

January, 2021

To: PJAS Sponsors  
From: Kathy Becker, PSTS Regional Coordinator  
Re: PA Science Talent Search (PSTS) Registration

I will once again coordinate the Pennsylvania Science Talent Search (PSTS) for Region 4. There will be a few changes this year due to PJAS/COVID protocols. The interview which begins the qualification process for this award will be conducted via a zoom meeting after the PJAS event. **Juniors and seniors** with **exceptional** projects should be encouraged to apply for this award.

Students who desire to be interviewed for the PSTS award are required to pre-register by submitting the following documents: the attached **Interview Form** (complete only Page 1, but e-mail the entire document as Page 2 will be used for judge scores and comments), **a letter of recommendation\*** from a science teacher or guidance counselor, a **transcript** copy which includes midyear grades, **SAT/PSAT scores** and **class rank** (if available), and **an abstract of the project**. **Please send the required documents directly to my e-mail, and do not include any other documents.** Feel free to give my e-mail to students who plan to apply, guidance counselors, and teachers who write a letter of recommendation. It would be helpful if the subject line of each e-mail includes the student's name and school. Also, be sure that the student sends me a current e-mail address which is checked regularly. All communication with students will be via e-mail.

After the PJAS event, the PSTS committee will send each qualifying student (First Award at PJAS), a zoom link, interview time, and further instructions.

Please e-mail documents to:

**Kathy Becker**  
**kathybecker862@gmail.com**

Documents should be received no later than Friday, **February 18<sup>th</sup>**. All students will need a complete application for award consideration. Students cannot apply for a PSTS interview or submit documentation after the deadline.

Please email me (kathybecker8622gmail.com) if you have any questions about the PA Science Talent Search. **Again, this award is only open to current 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.**

Thank you,  
Kathy

Kathleen A. Becker  
Department Leader, Biology/Human Anatomy/Science Instructor, ret.  
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\*"Generic" letters of recommendation by a teacher/counselor to cover all students in their school are **NOT** acceptable to PSTS.

\*This electronic mail transmission is privileged and confidential. It is intended for the review of the party to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately return it to the sender. Unintended transmission shall not constitute waiver of confidentiality or any other privilege.

The following documents are needed for a complete PSTS application. Deadline: **Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**:

- \*Interview Form
- \*Letter of recommendation
- \*Transcript
- \*Abstract/Summary

Additional information for PSTS can presently be found at <http://www.pjas.net/extensions/components/content-component/article-categories/188-pa-science-talent-search>. The PSTS is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science and is typically awarded during the state PJAS competition in May. In 2020-21, there is no in-person state PJAS event. PJAS Region IV wanted to continue the PSTS nomination process even in the absence of an in-person state PJAS event.