



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.californiasciencecenter.org/CSSF/

Over Nine Hundred Students Will Compete for Top Honors at the 58th California State Science Fair

Fair Showcasing Student Innovation Hosted by California Science Center

LOS ANGELES – More than 900 of the state's top middle and senior high school students will convene for the final round of competition in the 58th annual California State Science Fair, May 18-19, 2009 at the California Science Center in Exposition Park. Winners will take home a combined total of more than \$50,000 in cash prizes. Northrop Grumman is the presenting benefactor of the 2009 California State Science Fair, providing essential funding for this year's event, with additional support from THE MUSES of the California Science Center Foundation, along with other corporate and community supporters.

Students representing 35 counties from around the state must first qualify at the regional or county level before advancing to the State Science Fair. The projects span 24 categories – from aerodynamics/hydrodynamics to zoology – and will be judged by a volunteer pool of over 300 scientists and engineers from private industry and higher education. In addition to the winners in each category, top honors will go to Student of the Year (senior division only), and Project of the Year (in both junior and senior divisions). Science teachers, nominated by junior and senior high school students, will also compete for Science Teacher of the Year.

Besides the recognition and prize money, participating in the fair provides additional benefits for students. The process gives them the opportunity to develop a unique set of abilities, such as using scientific methodology to reach a conclusion, marketing techniques to create clever project titles and eye-catching graphic displays, and interviewing skills to explain their research to Science Fair judges.

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Ideas for projects often come from today's headlines or even real-life experiences. Here is a sample of the interesting titles submitted to this year's Science Fair:

- *Peanut: The Invisible Danger*
- *The Survivability of High Rise Structures in Earthquakes*
- *Lead Bullets Poisoned Condors. Are Grizzly Bears Next?*
- *Jump-starting the Electric Car: Improving the Lifespan of Electric Car Batteries by Means of a Generator*

The public is invited to see this year's projects during the public viewing period on Monday, May 18 from 12-4 p.m. Admission is free.

The fair culminates with two award ceremonies Tuesday, May 19 in the Science Center's Wallis Annenberg Building: The Senior Division ceremony will take place from 4:00-5:00 PM, followed by the Junior Division ceremony from 5:30-6:30 PM.

The California Science Center is located at 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles. Parking is \$8 per car in the visitor lot at Figueroa and 39th/Exposition Park Drive.

Important - Reporter / Editor / Producer Note:

Reporters interested in **viewing projects with students on-hand for interviews** should plan to visit **Tuesday, May 19, 2009** from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** This is the **only** time period when you will be able to find all of the students at their projects. Please check-in at the Information Desk inside the Science Center. After 12:30 p.m., students will be dismissed and after 3:30 p.m., the projects will be dismantled. For general information on the California State Science Fair, please visit www.californiasciencecenter.org/CSSF/. Names of the winners will be posted on this site May 19 after 8 p.m. Reporters may also contact the Communications Department at (213) 744-7446 for information on winners from their area beginning May 20.

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