

## Aims of STS

### STS has three broad aims:

1. To stimulate an ongoing interest in the study of Sciences by:
  - (a) encouraging independent self-motivated project work amongst students of science;
  - (b) giving students the opportunity to communicate their achievements to a wider audience;
  - (c) according recognition of effort and achievement in a scientific enterprise.
2. To promote the direct involvement of the students in the processes of science and its communication.
3. To give the public at large an opportunity to see the quality of work being achieved in science, by both primary and secondary students.

## STS Timeline

The STS handbook is distributed to schools and sponsors in February. It sets out full details for that year's Science Talent Search.

STS student entries must be completed by mid-July to early August.

Special judging days for metropolitan entries in Posters, Photography, Videos, Games, Models and Inventions and Computers occur at three venues; Methodist Ladies' College, Santa Maria College and Wesley College in early August.

In September the awarding of bursaries and certificates is finalised and schools receive results for their students in the first week of term 4.

In late October/early November Exhibition and Presentation Day is held at LaTrobe University. There is an Exhibition of Bursary Award winning entries and ceremonies to present cheques and medallions.

## About STAV

The Science Teachers' Association of Victoria (STAV) was founded in 1943 to represent the collective voice of Science Teachers in all sectors of education in Victoria. STAV is a non-profit organisation.

STAV membership comprises over 1500 science teachers and schools within Victoria.

STAV supports and maintains regional groups as well as providing a range of resources and support to all science educators.

STAV promotes the importance of science education to the community.

## Science Talent Search

For more information about STS, visit the website:

[www.sciencevictoria.com.au](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au)

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## Science Talent Search

Science Talent Search (STS) is the major student competition conducted by the Science Teachers' Association of Victoria (STAV). The purpose of the competition is to encourage student interest in science and to give recognition to quality student work that is science related.

STS was founded in 1952, making it one of the longest running competitions of its type in the world.

SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH



## About STS

### The Organisation

STS is organised for STAV by a group of co-directors and conducted by a volunteer committee whose work is assisted by the STAV Secretariat. Members of the committee each manage one section of the competition.



The Science Talent Search has divisions for Primary & Secondary students (two Primary and three Secondary) and accepts work in nine sections.

### Divisions & Sections

**Divisions** cater for the range of age groups in schools:

Lower Primary	Prep to Year 3
Primary	Years 4 to 6
Junior	Years 7 & 8
Intermediate	Years 9 & 10
Open	Years 11 & 12

**Sections** cater for the variety of ways in which students may pursue an interest in science:

- Experimental Research
- Posters - Scientific Wallcharts
- Science Photography
- Videos
- Creative Writing
- Games
- Models & Inventions
- Computer Programs



The Open division does not accept entries in the Creative Writing or Poster sections. With that exception, all Sections are available to all students.

### Individual & Group Entries

Students may enter STS as individuals or as part of a group entry. A group entry must consist of just two students.



### Judging

Entries are judged by experienced teachers according to a set of criteria appropriate to each section. Science content is the single most important factor that judges look for.



## Why donate to STS?

The STS Competition relies solely on sponsor donations to provide bursaries for students.

Apart from the very important role of encouraging students to actively participate in science and fostering our future science talent there are other advantages in donating to STS.

**Student Awards:** STS uses donations to fund all student bursaries. In each section there are major and minor bursaries. All bursary certificates indicate the name of the sponsor and students are encouraged to write letters of appreciation to their sponsor. Where possible we try to accommodate any special requests such as linking sponsors to winning entries on specific topics.



**Bursary Booklet:** Sponsors who donate \$500 or more have their logo displayed in the annual Bursary Booklet. The booklet is distributed to all winning entrants, schools and sponsors on and after Exhibition and Presentation Day. If you have not seen a copy of this booklet and would like a copy, please contact the STAV office.

**Names of all STS sponsors are printed on the back cover of the Bursary Booklet and also in the STS Handbook.**



**STAV website:** Sponsors who donate \$1000 or more are offered a direct link to their organisation's website from the STS site.

**Exhibition and Presentation Day:** All sponsors (or their representatives) who have donated are invited to the Exhibition and Presentation Day held in late October/early November. We encourage students to meet with their sponsor and discuss their entries.

**School Awards:** These awards are given to schools with a high standard of entries across a range of sections. There are separate awards for primary and secondary schools in the government and independent sectors. STS co-directors invite sponsors to be involved with these awards.

**For more information about sponsorship opportunities** go to [www.sciencevictoria.com.au](http://www.sciencevictoria.com.au)

