

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

September 15, 1998

STAFF DIRECTIVE 98-9

TO: Park Superintendents
District Superintendents
Program Managers
Section Chiefs

FROM: Philip K. McKnelly 

SUBJECT: Science Fair Award

This staff directive is issued to provide state park staff with an effective means of recognizing young people who have undertaken science endeavors that demonstrate an interest in the natural sciences, illustrate the importance of plant and animal diversity, or contribute to the preservation of our environment. It is hoped that by recognizing these individuals, the division will foster environmental stewardship, promote an awareness of the state parks system, and encourage North Carolina's future leaders to support the preservation of our natural resources. This staff directive is intended to make park superintendents aware of the **opportunity** to present science fair awards to students in public schools throughout the state who participate in science fairs at the school system level.

AWARD PROCEDURES

1. In North Carolina's public school system, junior and senior division science fairs typically occur at four levels: school, school system, regional, and state levels. The enclosed science fair certificate may be awarded at the **school system** level by park superintendents or district staff. Awarding the certificate at the school system level rather than in every school will enhance the perceived prestige of the award and require less staff involvement. Notice the blank line on the bottom right side of the certificate for the appropriate signature.
2. All of the lead I&E rangers should have a current directory of the school systems in your park's geographic service area (GSA). If not, you may contact your district I&E specialist to obtain one. Park superintendents may determine which, if any, or all of these school systems to select and make arrangements to participate in their science fairs. Where multiple parks exist in the same counties or GSA, parks should coordinate their efforts to eliminate the possibility of more than one state park representative presenting awards in

a particular school system in a given year. Only one certificate (one each in both the junior and senior divisions) shall be awarded per school system each year. Participation may range from simply working with the science teacher or school system official in charge of the science fair to provide the certificate, to participation at the formal awards ceremony when students and parents are present.

3. Selection of the recipients should be based generally on concepts of environmental stewardship, interest in the natural sciences, the importance of plant and animal diversity, or the preservation and conservation of natural resources. The decision may be made by the park staff member participating or in concert with the science teacher and/or the science fair judges.

If additional information is needed, please contact WEDI Superintendent Lewis Ledford who has participated as a regional and state level science fair judge for the past several years.

PKM/LRL

Attachment