Have your students ever tried to grow crystals?

Here is an opportunity for students to take part in a national scientific competition. Crystals are everywhere, just think of our daily lives. Sugar, salt, diamonds and emeralds are crystals and LCD computer and television screens work because of the many tiny crystals inside. Where else can you find crystals? How about your classroom? Enter this Competition to create your own crystals within six weeks and have a chance to have these crystals judged and entered into a National Competition organized by The Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Read the separate flyer for more information about the National Crystal Growing Competition.

The process is safe and simple, and designed to encourage students to develop an interest in Chemistry from a young age. Students can participate as individuals or with a friend, small groups or class groups. The competition is open to students in Grades Prep – 6 at the primary level, and students in Grades 7 – 12 at the secondary level. The competition is open to students in Grades 11 & 12. Students at this level are invited to demonstrate their broader knowledge and grow more complex crystals, from any substance that can be safely sent through the mail.

During the project, the students observe the process and write observations, and submit a report up to one (1) page long, with each crystal for judging. Prizes are allocated for each grade (grades Prep – 3 are judged together). If insufficient entries are received for a grade, more than one grade may be judged together. All students participating will receive a participation certificate. The winner(s) will receive an award and a team / individual merit certificates.

How do you grow good crystals?

Follow this link to download “Notes for Teachers and Students (1) and (2)
http://www.raci.org.au/branches/qld-schools/crystal-growing-competition

The aim of the competition is to grow the best single crystal. Crystals require between 3 - 6 weeks to grow, so it is important to begin your experiments early enough to allow time for your crystals to develop. With simple kitchen items, students can grow their first seed crystal and then with time and patience watch it growing, writing their observations as they go. The report should be age appropriate, up to 1 page long, setting out the materials used (i.e. ingredients and equipment used) and then stating their observations during the project.
How do you enter?

1. The student(s) grow the crystals during School Term 2.
2. Crystals can be grown in the classroom, as part of a science club, or at home individually or with a group of friends.
3. When you are ready to mail the crystals - Register and Pay ONLINE first!
4. Cost depends on how many crystals you intend to enter:
   a. 1-5 crystals: $6.60 per crystal (GST Incl)
   b. 6-10 crystals: $5.50 per crystal (GST Incl)
   c. 11 + crystals: $4.40 per crystal (GST Incl)
5. Email the completed spreadsheet giving the details of the student/s and crystal type/s to the Qld Branch Coordinator
6. Then mail the crystals to the Qld Branch Office for judging during Term 3

CLICK HERE for the link to Register Online and Download the forms

Remember you need to REGISTER ONLINE first before you send crystals for judging.
For the Standard Competition students grow crystals from alum (potassium aluminium sulphate) (a non-hazardous chemical sometimes used in pickling food!) which can be purchased from Rowe Scientific Pty Ltd (see separate Alum Order Form on the RACI website)
Students can also enter the Open Competition, where they are able to grow crystals from any substance that can be safely sent through the mail.
You only give the names of students whose crystal you have entered.
However, please include on the entry details form the total number of students who grew crystals.
Even if you do not have any crystal entries let us know about all those who tried.
Entries should be mailed at the end of Term 2 (i.e. Friday 26 June 2020) – Late entries will be considered up to Friday 17 July 2020 – as allowance for postage delays)

How do you find out more information?
Check the RACI website
http://www.raci.org.au/branches/qld-schools/crystal-growing-competition

Or contact
Mrs Pam Chantrell,
RACI Regional Coordinator - Queensland,
Crystal Growing Competition
PO Box 406, EVERTON PARK, QLD, 4053
(note change of postal address from 2019)
Phone: 0499 550 306
Email: qld-raci@raci.org.au