



for School STS co-ordinators and teachers

1. Maximum Number of Entries per School Level: Primary Level (P-6) or Secondary Level (7-10)

- Enrolment numbers in a Primary campus include all students enrolled from P to 6, while enrolment numbers in a Secondary campus include students in Years 7 to 10 only.
- Each school campus (ie. P-6 or 7-10) is restricted to a maximum number of entries equal to 5% of the student enrolment at that campus OR 25 entries, whichever is the greater.
- In addition, each campus is allowed to submit a **MAXIMUM OF 25 ENTRIES IN ANY ONE DIVISION/SECTION** of STS. Thus a campus with an enrolment of 1200 will be entitled to 60 entries, with no more than 25 entries in each division/section. As an example, this campus may submit 60 entries with, say, 25 in Intermediate Research, 15 in Junior Models and 20 in Junior Games. Class projects are not included in these numbers.
- There is a maximum of 4 entries per school for the Class Project. A class project can have up to 35 students per project.
- For STS purposes a campus is a separate location with students permanently enrolled at that location and administered by a campus Principal.
- Primary and Secondary components at the one location are regarded as separate campuses. Separate Entry details must be completed for primary and secondary.

Note that a group entry is TWO students only.

2. Open Section (Year 11 and 12)

- STS aims to encourage students to pursue their interests in Science by allowing keen students who have personal interests in one of the Sections offered, the opportunity to develop these interests provided they fit into the guidelines of the competition. Students may enter all Sections except Posters and Creative Writing.
- A maximum of 5 entries in the Open Section is allowed per school. We hope teachers will encourage only those students who are capable of organising their time to fulfil VCE requirements and complete work on personal projects.

3. Individual and group entries

- Students can enter an individual project or a group project.
- A group consists of TWO students only, with the exception of the Class Project.
- The Class Project can have up to 35 students per project.

4. Schools' responsibilities for judging entries

All schools entering STS must provide 1 Judge per twelve entries (or part of). Therefore, even if your school has only one entry, you must still supply one judge.

All Judges from the metropolitan area will be required to select a Section which will be judged at one of three venues on Special Judging Day. You may, however, choose Creative Writing and Experimental Research as your **second** preference.

Teachers who cannot judge on Saturdays due to religious reasons can request an exception by email to projects@stav.vic.edu.au.

Judging on the Special Judging Day requires a commitment of about 5 hours - from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

Judging on the Special Judging Day is usually in pairs. Where possible a primary and secondary judge will be paired together. Judges are expected to evaluate all divisions within a section.

1. Country Judges can select any Division / Section. If posters/photography/videos/games/models/computers are selected, the Judge is committed to attend one of the Special Judging venues on judging day. If research or creative writing is selected, entries for judging will be sent to the judge.
2. If a judge becomes unavailable at the required judging time, it is the school's responsibility to provide any replacement judges for those who cannot fulfil their obligation.
3. If a school cannot supply the required number of judges, then the STS Committee will not judge entries from that school.

Students who submit a project into the experimental research section are automatically entered into the **National BHP Billiton Science Awards**. Students who win major bursaries in this section of STS will become finalists in this national competition. You must notify STS if you do NOT want your project forwarded to BHP Billiton Awards. For more information go to <http://www.scienceawards.org.au>

5. How to enter your students

All entry is through the STS web registration system.

The STS registration site will become live on 2 March 2009 at 9.00am. The site will be closed off at 5.00pm on Friday 29 May.

To get started:

1. Have the following information ready before you start:
 - a. School STS coordinator details (including correct email address)
 - b. List of volunteer judges (1 judge per 12 entries or part thereof) and their two preferences for judging sections.
 - c. Full STS student entry details.
[Download student and judge proformas from the Science Talent Search website to help collect full details.]
2. Log onto the STS online system web address: www.stav.vic.edu.au/gui/sts/
3. Click on the **“Register here”** link
4. From the drop down list choose your school (check that the campus is correct). Primary and secondary must register as separate campuses.
5. If your school isn't on the list, contact STAV by email: projects@stav.vic.edu.au
6. Enter STS coordinator email address. Ensure you enter the address precisely.
7. Enter a password of your choosing and Login. Record your password somewhere for future reference.
8. Press **“Login”** and the program will generate an email message from which you can access your own area of the STS website. Make a copy of the web address for your records.

