

## **STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER CONTEST INFORMATION Dennis Scott – Chair**

The Student Paper and Poster Contest at the Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting provides an excellent opportunity for students to improve presentation skills and increase visibility within the society. For each division of the contest, the top students are recognized with a plaque and a cash award to honor their achievement.

- All graduate students are encouraged to enter one paper **AND/OR** one poster in the contest
- Undergraduate students may enter one poster **OR** one paper in the contest, For **ALL** undergraduate students participating in the contest, please notify me at [dennis.scott@fmc.com](mailto:dennis.scott@fmc.com) with your choice of contest.
- If students entering the contest do not wish to be judged (i.e. considered for awards), but would still like to receive feedback on their presentations, please notify me at [dennis.scott@fmc.com](mailto:dennis.scott@fmc.com) ahead of the annual meeting.
- Contest rules and scoring criteria can be found at <https://www.wsweedscience.org/> on the “Student Resources” page.

Oral presentations will need to be prerecorded and are strictly limited to fifteen (15) minutes, that includes a 2-3 minute period to respond to live questions from the audience. These prerecorded presentations are back up to protect against technical issues that may arise. There will be time allocated within the meeting for live presentations following the same time constraints just described. It is expected that all students participating in the Student Contest will make a live presentation. Posters submitted can have a 3 minute audio describing the poster content associated with poster it’s self when submitted. There will be accommodation made for live interaction with judges during the meeting. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me.

### **Judges Invitation**

As the chair of the 2021 Student Paper and Poster Contest, I am soliciting non-student volunteers to participate as judges for this competition. Everyone who has been involved with the student contest will attest that volunteer judges are the foundation for a successful contest. Your willingness to judge provides great value to the students and the society. Your time and input help to insure we provide students every opportunity to excel as weed scientists.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me by email or phone: [dennis.scott@fmc.com](mailto:dennis.scott@fmc.com) or (509-440-1675). I look forward to hearing from **YOU!**

### **Attention to Advisors and Students**

**The WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest committee will be enforcing the below policies. The committee is focused on making the contest a fair and enjoyable experience for all students;**

- **Information presented in the WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest must be original and unique.** If a topic has been used by the author in another presentation at a different weed science society meeting, additional data must be included to constitute a unique presentation.
- Additionally, oral and poster presentations entered for competition by the same person should be substantively different from each other (for example, not just changing the title or simply adding more data to the poster). There should be no overlap between the data presented in the poster and oral format by the author (if entered in a competition).
- Students attending institutions in states that are not WSWS members may enter and receive evaluation but will not be considered for awards.
- All students entering the contest are required to submit an abstract not to exceed 250 words (word count in Microsoft Word). All abstracts exceeding 250 words will be docked points accordingly.

Information regarding the scoring of papers and posters is listed in the tables below. If further clarification by students or advisors is needed, please contact me at [dennis.scott@fmc.com](mailto:dennis.scott@fmc.com).

<b>Paper Contest*</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Abstract:</b>	10	Length: 5pt ≤ 250 words; Opt > 250 words Appropriate content, format and grammar
<b>Introduction:</b>	10	Concise background to topic Clear objectives and hypothesis
<b>Methods:</b>	15	Correct and clear experimental design Clear treatments and measurements Correct statistical analysis
<b>Results:</b>	10	Clear and clean demonstration of data Methods support data collected
<b>Discussion:</b>	15	Clear interpretations based on data Concise conclusions based on data Future research recommendations
<b>Visual aids:</b>	15	Easily readable and uncluttered Balance of tables, figures, pictures Proper grammar, spelling and units
<b>Oration:</b>	20	Speaker confident and enthusiastic Effective gestures, mannerisms and voice Eye contact and appropriate behavior Speaker answers questions confidently
<b>Time:</b>	5	Allowed 2-4 min for questions
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	
*Previous first place winners in the paper contest are ineligible for the paper contest but may enter the poster contest.		

<b>Poster Contest*</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	10	Length: 5pt ≤ 250 words; Opt > 250 words Appropriate content and format
<b>Mechanics</b>	5	Proper grammar, spelling and units
<b>Overall Content</b>	15	Appearance and creativity in design Effective layout and logical flow Balance of tables, figures, pictures
<b>Appearance</b>	10	Uncluttered and easily read text size Tables and figures clear and concise
<b>Introduction</b>	10	Uncluttered and easily read text size Tables and figures clear and concise
<b>Development</b>	15	Correct and clear experimental design Clear treatments and measurements Quality of research and discussion
<b>Results</b>	20	Correct statistical analysis Methods support data collected Clear interpretations based on data Future research recommendations / implications
<b>Oration</b>	10	Eye contact, voice and behavior Speaker answers questions confidently
<b>Physical</b>	5	Interaction, enthusiasm and confidence
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	
*Previous first place winners in the poster contest are ineligible for the poster contest but may enter the paper contest.		