

## **Judging Information and Guidelines for NOAA’s “Taking the Pulse of the Planet” Award**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would like to provide the students at regional and state fairs an opportunity to be recognized for their research emphasizing NOAA-related science. NOAA’s “Taking the Pulse of the Planet” Award is available to all domestic regional and state fairs affiliated with the Intel ISEF.

The award may go to one individual (middle or high school) from each fair, selected from among all the general award categories, whose research emphasizes NOAA’s Science, Service, and Stewardship Mission: "To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources."

### **Judging and Award Process:**

- (1) During the judging period at the fair, the judge or judges for the NOAA “Taking the Pulse of the Planet” Award should select **one** project to receive the NOAA Award according to the award judging guidelines below.
- (2) Once the winning project is selected, the science fair staff should insert the winning student’s name and school into the blank NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award Certificate that they received with the packet from Society for Science & the Public and have the Fair Director sign as well
- (3) the science fair staff should present the NOAA Taking the Pulse of the Planet Award Certificate, the accompanying letter of congratulations, and the accompanying NOAA medallion to the winning student.





## NOAA's Taking the Pulse of the Planet Judging Guidelines

NOAA's mission is: "To understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs". NOAA is a trusted source of accurate and objective scientific information in four particular areas of national and global importance:

- **Ecosystems:** Ensure the sustainable use of resources and balance competing uses of coastal and marine ecosystems, recognizing both their human and natural components.
- **Climate:** Understand changes in climate, including the El Niño phenomenon, to ensure that we can plan and respond properly.
- **Weather & Water:** Provide data and forecasts for weather and water cycle events, including storms, droughts and floods.
- **Commerce & Transportation:** Provide weather, climate, and ecosystem information to make sure individual and commercial transportation is safe, efficient and environmentally sound.

Projects focused on topics related to the four areas described above should be judged for this award.

If judging is done as a team, the key attributes and criteria to be used should be discussed, agreed upon beforehand, and utilized by all team members. Judges should focus on the students and what they have learned about their research topic and the scientific process in general. The quality of a student's project should be judged not only on what is exhibited but also upon their ability to discuss the work intelligently.

Our suggestion for the weighting of judging criteria for this award is as follows:

- Creative Ability (~ 30%)
- Scientific Approach (~ 30%)
- Thoroughness (~ 15%)
- Skill (~ 15%)
- Clarity (~ 10%)