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January 16, 2008

2008 MESAS MAIL-IN CONTEST SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Get Additional Copies of the 2008 MESAS Contest at www.scacadsci.org

To: MESAS Sponsors and Students:

(All Regions: Sandhills Reg. IV; Low Country Reg. V; Midlands Reg. II, Western Reg. I, Sea Island Region VII)

Please find enclosed information about the mail-in contest for the Middle/Elementary School Academy of Science (MESAS) sponsored by The South Carolina Academy of Science (SCAS) and produced by professors and staff at the University of South Carolina, SC State Department of Education and the SC Cancer Center.

I have attached two MESAS Contests for your students (one for grades 4-6 and one for grades 6-8). Please make as many copies as you need and distribute to your club members. I hope your students have fun and learn something by competing in the contest. Each student who participates will be recognized and each school that participates will have at least one winner. Winners will be announced in the SCJAS and SCAS newsletters and the SCAS Bulletin in April of 2008. The deadline for entry is **Saturday, March 1, 2008**. The authors of the 2008 contest include Dr. Lucia Pirisi-Creek of the South Carolina Cancer Center, Linda Sinclair of the State department of Education and Dana Hutto of the Center for Science Education at USC.

We encourage students to use reference resources of all types, including the internet. However, we strongly discourage parents' assistance in finding the answers. This is a competitive contest meant to teach the children new methods of learning and exploring. We love parents' involvement, but require the students find the answers on their own for this contest.

The South Carolina Academy of Science Annual Meeting is **Thursday, March 20, 2008**, at Clemson University, in Clemson, South Carolina.

Announcement: Please let your students know that they can prepare a research paper or science project, and present a 10 minute oral presentation in the Middle/Elementary School category at the SCAS Annual Meeting. Monetary awards will be issued to the top five to ten oral presentations. The deadline for abstracts is **February 4, 2008**. Send abstracts to: Dr. James Privett, Judging Coordinator / USC Sumter / 200 Miller Rd. / Sumter, SC 29150-2498 / PHONE: (803) 938-3758 / FAX: (803) 938-3713 / e-mail: jamesp@uscsuporter.edu.

The SCAS Trust Fund Donors and the State Legislature sponsor this category. We also encourage MESAS students to participate in their regional science fair in March of 2008. Check with your regional science fair director whose address can be found on the web at www.scacadsci.org for specific dates.

If you have questions please call me at 803-777-7007 or contact the SCAS Office at (803) 777-8759

Sincerely,

Don Jordan, USC
State Executive Director & Founder, MESAS

- MESAS Young Research Grants-in-Aid proposals, sponsored by SCAS, are accepted year round. Awards range from \$25.00 to \$250.00. Contact: Dr. Don Jordan, USC or your MESAS Director.