

## RULES FOR THE SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER CONTEST

### A. ELIGIBILITY:

A separate graduate student contest shall be held for M.S. and Ph.D. students. A student may win first place in both the paper and the poster contest in the M.S. degree program and then compete again in each contest in the Ph.D. degree program. Any student who has registered to attend the current Southern Weed Science Society Meeting, and HAS CONDUCTED THE RESEARCH BEING REPORTED is eligible to compete in these contests. Students are eligible for participation in each the Student Paper Contest and the Student Poster Contest multiple times during a M.S. program and a Ph.D. program, however, a student cannot participate in both contests concurrently. A student can only win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the paper and poster contest once per degree program. All students presenting a paper or poster are eligible for any available student benefits whether or not they enter the contest.

### B. RULES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Notice of the contests will be included with the Call for Papers.
2. A contestant may enter a paper or poster in the contest multiple years per degree program, but not both at the same meeting. Persons who have graduated from a degree program (M.S. or Ph.D.) and are not actively pursuing an additional degree in the field of Weed Science may only enter the contest for that degree program during the first annual meeting following graduation.
3. Contestants will indicate in the title submission that they wish to enter either the paper or poster contest. Title and contest declaration must be turned in by the deadline that title submissions are due. If a contestant does not turn in a title and contest declaration by the time that title submissions are due, they will be ineligible for the contest unless reconsideration by the Student Program Chairperson and Program Chair (President-Elect) are in agreement to declare the student eligible based on student's situation. ABSTRACTS FOR CONTEST PAPERS AND POSTERS SHALL BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING (this allows time for the committee to prepare copies or e-mail abstracts to the appropriate judges prior to the contest). If a contest abstract is not received by this deadline, points will be deducted.
4. Evaluation forms and rules for the appropriate contest will be posted to the SWSS website by the Chairperson of the Student Program Committee.
5. Paper presentations will normally be from 10 to 12 minutes in length, thus leaving time for questions from the audience and judges.

6. Poster contestants will not be required to accompany their poster during the judging period (usually during the first full day of meeting) but if a designated time period has been given for the student's poster he or she can accompany their poster. Note that posters will only be judged on the content of the poster.
7. Awards will be presented at the annual banquet. Tickets to the banquet for all students who presented a paper or poster will be provided by the Society.

#### C. AWARDS:

Awards of \$200 and \$100 and certificates will be presented to first and second place winners, respectively, in each division of the Paper and the Poster Contest in each the M.S. and the Ph.D. degree program. When there is a tie for first place, there will be no second place winners.

#### D. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTEST:

The chairperson of the contest shall be the Chairperson of the Student Program Committee. Duties of the Chairperson include the following:

1. Work with the Program Chairperson to schedule student contest papers the first full day of the meeting, to allow judge's packets to be delivered to the Student Program Chairperson by 5:00 pm on the first full day of the meeting.
2. Divide contestants into sections and in to divisions of 8 to 12 papers according to the associated crop, weed or herbicide, M.S. or Ph.D. degree presentations, and/or laboratory or field research studies submissions are sufficient to do so.
3. All contest posters are to be displayed before the first full day of the meeting to provide the judges appropriate time to assess all posters in a timely manner in order to return the completed judges packets to the Student Program Contest Chairperson by 5:00 pm on the first full day of the meeting.
4. Five judges will be selected for each section. If at all possible, no judge shall be selected for a division in which one of his/her students participates or includes a paper that the judge has co-authored.
5. Send each judge and contestant the evaluation and judging forms and rules for review approximately 10 days prior to the annual meeting.
6. Make presentation of awards at the banquet.
7. Ensure photographs of winners are taken at the annual banquet.

#### E. JUDGING AND JUDGES:

1. Judges shall be provided with evaluation forms and instructions from the Chairperson of the Student Program Committee concerning methods for judging and evaluating the contestants.
2. The total number of judges selected will depend upon the number of contest sections. Five judges will be selected for each section. The vice-chair of the Student Program is to assist the Student Program Chair in judge recruitment, and to become familiar with the entire contest procedure so they can serve as Chair of the Student Program the next year.
3. The Chairperson should try to assign judges to sections of their interest and competence and in which the contestants are from different institutions or unrelated industries.
4. A poster judge is only to judge the poster itself and not take into account any conversation with the student contestant who maybe accompanying their poster.

