



Notes About Judging and Interviews

All students should report to Mayser Gymnasium by noon of March 28 for judging interviews. Students must plan to remain in the gym from noon to 4 p.m. Students may read or do schoolwork when not being interviewed or on break. No cell phone, MP3 or game system use is allowed from 12- 4 p.m. in Mayser. No teachers or adult sponsors may be present inside Mayser during this time period, but should remain onsite in the Mayser lobby during this period. Every student must have an identified chaperone onsite at all NMSEF functions.

After judging, students must either go to the North Museum with a chaperone at 4 p.m., or leave the gym with a responsible adult. All participating students are expected to return to the ASFC (across Harrisburg Pike, adjacent to College Square) for the Awards Ceremony at 6:15 p.m.

Judging Interview tips

Judges evaluate and focus on:

- 1) what the student did in the **current year**;
- 2) how well a student followed the scientific, engineering, computer programming or mathematical methodologies;
- 3) the detail and accuracy of research as documented in the data book;
- 4) whether experimental procedures were used in the best possible way.

They also consider how significant your project is in its field, how thorough you were, and how much of the experimental thought and design is your **own work**.

Initially, judges get their information from your board, abstract and research paper to learn what the project is about, but it is the **interview** that will be the final determination of your work. Judges applaud those students who can speak freely and confidently about their work. They are not interested in memorized speeches or presentations – they simply want to talk with you about your research to see if you have a good grasp of your project from start to finish. Greet the judges and introduce yourself. You want to make a good first impression. Appearance, good manners, appropriate attire, and **enthusiasm** for what you are doing will impress the judges. Make sure you thank the judge after the interview.

Remember, the purpose of your time in Mayser Gym is to impress judges, not your peers. Serious participants never want to leave their project, make breaks as short as possible, and they are always ready to talk with an adult about their work. **All participants** have committed to stay until 4 PM and we expect everyone to honor that commitment or forfeit possible awards.