



Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Science Fair

Expo-sciences de Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

www.flasf.on.ca

The Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Science Fair (FLASF) is a regional science project competition that is run annually in April in Kingston, Ontario. Named for the three original counties from which FLASF drew its student base, the regional fair is now approaching its 41st year of operation. FLASF provides an open, inclusive venue for public, separate, private and home-schooled students to report upon their investigations in scientific and engineering topics of personal interest, in a public forum. Students from Grades 5 to 12 are drawn from the schools within the regions served by the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

The regional fair is organized into various categories, including Human Health Science, Life and Earth Sciences (non-human), Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and Engineering and Computing Sciences. In each category, students compete for prizes and awards according to their school grade level at the primary (Grades 5 and 6), junior (Grades 7 and 8), intermediate (Grades 9 and 10) and senior (Grades 11 and 12) levels.

The FLASF is part of Youth Science Ontario, a provincial organization that acts as a link between the 30 regional science fairs in Ontario. From a national perspective, FLASF is one of over one hundred science fairs in Canada that are members of Youth Science Canada (YSC), an organization whose signature event is the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF). FLASF sends its top projects each year to CWSF (up to 5 students accompanied by 2 chaperones) to compete at the national level. At CWSF, held at a different city every year, 600 students participate in a week-long celebration of their science activity and success, in a competitive format.



(l-r) Sydney Masaheb, Gregory Borschneck, Malak Elbatarny, Neel Sharma, Laura Dunne-Mucklow, at the 50th Annual Canada-Wide Science Fair, held in Toronto, May 14–21, 2011

Many students participate in the science fair at the regional level. For fewer students, going to CWSF is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But for all students, the opportunity to pursue investigations in a field of interest can be life-altering, providing direction for their future studies and perhaps a career. FLASF provides students with just such an opportunity.

FLASF is a non-profit, registered charity that is run by a group of volunteers from the community to promote and encourage student activity in the sciences. It is supported by financial donations and in-kind services from local school boards, companies, educational institutions and provincial organizations. FLASF needs to raise about \$16000 annually, which is used for fair promotion and operations, trophies and awards for the students, website maintenance and to send the students and chaperones to CWSF.