma Sci-Tech Student Reporting Competition

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Purpose of the Competition

To increase public awareness of the relevance of science and technology research taking place at Oklahoma colleges and universities while encouraging outstanding student journalism.

Three Award Categories - Article, Series, and Graphics

Each of the three categories will have 3 winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and honorable mention) for a total of 12 awards. In addition to the monetary awards, each award recipient will also receive a certificate of achievement. The awards are as follows:

- 1st Place - \$300
- 2nd Place - \$200
- 3rd Place - \$100
- Honorable Mention – award certificate

Criteria for Entries

Articles accepted into the competition must include content from the areas of science and technology funded by the National Science Foundation. Please refer to www.nsf.gov for more information on funded science themes. Other criteria include:

- Exposition – How well does the writer convey information or explain a scientific/technological subject that is difficult to understand?
- Clarity – How clear is the message/intent of the article?
- Consistency – Does the writer present the information without contradiction?
- Grammar/sentence structure – Does the writer implement proper use of language, syntax, punctuation and spelling?
- Use of sources – How well does the writer utilize sources? Do sources add to the credibility of the story?
- Campus or community connection – Does the article explain the benefit or relevance of the scientific topic to the campus or community?
- Science content – Topic must be from one of the NSF-funded science areas – www.nsf.gov. The EPSCoR staff will make the determination on whether or not articles fall within the NSF-funded areas. All decisions are final.
- *Specific criteria for graphics category:*
 1. Visual Interest
 2. Convey the essence of the story
 3. General composition
 4. Technical merit
 5. Creativity

Eligible NSF-funded Science Areas

- Biology - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=BIO>
- Computer and Information Science & Engineering - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=CISE>
- Cyberinfrastructure - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=OCI>
- Education & Human Resources - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=EHR>
- Engineering (<http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=ENG>)
- Environmental Research & Education - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=ERE>
- Geosciences - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=GEO>
- International Science & Engineering - <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=OISE>
- Math and Physical Sciences - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=MPS>
- Polar Research - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=OPP>
- Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences - <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=SBE>
- Cross-cutting (across NSF disciplines) - http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?type=xcut

Who Is Eligible to Compete?

Articles must be written by undergraduate or graduate students and must have been published in an Oklahoma College/University Student Newspaper.

Timeline of Competition

Articles submitted must be published between August 15, 2009 and March 12, 2010. Deadline for submission is March 12, 2010. A hard copy of articles must be submitted to Gina Miller, along with a typewritten or word-processed copy of the article, and a completed entry form, which can be downloaded from www.okepscor.org. Articles must be received in the Oklahoma City EPSCoR office no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2010. Late entries will not be accepted.

Awards Ceremony

Student reporters who have submitted articles, along with their student editor and one advisor from each participating school, will be invited to an awards ceremony in April, date TBD.

For More Information or to Submit an Article

Please contact Gina Miller. Please mail or deliver complete submissions in person to:

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