

Award Announcement
Toronto District Science Education Scholarship

Funding Source: U of T Science Rendezvous Classroom Enrichment Fund

Award Amount: \$1000 to enhance classroom learning

Classroom Registration Deadline: Friday March 31st, 2017 (<https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Classroom-Registration>)

Poster Project Submission Deadline: Friday April 28th, 2017 (<https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Poster-Submission>)

Date of Competition: Science Rendezvous, Saturday May 13th, 2017 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Location of Competition: Bahen Centre Atrium, University of Toronto (St. George Campus)

The **Toronto District Science Education Scholarship** is a Toronto-wide competition open to Junior and Intermediate-level science classrooms. Participating educators will assign a poster project in line with this year's topic (**Scientific Achievements in Canada**) and select students to represent their classroom at the **Toronto District Science Fair** during **Science Rendezvous U of T on Saturday, May 13th 2017**. A scholarship of **\$1000** will be awarded to the classroom represented by the students with the top poster in **each division: Junior (Grades 4-6) and Intermediate (Grades 7 & 8)**. **Classroom registration is now open.**

PLEASE NOTE ELIGIBILITY & RULES HAVE CHANGED FROM 2016.

PURPOSE

Science Rendezvous' **Toronto District Science Education Scholarship** aims to promote scientific awareness and literacy by recognizing teaching excellence and a commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. This is an annual scholarship awarded to Junior and Intermediate classrooms that demonstrate outstanding student comprehension and science literacy. This award serves to publicly showcase the talent and innovation of Toronto District teachers while providing funds that allow science educators to enhance their classroom. Scholarship funds may be used towards field trips, classroom makeovers, science materials, and/or science equipment necessary to facilitate current and future science education.

This competition offers teachers an avenue to supplement classroom funding and spark students' interests in STEM fields. Furthermore, students are given the chance to

demonstrate their scientific knowledge to the community and showcase their work alongside that of Canada's leading scientists and innovators.

To win \$1000 in scholarship funds teachers must **assign their class a Poster Project in line with this year's theme** and **register their class in Science Rendezvous' Toronto District Science Fair by the above stated deadline**. Each school can register up to **6 Junior-division and 4 Intermediate-division posters** to the Toronto-wide competition. It is recommended (though not required) that schools divide these posters amongst the grades (i.e. **two grade 4 posters, two grade 5 posters, etc.**). At the Science Fair, **one Junior (Grades 4 – 6) and one Intermediate (Grades 7 & 8) Poster Project** that demonstrates outstanding comprehension and scientific thought will be **awarded \$1000** for their teacher and classroom from the **U of T Science Rendezvous Classroom Enrichment Fund**.

Science Rendezvous is a FREE Canada-wide science street fair that moves state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities into city streets (www.sciencerendezvous.ca). Serving science fans of all ages, Science Rendezvous brings students face-to-face with the scientists, engineers, clubs, and researchers at the frontiers of innovation.

ELIGIBILITY & RULES

Eligibility:

All participating educators must teach math or science to Junior or Intermediate-level (Grades 4 – 8) students at a Toronto District school.

- **Each school** can register up to 6 Junior-level and 4 Intermediate-level posters.
- **Each poster** can be presented by up to 3 students.
- **Teachers must register their class** to compete by **Friday March 31st, 2017** (also see *Competition Timeline* below). **Failure to register will lead to automatic disqualification from the competition.**
- Student names, project title, and poster proof-of-completion must be submitted by the supervising teacher by **Friday April 28th, 2017** (also see *Competition Timeline* below).

Poster Guidelines:

- Teachers must assign their class a STEM Poster Project on a topic chosen by the Science Rendezvous U of T committee. **To commemorate Canada's 150th birthday and Science Rendezvous' 10th anniversary, this year's topic is "Scientific Achievements in Canada"**. Students must choose a scientific achievement, innovation, or scientist (in Canada or by a Canadian) and create a poster highlighting its/their impact on Canada and the world.
- Posters must be created using a **self-standing display board**, such as *Elmer's 36in x 48in tri-fold display board*. (Display boards made of black/white-coloured foam-core or corrugated cardboard are readily available at many retailers including Wal-Mart and Michaels ranging from \$4 to \$14 per board depending on the material.)
- Each poster must prominently display:
 - **Student's name(s) and grade**
 - **Supervising teacher's name**
 - **School affiliation**
 - **Project title**

Judging Criteria:

All Poster Projects will be displayed simultaneously and students will have the opportunity to hone their oral presentation skills through **mini poster talks** with attendees and judges. As part of Science Rendezvous U of T, the Toronto District Science Fair will be **judged by U of T faculty and graduate researchers** and open to Science Rendezvous' 10,000+ attendees - giving students the opportunity to showcase their work to leading researchers and innovators in STEM as well as the broader public.

Posters will be evaluated on the following:

- **Scientific thought**
- **Creativity**
- **Aesthetics**
- **Oral presentation and communication**
- **Enthusiasm of the student**

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Each school may register up to **6 posters in the Junior-level and 4 posters in the Intermediate-level competitions**. Thus, we strongly encourage teachers to consult their colleagues before registering.

Teachers will register their classroom to compete in their respective division (Junior or Intermediate) on a first-come, first-served basis via the **following url:** <https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Classroom-Registration>. **Registration closes Friday, March 31st, 2017.** Confirmation of eligibility and registration will be sent within two business days. If registration for the division is full a confirmation of waitlist status will be sent.

Successful registrants must select **up to three students to represent each poster by Friday, April 28th, 2017** via the **following url:** <https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Poster-Submission>. Confirmation of attendance must be submitted at this time and should include the student's names, the project title, and poster proof-of-completion (a photo of the Poster Project).

Waitlisted candidates will be notified if additional spots should become available.

PLEASE NOTE: TO MAINTAIN QUALITY AND FAIRNESS, STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE AT THE TORONTO DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR UN-REGISTERED BY A TEACHER WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRESENT.

COMPETITION TIMELINE

Classroom Registration Deadline: Friday, March 31st, 2017

<https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Classroom-Registration>

Poster Project Submission Deadline: Friday, April 28th, 2017

<https://tinyurl.com/SR2017-Poster-Submission>

Toronto District Science Fair & Poster Judging: Saturday, May 13th, 2017

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

RESOURCES & CONTACT

If you have any questions about this competition or this award please contact:

Caroline Pao

U of T Science Rendezvous Classroom Enrichment Office

caroline.pao@mail.utoronto.ca