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Dear Contact Teacher,

 School has begun or will begin soon. We are already planning for RISEF 2017. The biggest change this year is the judging evaluation form. As of this writing, we are revising the evaluation form to reflect current practices in research. We are also returning to our traditional dates. RISEF 2017 will run March 18, 19, and 22, 2017. The entry fees will remain $20.00 for each Junior student and $25.00 for each Senior student.

 The RISEF **address and phone number** will remain the same: **RISEF P.O. Box 9601 Warwick, RI 02889. Our phone number is 401-301-1306**. **As usual, the contact meetings will be held at TIMES2 Academy, located at 50 Fillmore St. Prov., RI. The meetings will be in room 200** **at 4:00** **PM.**

In an attempt to reduce costs and eliminate waste, we will continue to use our website (http://www.rista.wildapricot.org/risef) . Bear with us as we update the site. We are no longer using direct mail, so make sure we have a current email or check the web, once it has been updated. As always, we are looking for volunteers for all aspects of the fair. Areas of need would be reviewing the projects, Set up, Display & Safety, SRC, Judging, etc... We will contact you (we know where you teach) to see how you would like to help. Don't be shy, if you know what you would like to do, then contact us.

Contact teachers (or a suitable representative), will be required to register their schools **in person** at a contact meeting. Fees ($25.00 for each high school student and $20.00 for each middle school student) will still be due in December but the registration needs to be at a meeting. It is hoped that meeting attendance will allow us to fully explain the rules and clear up any misunderstandings. This year we are spreading out the meetings in an attempt to allow for more attendance. There will be a $100.00 non-attendance fee for schools that fail to attend a contact teacher meeting.

The late fee may be waived for new schools that have not participated during the past few years and become aware of the Fair after the contact meetings have occurred. Additionally, a $50.00 late fee for schools who fail to register by the Dec. deadline will still apply. This is needed to deal with the problem of changing our number count after we have already finalized plans with CCRI.

 I realize that to seasoned Science Fair veterans, these meetings seem unnecessary. However, every year there are new rules and interpretations. As usual, we will have two different kinds of meetings. There will be shorter meetings for veterans and a longer meeting for those who are new to the RISEF process. If you attended the Annual Meeting, you have already met this obligation.

 I hope you have a wonderful year and let's do all we can to make this year's Fair a positive educational experience for our students (after all that's why we are teachers).

Sincerely,

 

 Mark Fontaine

 Director, RISEF

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Contact Meetings (These are the required ones). You need only attend one of them. If you attended the organizational meeting, in June, then you have already met this obligation.**

***All meetings are at TIMES2 Academy 50 Fillmore St. Prov., RI***

***in room 200 at 4:00 PM***

**-Sept. 23 and Oct. 7, 2016 -FOR EXPERIENCED CONTACT TEACHERS ONLY**

General information and changes to the rules will be discussed. This meeting should be shorter than the novice meeting.

**-Oct. 21, 2016 – NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION-** Detailed meeting planned for those who are NEW to the RISEF Process. The rulebook will be gone over thoroughly and there will be lots of time for questions.

**December 14, 2016 -** Registration Fees are due; $20.00 per junior student and $25.00 per senior student. $50 late fee for schools registering after this date.

**February 15, 2017 -** Complete student packets are due. We will be at TIMES2 Academy in room 200 until 5:00 for those procrastinators who like to wait until the last minute.

**LATE packets will not be accepted. THIS IS A** **HARD DEADLINE!!!**

**March 18 & 19 –** RISEF at CCRI in Warwick

**Wednesday March 22, 2017 7:00 PM -** RISEF Awards ceremony at CCRI in Warwick. All students should be encouraged to attend. They will **ALL** receive an Olympic type medal at the awards ceremony (gold, silver or bronze for their work). Barring extenuating circumstances; If a "Best in Fair Finalist" does not attend the awards ceremony, then the "Best in Fair Alternate" will be awarded the chance to travel to the INTEL ISEF.

**May 14-19, 2017 –**  INTEL ISEF in Phoenix, AZ. Barring a medical or civil issue; If a "Best in Fair Finalist" cannot commit to the entire INTEL ISEF schedule, then the "Best in Fair Alternate" will be awarded the chance to travel to the INTEL ISEF.

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM AND MAIL IT BACK, OR EMAIL THE INFORMATION SO WE KNOW WHO IS COMING TO WHAT MEETING.**

Either a representative or I will be attending the following meeting:

 \_\_\_\_\_ Sept. 23, 2016 \_\_\_\_ Oct. 7, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_ Oct. 21, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ My school does not wish to participate in the Science Fair this year

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Teacher:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_