



Convenient Online Volunteer Opportunity: Help Students Come Up With Science Fair Project Ideas

Do you remember the first project or experiment that sparked your interest in science or engineering? What topics in science or engineering fascinate you today? Share your enthusiasm by authoring a science Project Idea.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help spark a young student's interest in science or engineering by creating a cool Project Idea in an area of personal interest to you that will be seen by thousands of students each year from all across the U.S. (Optionally, you can also mentor students who use your Kit.)

THE CONCEPT

For most students, selecting what to work on is one of the most difficult parts of doing a science project. At the same time, one of Science Buddies' primary missions is to improve the quality of science projects. A mutually beneficial solution is to help students find a project that interests them AND at the same time represents better science than what they might come up with on their own.

Our Topic Selection Wizard first helps students identify an area of science that is inherently interesting to them, and then it presents some representative project ideas in the form of Project Ideas. Each Project Idea has several objectives:

1. Attract the student and capture his or her imagination
2. Provide enough background information and guidance to get the student off to a great start
3. Suggest variations on the primary idea, so that the student has plenty of room for creativity

Thus, a Project Idea should be true to its name (it provides a start); it is not a cookbook. At the same time a good Project Idea takes recognition of the fact that the intended user is a young student with far less experience than the author.

WHEN & WHERE

Write your Project Idea in the comfort of your home and according to your own schedule. Then, just e-mail the document to us. We accept Project Ideas all year. Take a look at examples we already have online (http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/areas_of_science.shtml) to see how they range from the simple to the elaborate (we don't require anything overly complex!). A good Project Idea might take as little as a few hours or several days to write, but the beauty of this volunteer opportunity is that you can do it at your own pace, as your schedule allows. But please don't wait! The sooner we publish your Project Idea, the more students we can help this year.

HOW THIS WORKS

We have created a detailed guide on how to prepare Project Ideas:

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/participate_starter_kit.shtml

Each Project Idea's structure includes:

- A short description, including a brief abstract that serves as a brochure for the project
- A table showing key parameters for the project such as appropriate grade level and time required
- Background information including a bibliography and literature search plan that gets the student started on the correct foot
- Experimental procedures
- A list of possible variations on the experiment

We'll review and edit your Project Idea and publish it online, giving you credit as the author. In addition, we'll categorize each Project Idea into the most relevant field of science or engineering to make sure that the Topic Selection Wizard presents it to the proper and most interested students.

SUBMIT ONLINE CONTACT

<http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/participate.shtml>

Questions? Contact us at scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org