**SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR CLASSIFICATIONS**

Social Studies Fair projects are classified using three descriptors: Division, Category and Type.

**Division:**First, identify your division.

* Division I (3-5)
* Division II (6-8)
* Division III (9-12)  NEW FOR 2016!

**Category:**
Social Studies Fair Categories

* **Anthropology** is the study of how culture is developed by people living, thinking, and working together. This category examines issues related to how a particular group of people view the world; how they do things and the mind sets they use to understand the world.
* **Economics** is the study of how people labor to satisfy human wants and needs. This category examines issues related to the production and distribution of goods and services. People use a variety of economic systems to attempt to satisfy their unlimited needs and wants with limited resources.
* **Geography** is the study of how the earth and its features interact with the effects of human activity. This category focuses on the relationship between people and their environment. Our environment influences our lifestyle and culture, provides opportunities and imposes limitations. In addition, people influence the environment. Geography studies the physical and cultural elements of the environment, as well as the interaction between the elements.
* **Political Science** is the study of how groups develop and use different structures to govern their lives. This category deals with the study of the processes, principles and structures of government, political institutions, and the study of law making and law enforcement.
* **Psychology** is the study of mental processes and behaviors. This category investigates human behavior as it is influenced by an individual or a group. It examines both inherited and socially influenced behaviors.
* **Sociology** is the study of human social behavior. This category investigates both the behavior of groups and the behavior of individuals as members of groups.
* **State and Local Studies** is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, a state, a county, an event or an institution. This category records and explains past and present events of a local area or of West Virginia in general. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and the present.
* **U.S. History** is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, an event or an institution within the United States. This category records and explains various aspects of the history of the United States. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and the present.
* **World History** is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, a country, an event or an institution. This category records and explains various aspects of the history of areas outside of the United States. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and present. Students must consider a variety of perspectives in addition to their own and those of their counterparts, then determine how to communicate those perspectives through an oral presentation with the help of a physical display.

**Type:**
Finally, determine the type of presentation you want to create and deliver.

* Individual - Only one person worked on the project and will present it alone.
* Small Group - Two to five students worked on project and will present the project together.

**SOME HELPFUL HINTS...**

**Individual Work**
If you work alone, you must remember that you will be doing all of the work by yourself. Working alone can be beneficial because you can manage your own time and make all of the decisions about the project without consulting with anyone else. You will give your oral presentation to the judges by yourself.

**Working With a Group**
If you decide to collaborate with a group, there will be one or more other students working with you. Together you will choose the theme to be investigated as well as the process of research, the materials for your display, and your methods of communication and presentation to the judges. You should work together to write out a schedule for the completion of different responsibilities and your meeting times. Having these things written down will prevent misunderstandings later on and will help you meet your deadlines. Working with others is fun and you have the creativity, talents, and knowledge of others to improve the project. You will learn from each other. Each student is required to deliver a part of the presentation in a small group project (traditional or international).

Whether working alone or in a group, be prepared because sometimes things do not get finished on time due to unforeseen emergencies. You must plan ahead and plan to finish before the deadline. That way, if you need extra time then you will have it.

**Judging Different Divisions, Categories and Types**
When a project is judged at the State Fair, it will compete against other projects of the SAME Division, Category and Type. For example, a Division III individual project in U.S. History will compete only against other Division III individual projects in U.S. History.