LaJSHS - Program fact sheet and guidelines for students

Louisiana JSHS - The judging process

At Louisiana, student research presentations will be organized in concurrent sessions by discipline. Military-sponsored scholarships and other awards will be made to 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place overall winner in the final session. The top two finalists in each of the three sessions will present in the best of sessions on Saturday.

The Categorization Process. The organization of the final six (6) sessions at the National JSHS is based upon a review of all abstracts and the area of research suggested by the student. Student presenters must state on the abstract the major discipline and the sub-discipline of their research.

The six (6) major disciplines in which make up the three sessions.

- Life sciences
- Medicine and Health
- Behavioral and Social Sciences
- Environmental science
- Earth and Space Science
- Engineering
- Physical Sciences
- Mathematics and Computer Science

The LaJSHS Judging Team and Process.
The LaJSHS Judging Team includes individuals 1) who hold either a Ph.D. or equivalent experience, or 2) who are actively engaged in research. Judges will have general experience in the fields of research that are represented by the student presenters. Specialized experience in each field presented at the LaJSHS is not possible; therefore, student presenters are reminded of their responsibility to communicate their results so that they may be understood by both the non-specialized audience and by the judges. Judges are selected also for their interest in encouraging the students' interests and future development in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics. Keep in mind that the best of sessions will have judges from the areas of life sciences, physical sciences and/or engineering and computer sciences.

The judges review the regional student presentations as follows...

- All of the written reports (e.g. abstract and paper) are read. The paper is used as supporting documentation during the judging process.
- The oral presentations are evaluated by each member of the assigned session judging team.
- The questioning period which follows the oral presentations aids judges in clarifying the student's depth of understanding, the amount of work and level of effort, and the individual contributions to the research problem.
- Following the sessions, the individual session judging teams meet and deliberate to select two finalists from each session.
- Judges utilize the "LaJSHS Judges Score Sheet" as a tool and consider the weight of each factor during their deliberations.

The Louisiana JSHS Office, and the Louisiana JSHS Judging Panel recognize the enormous effort that students undertake in conducting their research. Therefore, our objective is to ensure an equitable competition by selecting qualified judges and by communicating the rules of competition to both students and judges. We realize that in any competition of this nature, differences of opinion about the judges interpretations may occur.

It is the policy of the sponsors of the JSHS Program (e.g. the Army, Navy, and Air Force) to support the interpretations and final decisions of the judges panel. Recommendations regarding the future conduct of the Louisiana JSHS judging process, or requests to clarify the rules of competition can be directed to the attention of the Director, Louisiana JSHS Program, LSU/Continuing Education, 1225 Pleasant Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.