



**Virginia Junior Academy of Science**  
**Sponsor's Update**  
**January 2020**

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Dear Sponsors:

We look forward to hosting you at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA this year for the VJAS Annual Research Symposium. The Symposium will be held from May 27 – 29, 2020. **Presentations will be held on Thursday, May 28th.**

As always, please refer to our Handbook and Appendices for complete, detailed information. Some MAJOR revisions were made this past summer - also enclosed with the sponsor's update is an abbreviated table of changes. Below are a number of important points we would like to highlight at this time.

- School and Individual Membership Fees were due by January 15. If you have not yet joined please contact the VAS/VJAS office.
- This year's deadline for submitting papers with the appropriate student entry fees is no later than **Wednesday, February 19, 2020**. Please use the VJAS Paper Submission Forms (Appendix C).
- Please pay attention to our project "categories" list in the Handbook pages 13-15. For this coming year, we will disqualify papers that are not in the proper category. If in doubt, please contact the VJAS Director or the VAS/VJAS Office for clarification and assistance.
- A revised VJAS Style Manual to assist in the paper preparation process: [www.vjas.org/stylemanual.html](http://www.vjas.org/stylemanual.html)
- *VJAS Proceedings* may now be found on [www.vjas.org/proceedings.html](http://www.vjas.org/proceedings.html)
- Frequent DQ issues

PSYCHOLOGY - within the paper, there **MUST** be a sample shown of an informed consent form (a screenshot, in-text figure in the methods section, etc. will work).

BIOLOGY - you **MUST** specify that the e. Coli strain is "non-pathogenic". Be as specific as you can in describing the substances you are working with.

CHEMISTRY and CHEMICAL SCIENCES - please include how safety precautions were taken in the methodology section. Describe what steps were taken and whether there was appropriate adult supervision.

GENERAL SAFETY - when in doubt, include/write the safety information (precautions, supervision, etc.) in the methodology section, check the safety certification boxes, and sign. **It is best practice to explicitly state what safety precautions were taken - VJAS will NOT assume that the experiment was done safely and with appropriate supervision.**

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions, as well as knowing anyone interested in being a judge and/or a reader at the 2020 Symposium.

We greatly appreciate all that you do and look forward to your participation!

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