

Pacific Northwest Regional Science Fair

April 11 – 12, 2014

NWCC, Smithers, BC

Do you know any budding young scientists you'd like to encourage?

Try science fair!

Most young people love asking questions. Science fair gives them an opportunity to learn how to answer these questions for themselves. Students follow their interests and passions, develop their *own* projects and learn how to solve problems creatively as they work from concept to presentation. Sometimes they learn that unexpected results can be more interesting than the “right” answer. Many distributed-learning kids are already following project-based and interest-led programs—so science fair is a perfect fit.

I teach university students—and I can identify the science fair alumni: they are confident at designing experiments, know that science is a process rather than a body of facts, and are creative as well as organised. Some school and home-school students do science fair year after year and end up entering a post-secondary program they've discovered through science fair.

DL and home-schooling families are welcome to participate in science fair—it's been a yearly highlight for my son, Kiri, and has been his main path to learning how to do science (basically, his science fair project becomes school for two months or more). Participants can join with a local school fair or go straight to the regional fair.

There are prizes awarded at the regional fair to top projects and to hard-working students. The big prize will be shared by 4 students (grade 7 – 12) who will represent our region at the Canada Wide Science Fair, this year being held in Windsor, Ontario (May 10 – 17). Most of the cost of the week-long trip to the Canada Wide Science Fair is covered by the Regional Science Fair Committee!

The local science fair committee can help if you'd like. We can mentor, discuss, point out useful websites and judge. I'm a scientist. I enjoy mentoring students, and have helped many students from all grades, whether it's focusing their first research question or fine-tuning their statistics before going to the Canada-Wide Science Fair. Let us know what we can do!

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