



## Summer Project Program

### WEEK 4

#### What the Judges are Looking for

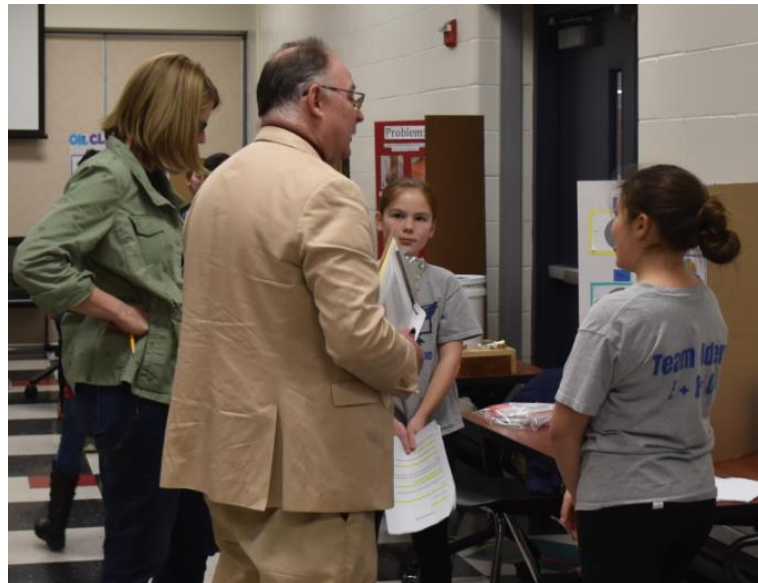


At this point, your project should be in progress. Keep working on it, and feel free to reach out to us with questions. As you work, it may be helpful for you to know what the judges will be looking for when you present your project to them, in order for you to have the best chance at a top score.

SCORING RUBRICS – We always share the actual rubrics that the judges use when scoring your project with our participants. There are four slightly different rubrics, depending on whether your project is science or engineering, and whether your project is an individual or team effort. You can find the judging rubrics on our website at [LakotaLEADS.org](http://LakotaLEADS.org) → Events → Science Fair, or you can email us at [LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com](mailto:LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com), and we can email them to you directly.

#### JUDGING PROCESS

**IN-PERSON EVENT** – We hope to be able to have an in-person event at Hopewell Junior School the evening of Friday, January 21, 2022. If so, the participants will be given a range of time for the judging for their project category, and they will need to stay with their project during that time. A team of two judges will visit each project. They will look at your project report, your project trifold display, and anything else you display related to your project. They will ask you to tell them about your project (this is the project presentation – about five minutes,) then they will ask questions, and you will answer them (about ten minutes). After that, you are finished, and the judges will leave you to go score your project.



**VIRTUAL EVENT** – If we must do a virtual event, we will send out a sign-up for you to do your presentation to the judges over Zoom. There will be timeslots the evening of Friday, January 21 and the morning and afternoon of Saturday, January 22. Each Zoom session will be about 15 minutes long, with the same presentation and Q&A timing as above.

SCORING - Each judge will score your project separately, using the appropriate rubric. Your final project score will be the average of the two judges' scores. Your final score will determine if the project is rated Superior, Excellent, Good, or Satisfactory. Scores that average with a ".5" or higher will be rounded up, and anything lower than a ".5" will be rounded down.

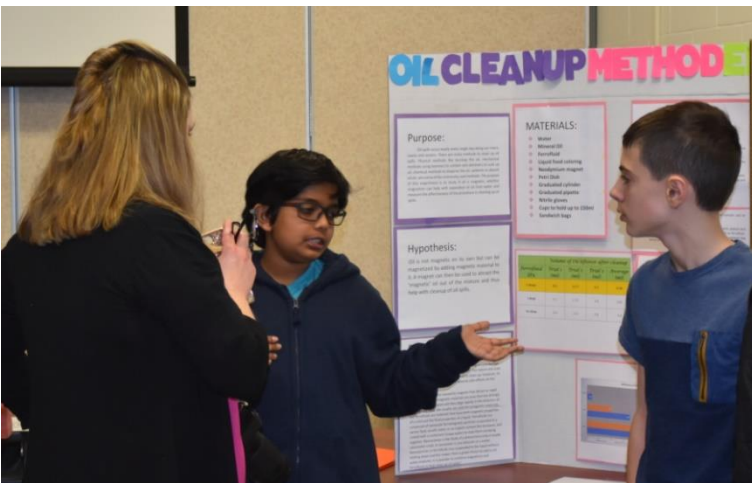
**COMMUNICATION** – The judges will score you on your oral communication (your project presentation and how well you answer the judges’ questions,) your written communication (your project notebook and report,) and visual communication (your trifold and other materials in your display). We will go into more detail on each of these in future weeks.

**ORIGINALITY** – As shared in Week 1, the judges score the projects on originality. They will investigate how you came up with your project idea, whether you modified it from readily available information, how well you understand your research and findings. They are looking for originality in concept relative to grade level (i.e., not “cookbook”, not classroom lab, not a simple extension of “found” idea) – New idea, concept, principle, insight, or non-obvious approach.



**DESIGN** – Experimental Design or Engineering Design is the core of your project. The judges want to see that your project was well planned and executed.

**DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING** – The judges will get some idea of this from your presentation, and a lot more from the questions they get to ask. They will probe your knowledge of the subject. The questions should be grade appropriate.



**TEAMWORK** – If you do a group project with 2-3 people, there will be a section on your rubric to score your teamwork. The judges want to see that all team members contributed equal effort to the project, and all team members have a good depth of understanding (not just one dominant team member). It’s okay if different people focused on different parts of the project and have different expertise. You can convey this during your presentation – each team member should share the presentation time roughly equally, and each team member should answer some of the judges’ questions.

**PRIZES** – All projects will receive a ribbon and certificate reflecting their project rating (Superior, Excellent, Good, or Satisfactory). The top-scoring project in each category will receive a trophy. Projects that receive a Superior rating are eligible to move on to the regional Southwest Ohio Science & Engineering Expo at the University of Cincinnati in the spring.



**Lakota LEADS**  
Lakota's Enrichment and Academic  
Development of Students

Having trouble? You can ask your parent or coach for help, or join our next Zoom:

Next Optional Zoom – Wednesday, June 16 at 2:00 PM.

Or e-mail us your question at [LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com](mailto:LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com)!

**NEXT WEEK:** Maintaining Your Project Records