



Virginia Junior Academy of Science
Welcome
August 2023

Dear VJAS STEM leaders :

Welcome back to the school year of 2023-24! As we begin the year, we would like to inform you of this unique opportunity. VA Junior Academy of Science is a virtual juried science symposium authentic research experience. Our mission is to encourage scientific aptitude among secondary school students (grades 7-12) in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and related fields. The Virginia SOLs are supported by students' critical thinking, teamwork, communication skills, problem solving, content support and leadership skills.

There are big changes for the VJAS 2023-24 school year! We hope you will sign up as a sponsor and register your school to receive updates and support. There are big changes for the VJAS 2023-24 school year that streamline the process and make the symposium more inclusive.

The student will be registering for the Symposium similar to attending a conference. If the paper is accepted then the student will be a presenter at the Symposium. If the paper is not accepted then the student will be an attendee at the Symposium. Everyone, presenters and attendees, will be able to participate. Students will be published in the *Proceedings*. This is one way in which students may obtain the Science Diploma Seal.

1. Joining. All schools are members! Schools only need to register on the reviewr site in order to link the schools with sponsors and students.
(<https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/VJAS/SchoolMembership/2024>). There is no school membership fee. The link will be open on **August 18, 2023**. A step-by-step guide for completing the school membership application on Reviewr can be found at: <https://app.storylane.io/share/h3wmbqdxoyfa>.
2. Once a school is registered the head sponsor will receive a link for students to use to complete the application for Symposium 24.
 - a. Registration allows the school name to appear in the drop down selection when students register/submit their paper for the Symposium. If your school is not in the drop down list when students go to complete their application then please contact us so we can add it.
 - b. Student registration/application is due by February 23, 2024.
3. The school (head sponsor) will receive an email about payment which will be due by March 24, 2024. There will be a one time payment of **\$45 per paper which will cover all the previous individual fees of membership and symposium registration**.

- a. VJAS received a grant to increase participation among groups underrepresented in STEM. Demographic information collected will be used to identify students who may be eligible for a reduced rate through this grant.
 - b. Schools will submit one payment for all of their participating students. It is up to the individual school to decide if they will pay for their students or collect money from their students.
 - c. Payment will be made via Reviewr from the payment link sent to sponsors after they register. Payment methods include credit card, check, or PO. The registration payment will be **(\$45) per paper** submission unlike previously when it was per student. This means that papers with multiple authors will only pay one registration fee.
4. Sponsors and the VJAS team will review all submissions and students will have the opportunity to correct mistakes that would DQ them. Student papers will be available to sponsors to review **as soon as they are submitted**.

Save the Dates!

February 23, 2024 Paper submission, special awards applications, scholarship applications, and VJAS Student Officer applications.

March 4, 2024 Sponsors edit and sign student papers before review begins

March 24, 2024 All payments are due from schools

March 27, 2024 Notification of student status of presenter or attendee

April 19, 2024 Confirmation from students

May 3 Symposium Opening Night (Virtual online competition)

May 4 Symposium concurrent presentations

May 19 Awards Ceremony

We look forward to supporting you to bring authentic research into the hands of students. Please don't hesitate to contact us. We appreciate you and your participation!

Need assistance then check this out: [VJAS Website](#), [Mentorship Program](#) and VJAS Handbook <https://vjas.org/handbook.html> [[vjas.org](#)]

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