

## Encouraging Student Participation in Science Fairs

The following are suggestions to encourage your students to participate in the LDSTF.

- Explicitly teach investigation, literacy and numeracy skills. (Refer to "*In-Class Investigations*" and/or "*Integrating Literacy*".)
- Provide class time for students to develop their projects - make it part of your S&T program. (Refer to "*S&T Curriculum Connections*" and/or "*In-Class Investigations*".)
- Offer a parent information night or organize a family science night. Get parents excited and informed about the benefits and process of science fair. (Warning: Be explicit about expectations regarding parental involvement.)
- Provide extra-curricular opportunities in science exploration and discovery. Why not start a science club before or after school, or during lunch break to help students plan their science fair projects?
- Invite LDSTF committee members or other guest speakers into your classroom to engage students in science fairs.
- Organize and run a school-based science fair. Winners from this level should be encouraged to participate at LDSTF. (Refer to "*How to Set Up a School-Based Science Fair*".)
- Consider running a school-based or classroom Science Expo instead. At the Expo, there is no formal judging and students do not compete for prizes. Students receive recognition for participating.
- Ask for LDSTF advertising materials (posters, flyers, websites, etc.) and encourage students to pursue science topics related to their own individual interests.

Adapted from: *Intel International Science and Engineering Fair* (2008). Retrieved February 24, 2009, from <http://sciserv.org/isef/>