

## THE TENNESSEE JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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The Tennessee Junior Academy of Science (TJAS), sponsored by the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS), is one of the oldest student science competition programs in the state and nation. Since its inception in 1942 at the George Peabody College in Nashville, the TJAS objective has been to promote science education in Tennessee high schools by encouraging original scientific research by secondary school science students.

*Annual meeting and student awards*—The TJAS invites high school students from across the state to submit papers based on research problems, with evidence of creative thought to the TJAS Director by March 1 of each year. A panel of readers and judges evaluates each paper, based on a set of pre-determined criteria, and approximately twenty-five are selected. The student authors are invited to present their research to their peers during the annual TJAS meeting. The annual meeting takes place during the third Friday of April and is held each year on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville. The rewards for participation include the honor of being selected to appear on the program, the opportunity to present and discuss their work before an outstanding group of young scientists, and publication of the abstracts of presented papers in the *Handbook and Proceedings of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science*. A panel of judges at the annual meeting selects the top six–nine papers and the complete papers are published in the *Handbook*. In addition, the TAS provides \$500 cash awards to the top two writers/presenters, and \$200 awards to the next five–seven students whose papers are published in the *Handbook*. The two outstanding writers/presenters also receive travel awards of up to \$500 each to attend and present their work at the American Junior Academy of Science meeting, which meets annually in conjunction with the National Association of Academies of Science.

*Research support*—The TJAS has available a number of small research grants (\$200–300 per student) to support

student research for the TJAS program. The intent of these research grants is to create opportunities for motivated students with limited resources to conduct significant, competitive research projects. Each year many of these grants go unclaimed and science teachers are encouraged to make their students aware of these resources. However, there is no guarantee that all requests will be funded.

*Teacher recognition*—The TJAS and the TAS also are actively engaged in acknowledging science teacher contributions to science education in Tennessee. Each year, the TJAS recognizes three outstanding science teachers, one from each geographic region of the state. These awards recognize teachers for their outstanding contribution to science teaching and for stimulating and inspiring students to an active interest in science. The recipients are invited to attend the spring TJAS meeting where they are recognized with presentation of a framed certificate and a \$100 honorarium.

First presented in 1997, the TAS Distinguished Science Teacher Award recognizes one Tennessee science teacher who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of science. Nominees for the award are evaluated on the basis of their contributions to the teaching profession, education record, involvement in professional organizations, special awards or special recognition, and letters of support. The recipient of this award is invited to attend the fall TAS meeting where he/she is recognized with presentation of a certificate, a plaque, and a \$500 cash award.

*Information*—To receive a copy of the latest issue of the *Handbook and Proceedings of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science*, please direct your inquires to: Dr. Jack Rhoton, TJAS Director, Center of Excellence in Math and Science Education, East Tennessee State University, PO Box 70301, Johnson City, Tennessee, 37614 (phone 423-439-7589 or e-mail rhotonj@etsu.edu). The *Handbook* provides all the necessary information for students and teachers on how to submit research papers for the TJAS competition.