Once you receive your confirmation email:

9. Enter your email address and your password to access and edit the records for your school.
10. Check and update your school details. Choose the **“Update School Details”** link. Ensure you click on the **“Update Details”** button once your changes have been made.
11. Enter appropriate student and judge details. Please check spelling carefully and ensure you enter **all** details requested. STS will not make corrections for student details.
12. Ensure you press both the **“Add Student”** button & the **“Submit”** button or your information **won't be saved**.
13. You can add, edit or remove entries at any time from this point until the closing date Friday 29 May.

14. You should print your data from the **“View all Entries”** section of the database. Make amendments and correct errors online. The online system **closes permanently** on 29 May. No further changes can be made by you. Changes requested via the STAV Office will incur a fee of \$10 per student.

For more detailed instructions visit the STS website www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts.html

6. Payment

Your school will be invoiced via your STS co-ordinator for the number of entries **in the online data base on the closing date**.

7. Delivery of entries

- **Metropolitan entries** (within 100km radius of GPO): entries in posters/photography/videos/games/models/class projects/computers **must** be taken by students to the appropriate judging venue on Judging Day. Entries in Research or Creative Writing must be posted (PO Box 109, Coburg VIC 3058) to **arrive** by Friday 24 July or delivered to STAV House, 5 Munro Street, Coburg on Thursday 23 July or Friday 24 July.
- **Country entries** (outside 100km radius of GPO): entries can be mailed (PO Box 109, Coburg VIC 3058), couriered or hand delivered to STAV House, 5 Munro Street, Coburg during the week starting Monday 20 July. All sent entries must arrive by 5:00pm Friday 24 July. NO Package can be larger than 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m or weigh more than 15kg.

COUNTRY STUDENTS attending Special Judging Day - DO NOT SEND entries to STAV House, Coburg. Students are required to take their entry with them to the Special Judging Day venue.

Entries delivered to STAV House, Coburg **will not** be transferred to Special Judging Day venues.

8. Collection of entries

- Teachers in metropolitan schools **MUST** arrange for the collection of all entries from the Exhibition venue, La Trobe University Union Building, from 12.00 noon to 1.00pm on Exhibition Day. Entries not collected on this day will be disposed of.
- Country entries will be returned by arrangement, provided they are within the size restrictions. Please notify STS by email if you want your entries returned.

An invitation to all students in Victoria

to enter the 58th Annual Science Talent Search

The Science Teachers' Association of Victoria Inc. invites all students to enter this year's Science Talent Search. You may enter as an individual or as part of a group of **two (2)**. You may enter into one or more of the Sections described in this book. Please check this Handbook for the Section guidelines, as entries which do not fulfil these guidelines will be disadvantaged.

Divisions

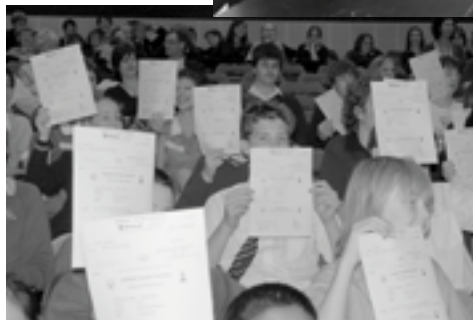
Division	Code	Year Level
Lower Primary	L	Prep. to Year 3
Primary	P	Years 4 to 6
Junior	J	Years 7 & 8
Intermediate	I	Years 9 & 10
Open	O	Years 11 & 12

Sections

Section	Code
Experimental Research	R
Creative Writing (except Open)	W
Working Models	M
Inventions	I
Games	G
Computer Programs	C
Posters - Scientific Wallcharts (except Open)	P
Science Photography	F
Video Productions	V
Class Project (Lower Primary and Primary only)	S

Country entries may be sent to STAV House, Coburg . However, keep your entry if you are going to attend a Special Judging Day Venue.

Ask your science teacher for details on how to enter.



