

## **TYPES OF PROJECTS**

**1. Investigation:** Observe nature (plants, animals, people) and report what you observe. Your purpose is to find out how your specimens behave or function. *This type of project should follow the scientific method.* EXAMPLE: Observe plants growing under different conditions; record their growth; make graphs or chart of their growth and take photographs; write a report about what makes plants grow (better).

**Simple Experiment:** The purpose is to change something, and you will observe what happens as a result of changes. This option is good for younger students. EXAMPLES: melt an ice cube, incubate an egg, or inflate a balloon.

**Controlled Experiment:** This a more complex investigation where all factors except one are kept constant, with one factor being a variable. EXAMPLE: in a group of identical plants kept in identical conditions, different amounts of water (the independent variable) are used to water plants; the differences in growth (dependent variable) are observed, recorded, and photographed.

**Comparative Surveys:** Identify two or more groups or subjects that are generally alike but might show a difference in one important factor. Express the difference as a hypothesis, then observe, measure, and report it. EXAMPLE: hearts beat faster in boys than in girls.

**2. Model or Collection:** Construct a kit or model or exhibit a collection. The purpose is to provide an answer to a question or hypothesis you are exploring. You must be able to explain your model or collection. EXAMPLE: The purpose of a model of a solar home could be to determine the use of solar energy in lowering heating costs. Read, talk to experts, find answers.

**3. Demonstration of a Scientific Principle:** Find a scientific rule or law that interests you, and demonstrate it in an experiment, survey, or model. EXAMPLE: Measure lung capacity in several people to see if large lung capacity is an advantage during exercise.

## **HELPFUL HINTS**

Keep your presentation board neat, uncluttered, and focused. All posters, charts, etc. must be attached to the board. Keep your exhibit compact and free-standing. The presentation boards that we offer fulfill this requirement well. Make everything sturdy so that it can be safely transported.

The presentation board displays your project. Use attractive lettering. Create computer signs with easy-to-read fonts. Spell correctly. Main points should be large and simple. Details should be clear from a meter away.

