

STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE FAQ

What am I expected to do while I am standing at my poster?

The ability to communicate your research is a skill that you will carry throughout your career. One of the goals of the conference is to recognize and celebrate the work you have already accomplished. Another goal is to help you further develop your skills at communicating those accomplishments.

Judges, non-presenting students, faculty, and Sigma Xi members will stop by to ask you questions about your research. Take time to talk with your neighbor who is likely doing research in your same general field. This is an excellent opportunity to hone your skills.

Conference judges will ask more pointed questions to help evaluate your research and communication skills and will provide written feedback at the end of the conference. Judges may stop by more than once to ask questions and may view your poster at various times. It is important that you are at your poster during scheduled judging times. When it is not your scheduled judging time, take time to look at the other posters.

Who are the judges?

The judges are Sigma Xi members who are accomplished scientists and engineers. They work in academia, industry, and government. Your assigned judges will be familiar with research standards for that general field. Do not assume, however, that they are familiar with all the techniques you employ in your research. Remember, effectively communicating your research is key.

How will my project be evaluated?

The presentation of your research through your poster and responses to questions by judges will be evaluated against standards common to scientific and engineering conferences. Judges will provide feedback based on a number of criteria related to the quality of your hypothesis and related research, the techniques you employ and the strength with which you communicate your findings.

There are four levels of recognition given to poster presentations:

Superior—Exceeds the basic level of research and presentation to an exemplary degree; one of the best in the conference in this subject area

Excellent—Exceeds the basic level of research and presentation for a conference at this level

Good—Meets the basic level of research and presentation for a conference at this level.

Fair—An attempt has been made to meet the standards of a scientific presentation, but not to the degree expected for a conference at this level

Poster presenters receive a certificate of presentation. Top student presentations will receive a \$130 prize to celebrate Sigma Xi's 130th year, commemorative medal, and a nomination to join Sigma Xi. These presenters may be inducted on November 12.

Who are the exhibitors?

Most exhibitors are recruiters representing graduate schools or institutions that hire young researchers or engage them in internships that may lead to employment in the future. Allow time to talk to exhibitors and ask them what they are looking for in their applicants and what kind of course work and work experiences would make you more competitive.

What do I do if I have a question or emergency during the day?

There will be a Sigma Xi staff person in the poster presentation room during the judging period and at the conference registration desk who can assist you. Please feel free to contact a staff person with any problem, question, or concern.

What is Sigma Xi?

Sigma Xi (pronounced 'Sigma Zi'—as in "xylophone"), The Scientific Research Honor Society is the international honor society for research scientists and engineers. Membership in the Society is by nomination. Distinguished members include more than 200 Nobel Prize laureates, the author of the theory on Relativity, the discoverer of the Titanic wreckage, and the first North American female astronaut, among many others.

In addition to conducting the Symposium on Atmospheric Chemistry, Climate, and Health and Student Research Conference, Sigma Xi awards grants to graduate and undergraduate researchers, publishes the magazine *American Scientist*, publishes pre-college research in its journal *Chronicle of The New Researcher*, and hosts a lectureship series and forums on critical issues at the intersection of science and society. The heart of Sigma Xi is its network of chapters located on college and university campuses as well as at government and industry labs. Chapters plan events and activities for scientists and engineers and serve as a means of promoting research and education.