

73RD



SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HANDBOOK 2024
SPECIES SURVIVAL
MORE THAN JUST SUSTAINABILITY

Science Talent Search 2024

What is it?

The **Science Talent Search (STS)** is an annual, science based competition open to all primary and secondary students in Victoria.

This year is the 73rd competition.

The STS theme for 2024 is:

Species survival: More than just sustainability

[STAV - click the STS link for further info](#)

Student investigations could include:

- Biodiversity
- Habitat preservation
- Climate resilience
- Genetic diversity
- Ecosystem services
- Invasive species management
- Protected areas
- Collaborative conservation
- Adaptive management



Who can be involved?

All students from Foundation to Year 6

Students can enter an individual project or a group project.

A group consists of TWO students only

A student can enter more than one project providing they are able to attend each appropriate judging venue, where necessary.

A student can enter more than one project in the same section but cannot enter the same project in more than one section.



How does it work?

1. Ensure that you are available to share your project on judging day (Saturday 3rd August - 9.00 to 10.30am)
2. Download the handbook from the website.
3. Complete your Google form including the your name, partner's name (if applicable), section name, title of your entry, parent's name, email address and phone contact by Wednesday 8th May
4. Enter with payment via Compass
5. Begin your research into the scientific concepts involved in your project
6. Attend the weekly Tuesday sessions with Mrs Upton (beginning 23rd April)
7. Complete your project by the due date remembering to include references and acknowledgements.
8. Email your projects and oral presentations to Carole Upton by Monday July 8th
9. Present your project if required on Saturday 3rd of August



[Science Talent Search Handbook 2024](#)

What type of entry can I have?

There are a number of different sections that you can enter so you can develop your science knowledge while using your skills and interests:

- Experimental research
- Creative writing
- Working models
- Computer programs – games and simulations
- Science Photography
- Games
- Inventions
- Video productions
- Posters – Scientific wall chart



Titles for Creative writing and Posters

These are the only titles allowed for these competitions:
(see next slides for more information)

Creative Writing – Primary

1. The Last Dance of the Fireflies: Illuminating the Path to Species Survival.
2. The Unseen Heroes: The Secret Lives of Urban Wildlife.
3. The Little Penguin's Quest: Saving the Krill for the Ocean Creatures.
4. Paving the Schoolyard: How the children saved the species in their schoolyard.

Posters & Scientific Wall Charts - Primary

1. Tracking species using eDNA
2. Cutting-edge technologies aiding species survival beyond mere sustainability efforts.
3. Exploring how indigenous cultural practices and beliefs influence species survival strategies.
4. Analysing the impact of climate change on species survival and strategies to mitigate its effects.



Possible ideas for writing topics -

What do they mean? Here are some links that might help you

Primary Writing topics

1. [The Last Dance of the Fireflies: Illuminating the Path to Species Survival.](#)
2. [The Unseen Heroes: The Secret Lives of Urban Wildlife.](#)
3. [The Little Penguin's Quest: Saving the Krill for the Ocean Creatures.](#)
4. [Paving the Schoolyard: How the children saved the species in their schoolyard.](#)

Possible ideas for posters topics -

What do they mean? Here are some links that might help you

Primary Posters & Wall charts topics

1. [Tracking species using eDNA](#)
2. [Cutting-edge technologies aiding species survival beyond mere sustainability efforts.](#)
3. [Exploring how indigenous cultural practices and beliefs influence species survival strategies.](#)
4. [Analysing the impact of climate change on species survival and strategies to mitigate its effects.](#)

Key Dates

Wednesday 8th May

[Science Talent Search Google form](#) completed

Payment to be made via Compass (once you receive a confirmation)

Monday 8th July

All entries must be emailed to me

Saturday 3rd August - 9.00am to 10.30am

Judging day for working models, inventions and computer programs
(Methodist Ladies' College)

November (TBC)

Exhibition and Presentation day (Latrobe University)

Judging day venues

Saturday August 3rd (9.00 - 10.30pm)

Venues

Methodist Ladies' College
Fitzwilliams Street
Entrance, KEW

Sections:

- Computer Programs
- Class Projects
- Working Models
- Inventions

Times for judging are:

9.00am – 10.30am
Lower, Middle and Upper Primary

10.00am – 12.30pm
Junior, Intermediate and Open

Students are required to discuss their entry with STS Judges. Computer entrants must bring their own laptop or device.

All other sections are lodged electronically:

- Experimental research (project and prerecorded oral presentation)
- Creative writing (project only)
- Science photography (project and prerecorded oral presentation)
- Games (project and prerecorded oral presentation)
- Video productions (project and prerecorded oral presentation)
- Posters - Scientific wall charts (project and prerecorded oral presentation)

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to follow the yearly STS theme? Do I have to do the set topics?

Each year there is a theme based on the National Science Week theme.

For [Creative Writing and Posters – Scientific Wall Charts](#) you MUST choose one of the set topics.

What happens if I don't follow all of the guidelines?

You may be disadvantaged during judging.

If my child decides to drop out after entering can I get a refund?

No, the entry fee is to cover the costs of processing entries and general administration of the competition.

Can I have help from other people?

Yes, parents can assist with purchasing of items, reading information or typing your work but otherwise the project must be all of your own words and work.

Do I need to attend judging day?

Yes, if you are entering working models, computer programs, or inventions

No, if you are entering creative writing, experimental research, games, videos or posters

Any further questions?

Thank you for your interest in the competition

[Science Talent Search Google form](#)

Good luck if you decide to enter

If you have any further questions please contact me via
Compass or drop into the classroom after school

[Compass information note](#)

