

## **SIM Science & Engineering Fair**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE JUDGING**

Students in grades 4 and 5 will set up their projects but will not participate in an interview with judges. Students in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and Senior Division (grades 9-12) will meet with the judges and should expect the following:

1. You should prepare an oral summary of the important points of your project that you can present in 60 seconds or less.
2. Following your summary, you may find it useful to prepare several short capsule descriptions of important aspects of your project. You know your project better than anyone, so you should have the best ideas of what is important, but you could prepare answers for such questions as "Where did you get the idea for this project?" "What is special or distinctive about your project?" "What is the next thing you would do with your results?" "What questions has your project now generated?" You might also explicitly prepare for the question you hope the judges will ask.
3. If yours is a team project, one person should act as the team spokesperson at the beginning and present the introductory oral summary. This summary should include the rationale for the project being a group, rather than an individual enterprise, and how each member contributed. Each member of the group should be fully knowledgeable about the project and be prepared to then discuss his/her part.
4. Be sure to have each judge initial the form provided during the Fair. This is your record of your project's judges. Special Award judges may also judge your project, however they will not need to initial the form. Special Award judges are identified by a special name badge.

#### **What Should You Expect The Judges To Do?**

1. You should be interviewed by two to five different judges for your category who will spend about eight minutes discussing your project with you. It is difficult to space these interviews equally, so do not get discouraged if there is a long wait between judges. Do not worry about comparing the number of your judges with your neighbors. You, or they, may be getting Special/Recognition Awards interviews.
2. Many judges prefer to learn about your project by asking questions. Be prepared for them to interrupt your presentation.