## F. SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY STUDENT PAPER CONTEST

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES

#### General

Presentations will be judged in two major categories: Presentation Skills (Methods and Mechanics) and Content (Relevance and Merit). A sample score sheet is attached. A separate score sheet will be used by each judge for each student. Judging is based on the following: manner in which information is presented and research techniques and interpretation. A numerical scale is provided for judges to use as a guide to evaluate the papers. Please use these to assist the students in evaluating their strengths and weaknesses in their research and presentation of said research. After judging all contestants, rank each paper from high to low. Use a scale from 1 to the # of contestants in that division with 1 representing the top individual in that division. The winners of the contest will be determined by adding together the rankings of the judges. The contestant with the smallest total rank will be the winner. In an effort to prevent ties, individual judges should not allow any ties to occur within the division they judge, however, if after compilation of scores from all judges a tie occurs, then both contestants will receive the first place award for that division of the contest and there will be no second place winner. **Please try to provide some overall comments at the bottom of the page along with specific comments in the area provided within each section of the score sheet. Critical comments will greatly aid the students in enhancing their communication skills by pointing out specific areas and points they should improve upon; however, comments of a complimentary nature for a job well done are also important and appropriate.**

#### Criteria

1. A clear and technically competent abstract should be provided. The abstract should provide all pertinent information from the research and presentation.
2. Clear justification for research and statement of objectives should include background on the subject (pertinent references if applicable), justify reasons for the research and then state objectives. Material should be presented in a clear and interesting manner that will make the audience want to learn more. Originality includes scientific merit and the contribution of the research to Weed Science.
3. Visual aids should be easy to read and understand. Visual aids should aid, not distract from presentations.
4. Voice refers to the quality and quantity of sound being delivered by the speaker. Inflections and variation in pitch and enthusiasm in delivery are desirable characteristics. Language is the medium of expression. Proper grammar, sentence structure, and correct pronunciation and use of terminology should be employed. Physical manner concerns the appearance of the speaker, ease of movement and gestures, and poise.

5. Materials and Methods should include some justification for methods chosen as well as describe how the research was conducted. Justification for Materials and Methods could include equipment availability and budget limitations. A description of the experimental design utilized should be included as well as statistical treatment of the data. Materials and Methods should be brief but descriptive enough that the listener can understand and evaluate the overall approach used to obtain the objective(s).
  
6. Discussion of Results and Conclusions is an essential part of any research paper. It is important that the Results and Conclusions are supported by the data and interpretation is logical. Findings should be related to other work if applicable. Importance of results should be addressed and related to future research needs that could potentially allow a better understanding of the subject. Summary should be clear, concise, and easy to follow. It should reemphasize the main point or points of significance of this research. Overall, the presentation should take from 10 to 12 minutes leaving a minute or two for questions.

| <b>SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER CONTEST –<br/>WORKSHEET FOR JUDGES (revised July 2014)</b> |                     |                      |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Contestant's Name:</b>  | <b>Paper Number</b> |                      |
| <b>Point allocation: Excellent = 4 pts, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1, Absent = 0</b>                               |                     |                      |
|  |                     | <b>SCORE</b>         |
| <b>1. Abstract (8 Total points)</b>  |                     |                      |
| Abstract submitted on time and included in packet  |                     |                      |
| Clear statement of Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results and Conclusions                                      |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>2. JUSTIFICATION, STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, ORIGINALITY, AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT (12 Total points)</b>              |                     |                      |
| Objectives and/or hypothesis stated clearly, concisely, and well defined   |                     |                      |
| Problem chosen is of scientific merit  |                     |                      |
| Problem approached in original and creative manner   |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>3. VISUAL AIDS (16 Total points)</b>  |                     |                      |
| Printing on slides easy to read  |                     |                      |
| Correct spelling and terminology used  |                     |                      |
| Slides effectively used to highlight major concepts  |                     |                      |
| Pertinent essential information presented on slides  |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>4. VOICE, LANGUAGE, AND PHYSICAL MANNERISMS (16 Total points)</b>   |                     |                      |
| Speaker confident and enthusiastic about talk  |                     |                      |
| Effective use of gestures during talk  |                     |                      |
| Voice inflection evident and effectively used  |                     |                      |
| Eye contact with audience  |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>5. MATERIALS AND METHODS (12 Total points)</b>  |                     |                      |
| Materials and methods clearly explained  |                     |                      |
| Proper use of statistics and experimental design   |                     |                      |
| Appropriate and current experimental technique used  |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (24 Total points)</b>   |                     |                      |
| Results summarized concisely   |                     |                      |
| Conclusions relevant to objectives   |                     |                      |
| Conclusions supported by results   |                     |                      |
| Relevance of data to resolution of problem   |                     |                      |
| Data collected compared to work of others  |                     |                      |
| Recommendations for future research  |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>7. Questions (12 points)</b>  |                     |                      |
| Questions repeated to general audience   |                     |                      |
| Confident and effective response to questions  |                     |                      |
| Allowed adequate time for questions  |                     |                      |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS:</b>   |                     | <b>TOTAL SCORE</b>   |
|  |                     | <b>FINAL RANKING</b> |
|  |                     |                      |

## G. SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES

#### General

Presentation of a scientific poster is intended to allow the poster to stand alone and provide the audience the best understanding of the authors work and results. Given that only a portion of the authors are be present at the time of judging (first full day of meeting) the judges can interact with the student(s) but must limit conversation as much as possible and are not allowed to take that interaction into account when scoring. Given the program arrangement for certain authors to be required to stand by their posters, and others not, it is not appropriate to give bias toward the authors present at time of judging.

