



Southern California Academy of Sciences

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Supporting scientists and students in Southern California since 1891

April 2, 2017

Dear Science Teacher, Science Coordinator, Principal;

On behalf of the Southern California Academy of Sciences' Board of Directors, I am announcing the Junior Academy's Research Training Program (RTP) for the 2017-2018 academic year.

This exciting STEM program that has been in existence since 1980 provides high school students the opportunity to conduct science research under the mentorship of a professional researcher. Students are challenged as they learn about and implement the rigors of scientific research while reaping the rewards of presenting their results at the Academy's Annual Meeting where they interface with professional researchers. This experience helps students learn and understand the nature of scientific knowledge.

Many high school students who have participated in this program have been inspired to pursue degrees in science, following with a career in science. During their participation in the program, students gain hands-on experience that reinforces and enriches knowledge acquired in the classroom. By presenting their results at the Annual Meeting of professional scientists, students gain their confidence in their new found skills. Finally, students with the best research papers and poster presentations will be nominated to attend the national meeting of the Junior Academies held concurrently with the American Association for the Advancement of Science's national annual conference where they will be inducted as lifetime Fellows of the American Junior Academy of Science.

We ask you to solicit motivated students to conduct science research under a mentorship and who also are capable of upholding their commitment to the program. Students must be prepared to spend up to eight hours weekly on their research project from August through April. Specifically, students should complete the application at the SCAS Junior Academy link, <http://scas.nhm.org/junior-academy/> and submit this on-line application **no later than June 15, 2017**. This must include:

- A science teacher's letter of recommendation, which is to be submitted electronically by their teacher, and copied to the school Principal.
- A project description, including goals, methods & resources, literature cited, and, if available, name of professional research mentor and institution.
- Relevant course work, extra-curriculars and other work.

Once accepted, students will be required to:

- Pay a \$50 Enrollment/Membership fee that will cover registration costs for the SCAS Annual Meeting and RTP insurance.
- Attend 3 RTP meetings, held on Saturdays in September, November, and March (tba).
- Provide an abstract in March 2018 (tba) and written paper on their research by April 15, 2018.
- Present their research at the Annual Meeting Poster Session in May, 2018 at Cal Poly Pomona.

Please help us distribute copies of the attached flyer and information about our new application procedure and requirements to your students and colleagues. You may learn more about the program and access electronic versions of the flyer and application for distribution on the Academy's website: <http://scas.nhm.org/junior-academy/>.

Sincerely,

Gloria Takahashi
Board Member
RTP Chair, Program Manager

All contributions to the Academy are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

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