



2016-2017 VMCA Student Poster Competition Guidelines

Virginia Mosquito Control Association is excited to be holding our first student poster competition during the 75th annual VMCA conference held in Newport News Virginia, January 31st through February 2nd, 2017.

Prizes

- First place poster will receive:
 - \$500 – Presented during the awards ceremony of the 2017 VMCA annual meeting on February 1st, 2017
 - Opportunity to give an oral presentation on your research at the 2017 VMCA annual meeting.
 - 1st place winner will be expected to attend the VMCA meeting on February 1st, 2017. During this day they will give a 20 minute presentation on their poster (time includes questions), accept their reward during the lunch banquet, and attend a Q and A poster session if applicable.
- Top five posters (including first place) will receive:
 - Free registration to the 2017 VMCA annual meeting
 - Opportunity to participate in a poster session where you can discuss your poster one on one with conference attendees.

Deadline and Submission Procedures

- Deadline for poster submission will be November 15th. Email containing PDF of poster and submission form should be received no later than 11:59pm on the due date. Submitting your poster earlier than the deadline is encouraged. If a submission does not follow the instructions contained in this document, resubmissions will not be accepted after the deadline.
 - Poster submissions should be emailed to: Kakaratovic@suffolkva.us
 - Email should contain the following attachments:
 - [Submission form for the 2016-2017 student poster competition](#) fully filled out
 - PDF version of the poster (PDF file should be set to size/dimensions specified for printing).
- Each poster should be 36 inches x 48 inches (91.4 cm x 121.9 cm). The PDF file of the poster must be set to these dimensions for printing.
- Posters will be graded during the months of November and December with winners being selected and notified by the first of January.

- VMCA will print all valid posters to be displayed at the annual VMCA meeting. These will be standard prints with standard colors and no glossy finishes or lamination. If you wish to print your own poster for display at the meeting, you are encouraged to do so but at your own expense. If you print your own poster, it must be the same version and size as the one graded.

Rules and Guidelines of Poster Competition

- Posters should reflect original research by the authors of the poster (poster should be submitted by the primary author).
- Research projects should test a stated hypothesis and stress a purpose or need mentioned within your poster.
- Research projects should be complete or nearly complete with sufficient levels of data collected and analyzed to help support your findings
- Acceptable topics of posters should include:
 - All areas of vector-borne sciences: (acceptable examples below but not to be limited to)
 - Vector borne diseases
 - Arthropod vectors
 - Surveillance methods
 - Pesticides, repellants, or control methods
 - Diagnostic or laboratory methods
- There will be no separate sections for the competition (e.g., topic of poster, graduate students versus undergraduate students, etc.)
- Only students currently enrolled in a degree program from a Virginia accredited college or university during the fall semester of 2016 will be eligible.
- Posters will be judged solely on the presentation of the poster itself. Any verbal or written communication with the judges will not be included in the grading of the posters.
- Each poster will be judged independently by three judges that have been pre-selected by the VMCA student competition committee. Posters will be evaluated in the following areas:
 - Scientific Content (60%) –
 - Each section should be informative, expressed clearly and concisely, free of grammar mistakes, appropriately titled, and all information should be pertinent to the study.
 - Abstract (10 points) – Maximum of 250 words
 - Content (50 points)
 - Introduction and background with appropriate literature cited
 - Study’s objectives, hypothesis, and/or research question
 - Materials and methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Poster Display (40%)
 - Organization (20 points)

- Order of information, minimum redundancy, flow from one section to another
 - Use of space, color, and sizes of sections
 - Text, Figures and Tables (20 points)
 - Legible text size and appropriate color contrast with background colors
 - Ability to be understood, effective use of figures and tables.
 - In the event of a tie or discrepancy in scores, the judges will meet with the VMCA Student Competition Committee for a resolution.
- Any poster not meeting the requirements stated above will be ineligible for the 2016-2017 VMCA competition.