



## Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education

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# 2012 Navajo Nation Science Fair to bring changes

## *New venue adds excitement as project deadline approaches*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.--Staff at the Office of Diné Science, Math and Technology are gearing up the 2012 Navajo Nation Science Fair and are anticipating a new venue for the science fair along with the project deadline fast approaching.

The 2012 Navajo Nation Science Fair will host students from grades kindergarten to sixth grade on Feb. 28, 2012 and grades seventh to 12th on Feb. 29, 2012.

Red Rock State Park in Gallup, N.M. offers a larger venue to hold more science projects.

“It is the most practical venue to hold a large amount of expectant projects. We hope to fill the auditorium with science projects from students across the Navajo Nation,” said Johanson Phillips, Science Fair Coordinator and Principle Education Specialist.

“The Navajo Nation Science Fair is open to all students attending school on or near the Navajo Nation,” said Phillips.

Last year’s 2011 Science Fair brought in 427 projects from more than 600 students representing 29 area schools in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

This year’s science fair will have eight basic categories. Each student may enter only one category but there is no limit of projects per category.

“It is highly recommended that schools send their top winners from their local science fair,” Phillips said and added that participation in a science fair is a great way to help students achieve state educational standards.



**A student participant (center) explains her project to a judge (left) at the 2011 Navajo Nation Science Fair. The 2012 Navajo Nation Science Fair is set to begin on Feb. 28, 2012 at Red Rock State Park, Gallup, N.M.**

“Meeting education state standards through science projects can be both fun and educational. Students bring creativity to their projects and then compete against each other to win top place and prizes. It is fun for teachers and parents to help a student put together the best project. The tough decision is left to the judges,” Phillips said.

More than 50 judges are needed for the two day science fair this year. Individuals interested in becoming a judge for the science fair can register online.

Registration for projects from schools, teachers, students, and judges can be done at <http://www.azsef.org/nmf/> . Registration deadline is Feb. 17, 2012.

For further information pertaining to the 2012 Navajo Nation Science Fair contact Johanson Phillips at 928-871-7452/7451 or email at [johansonphillips@nndode.org](mailto:johansonphillips@nndode.org) .

The Office of Diné Science, Math and Technology is one of 11 programs within the Department of Diné Education.

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