

Nature Center - Division 30

Superintendents: Sandy Dayhoff • Allyson Gantt

Assistant Superintendents: Karen Solms • Yvette Cano • Sally Timberlake

Entry Deadline:	January 15, 2019
Check In:	February 28, 2019, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Arnold Hall. March 2, 2019, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Arnold Hall.
Check Out:	April 11, 2019, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Arnold Hall.
Group Entries:	Not Accepted

Theme:

Nature Center is designed to give children an appreciation of nature and understanding how they can make a difference in protecting our precious environment through wise conservation practices. Student projects must relate to Florida's native wildlife, plants, and their natural habitats.

Rules:

1. Grade Levels: K -12 Individual entries only: NO GROUP ENTRIES. Animals, plants, and habitats of South Florida.
2. Number of Entries: Students may submit no more than 1 entry per class.
3. Size Limitations: Dioramas, sculptures, replicas, and other such 3-D exhibits may be no larger than 24" X 24" X 24" (length, width and height) or weigh over 10 pounds.
4. Entry Tag(s) must be securely attached to the lower, right hand area of the entry.
5. Acceptable Entries: Entries must deal with native animals, plants, and natural habitats of Florida. A project may be a model, replica, or papier-mâché sculpture of an animal or plant. The theme for dioramas may be habitats OR individual species or groups of wildlife. All parts of the project must be hand-made, plastic or rubber made animals or figures will not be accepted. Diorama boxes must be decorated attractively including the back and sides of the project. A 5" X 7" index card is to be attached to the front of the project stating the project title answering the following questions: a) Type of Florida native habitat or wildlife species? b) Why did you pick this animal or habitat for your project? c) Why is this habitat or animal threatened/or endangered, and what conservation steps can we take to protect them? The writing should be original and express the exhibitors' knowledge of the topic.
6. NOT ACCEPTABLE:
 - Absolutely NO science fair projects are acceptable in this division.
 - The use of live plants, animals, or parts of animals is prohibited.
 - The use of coral and/or seashells is prohibited.
 - NO projects dealing with solar systems, space technology, human anatomy, diseases of the human body, dinosaurs, volcanoes, or other non-Florida geological formations will be accepted.

7. Due to limited space, only entries awarded blue and red, and possibly white ribbons may be displayed.
8. ANY ENTRY NOT CONFORMING TO THE ABOVE RULES OR THE OFFICIAL FAIR RULES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.
9. This Division will accept only those entries made expressly for the 2019 fair. All decisions of the judges are final. The Youth Fair management has jurisdiction over interpretation of these rules. Items entered in the wrong division will not be judged or shown. This Division is not responsible for lost/damaged items.

Class Number, Title and Descriptions:

Class 3001 - Native Florida Wildlife: Includes mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and aquatic life.

Class 3002 - South Florida Habitats: Includes Everglades, tropical hardwood forests, cypress swamps, natural beaches and bays, mangroves, and freshwater lakes and rivers.

Class 3003 - Conservation of Florida’s natural resources, parks and preserves. Must relate to South Florida.

Judging Criteria:

Quality of workmanship, originality, merit of subject matter, research conducted, effective use of materials, compliance with division rules. Exhibits of inferior quality will not be displayed.

Premiums, Plaques and Trophies:

South Florida Conservation Award..... \$100.00
 Presented to the student which has the best understanding and project that promotes good conservation practices to protect South Florida’s precious environment.

Best Nature Center Exhibit - Individual Rosette
 Best Nature Center School Exhibits Rosette
 Purple Ribbon..... \$10.00 and Rosette
 Blue Ribbon 8.00
 Red Ribbon 6.00
 White Ribbon 4.00
 Yellow Ribbon..... Ribbon Only

Superintendent Awards:

Presented to the Miami-Dade County Public or private school which has the most students awarded blue ribbons for their projects on display in the Nature Center Division.

This award will also be presented to the individual who demonstrates in their exhibit the best overall presentation and research.

If there are no entries meeting the quality standards for any special awards, no award will be given.