

##### PSTS

##### GUIDELINES FOR

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

September 2016

STATE COLLEGE PENNSYLVANIA

#### Dr. Clay LaCoe

### Pennsylvania Science Talent Search

**STEM Supervisor**

**Wallenpaupack Area School District**

**500 Academy Street, Bldg. A**

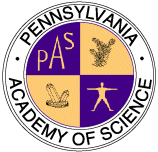
**Hawley, PA 18428**

**Phone 570-578-4784**

**Email: lacoecl@wallenpaupack.org**

INFORMATION AND INTERVIEW FORMS FOR THE 2016-2017 PSTS

1. Introductory Information
2. “About the Awards” –two pages
3. Form to list PSTS Judges – To be returned with Interview Forms
4. Interview Forms
5. Judging Guidelines for PSTS Applicants

**Pennsylvania Science Talent Search-**

**Introductory Information**

To: All Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Regional Directors and Coordinators

From: Clay LaCoe, PJAS Region 2

Re: 2016 – 2017 Pennsylvania Science Talent Search (PSTS)

Date: September 9, 2016

Please share this information with SPONSORS in your region.

Pennsylvania Science Talent Search 2016 – 2017

Interviews for PSTS should be held in conjunction with the regional meetings of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) in early 2017. All interviews for PSTS are conducted at Regional PJAS meetings; none are conducted at the State meeting.

All applicants for PSTS will be interviewed at the PJAS Regional meetings and must provide the interviewers with:

* + - 1. a letter of recommendation from their science teacher or guidance counselor,
      2. a copy of their transcript showing their latest or midyear grades of the current school year, and class rank, if available
      3. test scores (SAT/PSAT or ACT).

All awards are made at the PJAS State meeting. Certificate awards and monetary awards are described on the following pages entitled “About the Awards.” Selection of award winners is based on a formula that indicates consideration of high school science and mathematics grades, SAT scores, participation in PJAS competitions, and the score on the presentation at the PJAS State meeting.

**Clay LaCoe, STEM Supervisor**

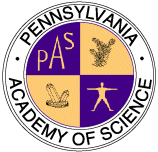
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**Pennsylvania Science Talent Search-**

**About the PAS-PSTS awards:**

PSTS tries to identify and recognize OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TALENT in students who are juniors or seniors in high school. The following state awards are presented by the PSTS are to Juniors and Seniors.

To be eligible, a student must:

1. Receive a first at their regional competition,

2. Be interviewed at the regional competition, and

3. Have a record of their interview mailed to the PSTS Director by their Regional Director or Regional PSTS Coordinator.

**\***An interview record includes: an interview form with the judges’ comments, the student’s transcript and SAT scores, and a letter of recommendation from a high school science teacher or counselor.

For all Juniors who have received a First Award at the Regional Competition, had an interview there, and had their paperwork submitted to the PSTS director:

These students will:

1. Receive a Junior Award Certificate, which will be distributed by the

Regional Directors on Sunday evening at the state competition.

2. Receive a letter of recommendation written for them from P.A.S.

to be included with their college application, which will be distributed by the Regional Directors on Sunday evening at the state competition.

3. Be eligible for monetary awards from PAS, to be given at the Special

Awards Ceremony on Monday evening. These awards are listed

and described below. (The student must receive a first at state as

well to be eligible for these monetary awards.)

For all Seniors who have received a First Award at the Regional Competition, had an interview there, and had their paperwork submitted to the PSTS director:

These students will:

1. Receive a Judge’s Award Certificate, which will be distributed by the

Regional Directors on Sunday evening at the state competition. If the student also has entered Intel and became a semifinalist there, they will be awarded an Honors Award Certificate.

2. Be eligible for monetary awards from PAS, to be given at the Special

Awards Ceremony on Monday evening. These awards are listed

and described below. (The student must receive a first at state as

well.

**About the PAS-PSTS awards (cont.):**

In addition to the Certificate awards listed above, PSTS awards the following monetary awards at the Special Awards Ceremony on Monday evening:

Sr. M. Gabrielle Maze PSTS Awards:

PSTS Outstanding Senior- $125 given to the five seniors (interviewed at the regional competition) with the highest scores (based on SAT’s, high school science grades, interview, scores at the competition, and years participation in PJAS.)

PSTS Outstanding Junior- $100 given to the four juniors (interviewed at the regional competition) with the highest scores (based on SAT’s, high school science grades, interview, scores at the competition, and years participation in PJAS.)

Note: The selection of the above two award winners will be based on a formula that takes into consideration the following:

1. SAT or PSAT scores;

2. high school science and math grades;

3. past PJAS participation;

4. and the score received on the presentation at the State meeting.

Zappa Award- $125 given to two students, one male, one female, either junior or senior in high school, who showed outstanding work in the fields of physics, math, engineering, or computer science.

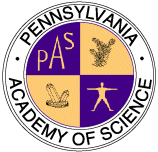
Zappa Junior Awards- $75 given to two junior high school students, one male, one female, who showed outstanding work in the fields of physics, math, engineering, or computer science.

Oerlein Award- Senior High School- $125 given to 4 high school students (1 each in Biology, physics, chemistry, and math/computer science).

Oerlein Award- Junior High School- $50 given to 6 junior high school students (chosen from across the various science fields).

Note: The letters of recommendation may be the most beneficial part of this process for the student, and the quality of these letters relies on the letter from the student’s sponsor and the comments of the judges at the regional interviews.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pennsylvania Science Talent Search-**

**September 9, 2016**

PLEASE INCLUDE this form when you send in the student information

# REGIONAL DIRECTOR’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# REGIONAL COORDINATOR’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

###### REGION #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON.

**Clay LaCoe, STEM Supervisor**

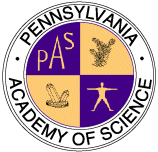
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# REPORTING PSTS JUDGES

(*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)*

Region \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

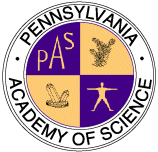
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Name of Judge/Address Professional Title**\*** Employer

Submitted by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Show any related title held in PJAS or PAS. Please designate the chairperson with an “X”.

**Pennsylvania Science Talent Search-**

**Judging Guidelines:**

1. No student should be interviewed by just one judge. Any student who is interviewed by just one judge will be disqualified.
2. Announcements of PSTS awards are made only at the PJAS State Meeting. These are state awards, not regional.
3. Students whose academic record or level of scientific sophistication as indicated by the research project, are not above average should not be recommended for PSTS Awards.
4. \*It is essential that judges’ **comments** are included with the recommendation for an award. These comments by the judges are used in the letters of recommendation for the students. The PSTS director, (Anne Coleman) who writes the letters, has not had the opportunity to meet any of the students and can’t write a valuable letter without the comments from the judges. **Please comment about special characteristics of the student, e.g., highly verbal, good grasp of scientific principles, able to apply theories to project at hand,** **life goals, extracurricular activities,** etc.
5. All interview forms need to be returned as a packet to Clay LaCoe by April 15, with supporting information:
   * + - Interview Form
       - SAT scores,
   * Transcripts, latest grades, and rank in class if possible,
   * recommendations by sponsor,
   * judges’ comments and regional coordinator’s approval for each student,
   * list of the judges.

\*Beginning this year letters for seniors will be attached to their certificates.

\*Since we need time to get the awards ready for the State Meeting, please send in

these materials before April 15, 2017.