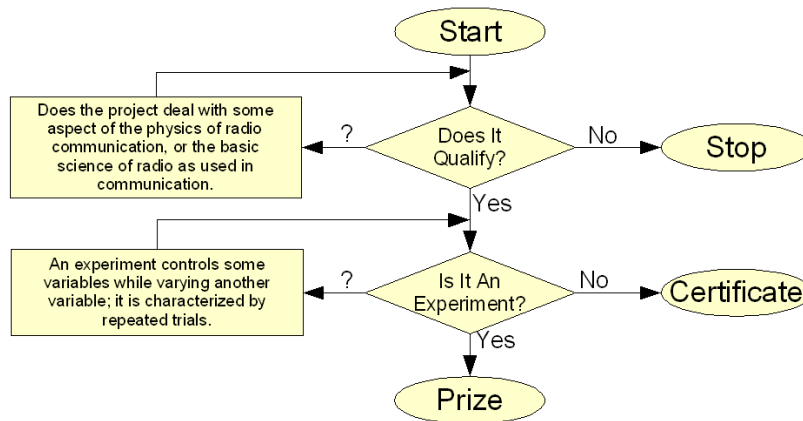


Qualification

Science Fair projects considered for the Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club Award for Radio Excellence must be qualified. See the club's website (www.w3ach.org/ScienceFair) for more information. For each project, consider the following flowchart.



Divisions

The club has prizes available for the following Science Fair divisions: Intermediate (grades 4 to 6), Junior (grades 7 & 8), and Senior (grades 9 to 12). Each division has their own judging form. While the forms look similar, they are constructed so that older students have an heightened expectation of good methodology and increasingly rigorous experimental design.

Judging Projects

For each qualifying project, fill out the judging sheet appropriate for the division. Each row on the judging sheet has a range of numbers associated with a description. Choose the number that best indicates how the project matches the associated description. Record this number in the right-most column.

Ranking Projects

To rank the qualified and judged projects, sum the rightmost column. Sort the judging sheets by division, then by the **Total Score**. Winning entries will be selected from the highest ranking projects. In the event of a high-score tie, and where there are not enough prizes to give each of the equally-ranked projects an award, only those projects will need to be re-evaluated to find a differentiation in their ranking. A prize-eligible project that is not awarded a prize would be a strong contender for a non-prize certificate.

Scoring Analysis

- Approximately 6% score advantage is given to individual vs. partnered projects. Partnered projects should be able to recover some of this by greater attention to the relatively subjective components.
- The relatively subjective components (**Display Presentation**, **Display Craftsmanship**, and **Research Notebook**) are collectively about 35% of the score, regardless of the division.
- The **Experiment** component (about 30% of the score for intermediate & junior projects; about 24% for senior projects) allows projects to gain some advantage due to their novelty or unusualness.
- The remaining **objective** components examine how the experiment is designed and executed. These comprise about 27% of the total score for the intermediate division to about 35% for the senior division.
- Notice that the **Experiment** component, when joined with the **objective** components, allows a **well-run standard** experiment to score as well as, or even better than, a **poorly-run novel** experiment.