Exhibition & Presentation Day

Important Dates for 2009

- **Entry registration**
Closes Friday 29 May 2009.
- **Experimental Research & Creative Writing**
Entries due Thursday 23 & Friday 24 July.
Projects to be mailed or delivered between 9am - 5pm to STAV House.
5 Munro Street
(PO Box 109)
Coburg VIC 3058
- **Judging Day - Video Productions, Photography & Class Project**
Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
Santa Maria College,
50 Separation Street, Northcote
(9.00am - 12.30pm)
- **Judging Day - Models, Inventions, Computers & Posters - Scientific Wallcharts**
Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
Methodist Ladies' College,
Fitzwilliam Street entrance, Kew
(9.00am - 12.30pm)
- **Judging Day - Games**
Bring entries on Saturday 8 August to:
Wesley College,
577 St Kilda Road, Prahran
(9.00 am -12.30 pm)
- **Exhibition & Presentation Day**
Wednesday 4 November
(9.00am - 1.30pm)
LaTrobe University, Union Hall, Bundoora.
Students to bring *winning* entries for Models, Inventions, Computers and Games sections. STS committee will arrange display of all other winning entries.

STS Website

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

Make sure you have a look at the "For Students and Parents" pages as well as all of the other information.

Special Judging Day

1. Entry details

- Obtain an STS student entry proforma from your science teacher or from the STAV website: www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts/reginf
- Return the completed form ONLY to your Science Teacher.
- Your school STS Co-ordinator will enter the data online.

Your school STS co-ordinator will receive acknowledgement of your entry from STAV including: Entry Label, Face Sheets and general information.

2. Entry fees

Individual	\$8.00 per entry (inc GST)
Group (maximum 2 students)	\$15.00 per entry (inc GST)
Class Project (Lower Primary and Primary only)	\$30.00 per entry (inc GST)

Note that a group entry is TWO students only.

3. Delivery of entries

METROPOLITAN entrants

Creative Writing and Experimental Research

Entries in Creative Writing and Experimental Research Section will be delivered to STAV House by your teacher.

Working Models, Inventions, Computer Programs, Games, Photography, Posters, Video and Class Project

Entries in these Sections must be taken to the SPECIAL JUDGING DAY VENUES by you on

Saturday 8 August 2009.

Unaccompanied metropolitan entries will not be judged.

COUNTRY Entrants Only

Country entries must arrive at the address below during the week of **20 – 24 July 2009** during normal office hours (9 am to 5 pm):

The Director, Science Talent Search,
STAV House, 5 Munro Street,
(PO Box 109) Coburg, Victoria 3058

Entries must be hand delivered, mailed or sent by courier to STAV House (see your teacher) unless you are personally presenting your entry at a Special Judging Day venue. In this case you should bring your entry to the judging venue.

No package should be larger than 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.5m OR weigh more than 15kg.

ALL entrants

Remember:

- DO NOT send equipment with Experimental Research reports.
- DO NOT send live specimens.

You must bring your project with you to Judging Day.

Working Models, Inventions, Computer Programs and Posters - Scientific Wallcharts

Venue

Methodist Ladies' College,
Fitzwilliam Street entrance, Kew.
Saturday 8 August 2009

Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower Primary and Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

Computer entrants must bring their own computer, monitor, etc.

Video Productions, Photography and Class Project

Venue

Santa Maria College
50 Separation Street, Northcote
Saturday 8 August 2009

Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower Primary and Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

Videos entrants must bring their own laptop with DVD player.

Games

Venue

Wesley College, 577 St Kilda Road, Prahran.
Saturday 8 August 2009

Times for judging are:

9.00am - 10.30am	Lower Primary and Primary
10.00am - 12.30pm	Junior, Intermediate & Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges.

**No responsibility is taken for lost or damaged equipment.
Please ensure you keep your property secure.
* Judges decisions are final.
No correspondence will be entered into.***



Awards

All students who enter the Science Talent Search are eligible for Awards. Schools also become eligible for special awards.

Student Awards

A. Bursaries

Every year individuals and groups are awarded bursaries totalling tens of thousands of dollars, thanks to the generous sponsors of STS. Major and Minor bursaries are awarded in all Sections.

Special medallions are also presented to Major bursary winners who attend the Presentation Day ceremonies. Major Bursary winners who do not attend their Presentation Ceremony WILL NOT receive a medallion.

