National Student Research Symposium Contest

Purpose
To develop the ability of students to conduct research and competitively present those research findings to judges and an interested audience of scientists and professionals at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meetings.

Awards and Recognition
Cash awards will be given during the annual meetings and recognition will be made during the SASES Student Awards Program and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Awards Presentations. Cash awards will be provided to the top three winners in each oral session. The poster contest will award money to only the top poster in each category. Actual prize amount will vary based on the number of entrants. The oral contest may have one or two sessions, and the poster contest may have three to six categories.

Eligibility
Any undergraduate student or individual who performed the research as an undergraduate is eligible. Symposium presentation can occur when the student is an undergraduate or up to one semester after graduation.

1. Each author is encouraged to select an appropriate research subject and title, but also is encouraged to consult with others to find out what might make a good research topic. Each paper shall have a second author listed on the Abstract. Second authors may be an ASA, CSSA, or SSSA member or the student’s academic advisor (membership not required for academic advisor). To become a member, sign up online: agronomy.org/membership/undergrads

2. The paper must be an original product of the contestant.

3. The contestant must meet all deadlines and follow appropriate guidelines for submission of the abstract.

4. Students submitting abstracts must hold active membership in the Societies and will be assessed a $30 fee for each abstract submitted. Abstracts submitted using another person’s membership number will be disqualified. Membership status will be verified by the Societies’ staff.

5. Presenter substitutions will result in disqualification from any prizes.

6. Students can present an oral or poster paper, or both an oral and poster paper provided the research topics are different. However, no student can present more than one volunteered paper in the oral and poster presentations regardless of the number of papers on which the person appears as an author.

Rules/Procedures

Oral Presentations
Oral presentations will take place on Sunday afternoon. Students must be present during the entire session- not only during their presentation time. Oral papers are allotted a maximum of 10 minutes for delivery plus 3 minutes of questioning by the public (except presenter’s school members when school member is presenting). For presentation tips on oral papers, go to www.acsmeetings.org/submit/oral.

Poster Presentations
Poster papers are displayed all day Monday. Authors are scheduled to be present for a two-hour period, indicated in the meeting program, to explain data, answer questions, etc. Poster material must fit within the display size which is 44 ½” high by 44 ½” wide, less a 3”x 4½” area in the upper left hand corner that is used for the poster number. Computer display equipment, sound or projection equipment, or freestanding displays are not permitted. Please adhere very carefully to the poster size specification above. Failure to do so could prevent display of your poster. For tips on presenting posters and other helpful hints, go to www.acsmeetings.org/submit

Submission
1. Submission of Abstract
   • Submit abstract online by the deadline
   • Submit abstract at www.acsmeetings.org/submit.
   • Submit abstract in Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences.
   • Select National Student Research Symposium Poster Contest or National Student Research Symposium Oral Contest to submit the abstract.
   • The abstract must be submitted by a student member.
   • The abstract fee is $30 if submitted by the early abstract deadline, or $50 if submitted by late deadline.
   • Submitting the abstract is your official entry into contest.

2. Your abstract is not submitted until you receive an e-mail receipt from Conference Exchange (Confex) with your abstract number and password. This e-mail will acknowledge the successful registration of your abstract. Without this number, your paper is not officially registered. Keep all e-mail receipts, as they are the only accepted proof of a successful submission.
Withdrawal of Submission

Instructions on withdrawing your paper will be included in an e-mail you will receive upon submission of your abstract. Also notify the contest Chair by email.

Judging

I. Oral Presentations:
   a. Oral papers will be presented on Sunday afternoon of the Annual Meeting.
   b. Presenters are allotted a maximum of 10 minutes for delivery plus 3 minutes questioning by public (no fellow school member can ask questions when school member s presenting). For presentation tips on oral papers, go to www.acsmeetings.org.
   c. Participants will be judged on presentation and how they answer the questions. Papers will be scored and rated according to the Official Score Card, by a minimum of three judges. A sample of the official score card is enclosed. At least three judges will be present for the 3-minute official questioning period.
   d. Judges will meet immediately after presentations to complete scoring of presentations and will do this within a 15-minute period.
   e. Each judge shall tabulate scores and indicate on the official score card the choice of first, second, and third place. The faculty chair of the Research Symposium Contest shall tabulate all judging scores and determine the top three placings.
   f. Judges (at least 3 per room) shall be appointed well in advance of the contest by the faculty chair of the Research Symposium Contest Committee. The student chair will serve as session chair and moderator during the contest.
   g. Penalty of overtime will be 5 points if the presentation delivery goes over 10 minutes plus 5 points for each additional 30 seconds over. Penalty for under time will be 2 points if the presentation delivery goes under 9 minutes plus 2 points for each additional 30 seconds under.

II. Poster Presentations:
   a. Posters have to be displayed all day Monday of the Annual Meeting.
   b. Authors are scheduled to be present for a two-hour period, indicated in the meeting program, to explain data, answer questions, etc.
   c. Poster material must fit within the display size which is 44 ½” high by 44 ½” wide, less a 3” x 4 ½” area in the upper left hand corner that is used for the poster number. Computer display equipment, sound or projection equipment, or freestanding displays are not permitted. Please adhere very carefully to the poster size specification above. Failure to do so could prevent display of your poster. For tips on presenting posters and other helpful hints, go to www.acsmeetings.org
   d. Papers will be scored and rated according to the Official Score Card, by a minimum of three judges. A sample of the official score card is enclosed.
   e. Judges will be given up to 5 minutes to observe posters and ask questions. So, presenters will need to be prepared to concisely highlight their research topic, objectives, and results. Presenters are advised to design their poster as an “illustrated abstract” and not as an “illustrated manuscript”.
   f. Judges shall be appointed well in advance of the contest by the faculty chair of the Research Symposium Contest Committee.
   g. At the conclusion of the judging, each judge shall tabulate scores and indicate on the official score card the choice for first, second, and third place. The faculty chair of the Research Symposium Contest shall tabulate all judging scores and determine the top three placings.

Contacts

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