

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Volume 87 of the *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* will be devoted in large part to celebrating and commemorating the centennial of the Tennessee Academy of Science. Each issue of that volume will focus on one or more aspects of the history of the society that relate to the first century of its existence.

Currently, several articles relating to geology, geologists, and the early days of the TAS are expected to be solicited and edited by Michael A. Gibson for inclusion in one issue for 2012.

George E. Webb is planning to compose and to submit articles relating to the Scopes Trial and to the 1927 joint meeting of the TAS and the AAAS.

Other centennial-related items are welcome to be submitted. Authors should aim to complete these items by the end of 2011 at the latest and submit them no later than early January 2012.

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THE TENNESSEE JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The Tennessee Junior Academy of Science (TJAS), sponsored by the Tennessee Academy of Science (TAS), is one of the oldest student science competition programs in the state and nation. Since its inception in 1942 at the George Peabody College in Nashville, the TJAS objective has been to promote science education in Tennessee high schools by encouraging original scientific research by secondary school science students.

Annual Meeting and Student Awards—The TJAS invites high school students from across the state to submit papers based on research problems, with evidence of creative thought to the TJAS Director by March 1 of each year. A panel of readers and judges evaluates each paper, based on a set of pre-determined criteria, and approximately twenty-five are selected. The student authors are invited to present their research to their peers during the annual TJAS meeting. The Annual meeting takes place during the third Friday of April and is held each year on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville. The rewards for participation include the honor of being selected to appear on the program, the opportunity to present and discuss their work before an outstanding group of young scientists, and publication of the abstracts of presented papers in the *Handbook and Proceedings of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science*. A panel of judges at the annual meeting selects the top 6–9 papers, and the complete papers are published in the *Handbook*. In addition, the TAS provides \$500 cash awards to the top two writers/presenters, and \$200 awards to the next 5–7 students whose papers are published in the *Handbook*. The two outstanding writers/presenters also receive travel awards of up to \$500 each to attend and present their work at the American Junior Academy of Science

meeting, which meets annually in conjunction with the National Association of Academies of Science.

Research Support—The TJAS has available a number of small research grants (\$200–\$300 per student) to support student research for the TJAS program. The intent of these research grants is to create opportunities for motivated students with limited resources to conduct significant, competitive research projects. Each year many of these grants go unclaimed, and science teachers are encouraged to make their students aware of these resources. However, there is no guarantee that all requests will be funded.

Teacher Recognition—First presented in 1997, the TAS Distinguished Secondary School Science Teacher Award recognizes one Tennessee science teacher who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of science. Nominees for the award are evaluated on the basis of their contributions to the teaching profession, education record, involvement in professional organizations, special awards or special recognition, and letters of support. The recipient of this award is invited to attend the annual meeting of the TAS to be presented with a certificate and a plaque, and to receive a \$500 award.

To receive a copy of the latest issue of the *Handbook and Proceedings of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science*, please direct your inquiries to Dr. Jack Rhoton, TJAS Director, Center of Excellence in Math and Science Education, East Tennessee State University, P. O. Box 70301, Johnson City, TN 37614 (phone 423-439-7589 or e-mail rhotonj@etsu.edu). The *Handbook* provides all the necessary information for students and teachers on how to submit research papers for TJAS competition.