Bursary cheques are made out to individual entrants. In the case of a group award, the cheque value will be halved and made out to each member of the group.

B. Certificates

A bursary certificate is printed for each student gaining a Major or Minor award. This certificate includes the student's name, school name, title of project, division/section entered, sponsor's name and amount awarded.

A Merit Certificate is issued to all entrants whose projects were considered by the Judges to deserve special commendation. Those entrants who do not receive a prize-winning bursary or a Merit Certificate receive a Certificate of Acknowledgement.

School Awards

Schools with a very high standard of entries across all the sections are nominated by the STS Co-Directors for special awards.

The School Awards 2008

- Solway Primary School
- East Doncaster Secondary College
- Carey Baptist Grammar School - Donvale (Primary)
- Kilvington Girls Grammar (Senior)

The 'Hugh McKnight' Encouragement Awards 2008

- Cheltenham Secondary College
- Methodist Ladies' College (Senior)
- St Leonard's College Cornish Campus
- Tucker Road Bentleigh Primary School

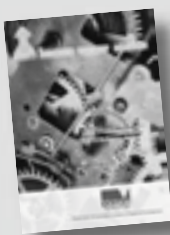
ATTENTION TEACHERS!

Thinking of introducing Science Talent Search in your school?

Is this your first time entering or coordinating STS?

Don't know where to start?

Order a free copy of our STS professional development kit, consisting of an information booklet and accompanying CD. The kit provides general information about the competition's sections and divisions, your responsibilities, hints on how to implement the competition successfully and some sample projects from previous years.



Contact the STAV office for an order form or download a form from www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts.html

Discover how STS integrates with VELs

Science Talent Search fits ideally into the VELs philosophy of teaching and learning. STS encourages creative, self-motivated project work through open-ended multi-disciplinary projects. The competition requirements integrate well with many of the VELs strands, domains and dimensions; and they closely align with many of the progression points for science and other domains.

For more information about using Science Talent Search as an integral part of your VELs implementation, contact the Science Talent Search office on 9385 3999 or go to: www.sciencevictoria.com.au and follow the links to Science Talent Search.

Victorian Department of Innovation,
Industry and Regional Development



Proud sponsor of Science Talent Search

How to get started

a. For teachers

A few ideas on how to get classes going

- Run your own science competition to stimulate interest (complete before the end of Term 1).
- Contact STS Co-ordinators at other schools to see how they organise their students.
- Set a project as part of your Science program in primary, junior, and intermediate classes.
- Look at projects from previous years. (eg. from students previous work in STS)
- Put some questions to the class to discuss how to structure a project.
- In class, suggest things like "This task would make a good basis for an STS project."
- When demonstrating a technique, say "You could use that to look atand that would make an interesting STS project."
- When a class is investigating a phenomenon, suggest that anomalies be followed up.
- Declare your availability to assist students.
- Outline criteria and guidelines as specified in the Section Information (photocopy for students).
- Attend sessions on STS which are part of some STAV conferences.

If you need support or have suggestions you can contact the STAV office.

b. Professional development kit

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Kit development is sponsored by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development.

For other STS professional development activities check STAV conference programs and the Science Victoria website.



c. For students

- The best thing to investigate or produce is something that strikes you as worthwhile – perhaps something that you have seen or heard which you would like to have a closer look at or tell others about. You may find something interesting in your science classes, around the house or outside. Talk to others about your ideas.
- Below are some suggested sources of ideas. If you borrow an idea, try to introduce some original slant to it. But remember, your own ideas are best.

d. Project references

Many ideas may be found in the following publications:

- STS Handbooks from previous years
- STS Bursary Award books from previous years
- *LabTalk* and *Let's Find Out* - various issues
- *Teaching Science* (ASTA's journal)
- Daily papers
- Magazines eg. Search, Omega, Omni, New Scientist, Double Helix, Scientific American, (check SAGE or GUIDELINES - Ask your school Librarian)
- Science web sites
- Science text books
- Check the 500 Section of your library.

STS Website

www.sciencevictoria.com.au/sts

Make sure you have a look at the "For Teachers" pages as well as all of the other information.