



## What is a research poster competition?

A research poster competition can sound intimidating—particularly if you have never seen or heard about poster competitions. Have no fear! Here, you will find answers to questions you may have about poster competitions and how you can enter this year's competition at the *It's All About Science Festival*.

### What is a research poster?

A research poster summarizes a set of scientific experiments including the hypothesis, experiments performed, and the results. Research posters use a combination of text and graphics to communicate their research results and help start conversations with other scientists about that research.

### What is a poster competition?

A poster competition is a meeting of many scientists who display their posters at the same time. During a poster competition, participants stand by their poster and present their research by explaining the project and answering questions others may have about the research. The 'competition' portion involves judges who evaluate the poster's content and design as well as the presentation of the poster by the participant.

### Why should I present at a poster competition?

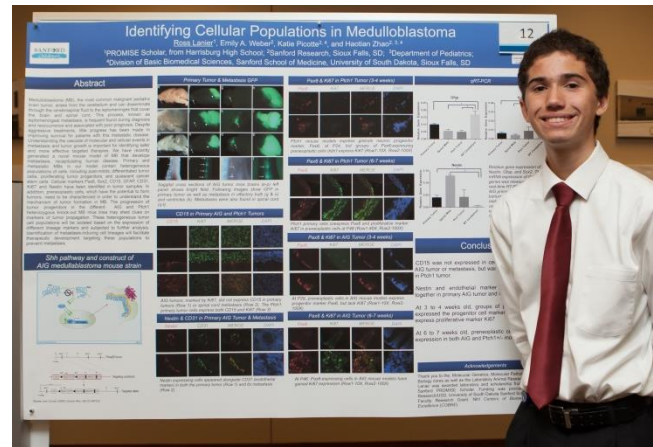
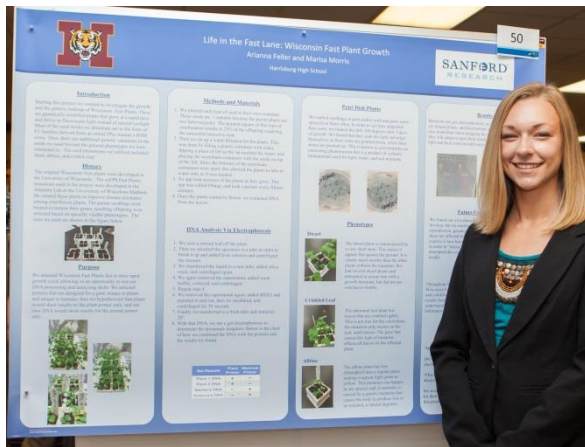
A poster competition is an exciting opportunity to showcase a scientific research project—this could be a scientific research project that was done as a class assignment. You can practice your presentation and communication skills by presenting your research to others. In addition, you can compete to win scholarship money—for the high school student category, first prize is a \$750 scholarship and second prize is a \$500 scholarship.

## How do I 'present' a poster? Do I read off the poster or use notecards?

To present your poster, you should give a short (3-5 minute) summary of your scientific research. You should be prepared to tell people who visit your poster the highlights of your project—the question you were looking to answer, the hypothesis, the experiments you performed, and the results. You can practice what you will say to family and friends so you are calm and prepared the day of the competition.

## Is a poster competition different than a science fair?

Unlike a science fair, where participants might have a live demonstration of an experiment or materials from their project, participants in a poster competition use only their poster to tell others about their research project. Posters are an easy and portable way scientists can communicate their research and receive feedback from other scientists when they attend professional meetings.



## How do I make a poster?

Posters can be designed using Microsoft PowerPoint and then printed for display. The poster should be large enough so the text and graphics can be easily seen. The size cannot be larger than 42" high by 42" wide. In PowerPoint, you can select the "Design" tab and then "Slide Size" to make a 42" by 42" poster. There are a few options for printing your poster including large format printing or segmented printing. Large format printing is done through companies like FedEx, Kinkos, or other copy and printing businesses. Segmented printing is done on a regular printer by printing out the pieces of the poster and assembling them on a foam core board.

For more tips and tricks on creating a great research poster, check out the following links:

[NYU Library: How to create a research poster](#)

[Dartmouth College: Guide to Designing and Printing a Poster using PowerPoint](#)

[North Carolina State University: Creating Effective Posters](#)