Poster presentations will be judged in two major categories: Presentation Skills (Methods and Mechanics) and Content (Relevance and Merit). A sample score sheet is attached. A separate score sheet will be used by each judge for each student. A numerical scale is provided for judges to use as a guide to evaluate the posters. Please use these to assist the students in evaluating their strengths and weaknesses in their research and presentation of said research. After judging all contestants, rank each poster from high to low. Use a scale from 1 to the # of contestants in that division with 1 representing the top individual in that division.

The winners of the contest will be determined by adding together the rankings of the judges and the contestant with the smallest total rank will be the winner. In an effort to prevent ties, individual judges should not allow any ties to occur within the division they judged; however, if after compilation of scores from all judges a tie occurs, then both contestants will receive the First Place award for that division of the contest and there will be no second place winner.

**Please try to provide some overall comments at the bottom of the page along with specific comments in the area provided within each section of the score sheet. Critical comments will greatly aid the students in enhancing their communication skills by pointing out specific areas and points they should improve; however, comments of a complimentary nature for a job well done are also important and appropriate.**

#### Criteria

1. A clear and technically competent abstract should be provided. The abstract should provide all pertinent information from the research and presentation.
2. Creativity and inventiveness refers to the effective use of new or unusual methodology to effectively illustrate ideas or results. The use of creative “art work”, illustrations, color balance, and general organizational layout of the poster should be a consideration in the category. The overall appearance of the poster, i.e. neatness and general appeal to the observer, should also be considered.
3. Poster development refers to the physical development of the poster. This includes the organization and pattern of the poster and how effective the text, figures, and pictures are to convey the information into an easily understandable format. Proper grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and use of terminology should be considered.
4. A clear justification for research and statement of objectives should include background on the subject and pertinent references if applicable. Contestants should justify reasons for conducting the research and then state objectives. Material should be presented in a clear and

interesting manner that will make the audience want to learn more. Originality includes scientific merit and the contribution of the research to Weed Science.

5. Materials and Methods should include some justification for methods chosen as well as describe how the research was conducted. Justification for Materials and Methods could include equipment availability and budget limitations. A description of the experimental design utilized should be included as well as statistical treatment of the data. Materials and Methods should be brief but descriptive enough that the audience can understand and evaluate the overall approach used to obtain the objective(s).
6. Discussion of Results and Conclusions is an essential part of any research paper. It is important that the Results and Conclusions are supported by the data and interpretation is logical. Findings should be related to other work if applicable. Importance of results should be addressed and related to future research needs that could potentially allow a better understanding of the subject. Conclusion should be clear, concise, and easy to follow. It should reemphasize the main point of significance of this research. Overall, the evaluation of the poster should take 10 to 12 minutes.

| <b>SOUTHERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER CONTEST –<br/>WORKSHEET FOR JUDGES (revised July 2014)</b> |                          |              |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Contestant's Name:</b>   | <b>Poster Number</b>     |              |
| <b>Point allocation: Excellent = 4 pts, Good = 3, Fair = 2, Poor = 1, Absent = 0</b>                                |                          |              |
|   |                          | <b>SCORE</b> |
| <b>1. ABSTRACT (8 Total points)</b>   |                          |              |
| Abstract submitted on time and included in packet   |                          |              |
| Clear statement of Objectives, Materials and Methods, Results and Conclusions                                       |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>2. CREATIVITY AND INVENTIVENESS (16 Total points)</b>  |                          |              |
| Overall appearance of poster and its appeal to the observer   |                          |              |
| Color balance of poster   |                          |              |
| Creativity and imagination in poster development  |                          |              |
| Use of innovative techniques and ideas to convey results  |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>3. POSTER DEVELOPMENT (20 Total points)</b>  |                          |              |
| Printing on poster easy to read   |                          |              |
| Correct spelling and terminology used   |                          |              |
| Figures and graphs effectively used to highlight major concepts   |                          |              |
| Pertinent information presented on poster   |                          |              |
| Overall layout and organizational flow of the poster  |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>4. JUSTIFICATION, STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES, ORIGINALITY, AND SCIENTIFIC<br/>MERIT (16 Total points)</b>           |                          |              |
| Concise description of the research problem   |                          |              |
| Strong/clear justification the experiment   |                          |              |
| Objectives and/or hypothesis stated clearly, concisely, and well defined  |                          |              |
| Problem approached in original and creative manner  |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>5. MATERIALS AND METHODS (12 Total points)</b>   |                          |              |
| Materials and methods clearly explained   |                          |              |
| Proper use of statistics and experimental design  |                          |              |
| Appropriate and current experimental technique used   |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (28 Total points)</b>   |                          |              |
| Results summarized concisely  |                          |              |
| Data collected compared to work of others   |                          |              |
| Novelty of results  |                          |              |
| Conclusions supported by results  |                          |              |
| Conclusions relevant to objectives  |                          |              |
| Relevance of data to resolution of problem  |                          |              |
| Recommendations for future research   |                          |              |
|   | <b>SECTION<br/>TOTAL</b> |              |
| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS:</b>  | <b>TOTAL<br/>SCORE</b>   |              |
|   | <b>FINAL<br/>RANKING</b> |              |