



NSTF- School Contest for Young Scientists

A. PREAMBLE

The Contest shall be an educational project of the National Student Travel Foundation (Malta), hereinafter referred to as NSTF. It is an annual contest for students aged between 11 and 15 from educational establishments in Malta and Gozo.

B. NAME

The Contest shall be known as the NSTF School Contest for Young Scientists, hereinafter referred to as the Contest.

C. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the Contest shall be to encourage young students to participate in scientific activity and get involved with Science subjects hands-on to discover the science of the world around them through research and experimentation.

D. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations that govern the Contest shall be those set out hereunder:

1. PARTICIPANTS

- 1.1 Students aged between 11 and 15, from educational establishments in Malta and Gozo may participate in the Contest.

- 1.2 Research & Experimentation may be worked upon by groups of up to five students.

2. FORMAT OF THE CONTEST

- 2.1 NSTF will write to schools in Malta to inform them about the Contest and deadlines for application which have to be respected.
- 2.2 The head of school shall assign to a teacher/s the role of supervisor for the students. His/her role will be to supervise the students in their research and experimentation and guide them where necessary.
- 2.3 Those schools interested in participating shall apply to NSTF, including name/s of teacher/s to supervise students, number of students interested in participation, school contact details and stamp.
- 2.4 The contest will take place during the NSTF Science Week.
- 2.5 The students will apply through the school to NSTF. The application will include name of school, school stamp, name and surname of participants, address, tel. no., e-mail address, date of birth, guardian's name and surname, teacher-supervisor name and surname and tel./mobile number, e-mail and address, name of research / experiment and its purposes.
- 2.6 Students will conduct research and perform their experiment over a number of weeks throughout which their progress will be assessed by their supervisor.
- 2.7 Students are to come up with a model for their research / experiment to be able to present their project in public.
- 2.8 Students are to present a printed, unbound (but stapled) write-up on their projects which may be of any format the students desire, but not longer than 10 pages, which will be sent to NSTF within the established deadline.
- 2.9 The supervisor will inform NSTF of the students' progress.
- 2.10 Four to Ten teams, depending on the number of schools participating, per school will exhibit their projects at the NSTF Science Week. During school hours, one student from each team should be present at Science Week and accompanied by one teacher.
- 2.11 Any other teams would present their projects to the general public during the evenings of the NSTF - Science Week.
- 2.12 All equipment needed for display is the responsibility of the students.
- 2.13 Students will be called to an introductory meeting held on school premises where the work they have to perform will be explained.
- 2.14 The facilities of school laboratories should be made available for the students to conduct their research / experiments.

3. ADJUDICATION

- 3.1 The appointed supervisor will notify NSTF in writing (by e-mail) on the progress of the students.
- 3.2 The projects to be exhibited at the NSTF Science Week shall be the ones which appear to be most adapt for exhibition and interaction.

- 3.3 Members of the jury will visit the stands at the Science Week and establish which team is the winner of the contest according to the following criteria:
- originality in presentation of stand
 - execution of experiment
 - write-up
 - oral explanation of experiment and research

4. PRIZES

- 4.1 A certificate of participation shall be presented to all participants.
- 4.2 NSTF shall endeavour to find an appropriate European / International event for first, second and third placed teams to participate in upon the finding of appropriate support from local entities.
- 4.3 In the absence of such an event as well as absence of support from local companies, winners shall be presented with an alternative token.
- 4.4 NSTF shall endeavour to extend the number of prizes that may be awarded in any one year through the invitation of sponsorships or Contest partners.