Local students showcase their scientific aptitude

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Seventh-grader Nina Hollars holds her grand-prize trophy for her project "Mind Over Motion/the Motion After Effect."
Courtesy photos

The Calaveras River Academy/Mountain Oaks gymnasium is filled with the science fair displays.
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Students from all around the county recently participated in the 34th annual Calaveras County Science Fair. There were 60 students who participated in the event that took place at the Calaveras River Academy/Mountain Oaks gymnasium in San Andreas.

The fair was partially funded by a grant from the Teichert Foundation.

There were four different judged categories, including: life science; behavioral and cognitive science; physical science and engineering; and math and computer science. Each student received a ribbon based on the quality of his or her project, and the top-scoring students in each category received a plaque.

A public viewing of the projects (before judging) allowed families and community members a chance to explore the 46 entries.

The grand prize winner was seventh-grader Nina Hollars, from Avery Middle School. Hollars' project, "Mind Over Motion/The Motion After Effect," earned her a certificate, a traveling trophy that will be put on display at her school and entry into the 2019 California State Science and Engineering Fair.

"The judges were most impressed that Nina's project was original, creative, very well-developed and well-presented," said Debbie Strand, Calaveras County Office of Education coordinator of communication and student events.

Reese Roeder, a fifth-grader at Christian Family Learning Center, received the Shining Star award.

"We want to recognize a student we believe has a passion for science and will go a long way," said Calaveras County Superintendent of Schools Scott Nanik. "This award has not been given for many years."

The demonstration project winners were determined by the judges this year. Jesse Johnson, an eighth-grade student at Christian Family Learning Center, won Best Demonstration for his project titled "Steam Engine."

Students in grades four through 12 are eligible to participate in the Calaveras County Science Fair. However, only students in grades six through 12 are eligible to compete in the state science fair in April. Two students were selected to compete in the state fair, including grand prize-winner Hollars and Kaylee Kautz, an eighth-grade student from Avery Middle School, with her project "Spherical Food."

"We had so many brilliant minds under one roof, what a thrill that was," Strand said. "The event's success depends on the participation of the schools and families, and the support from our dedicated judges and volunteers."

The full list of winners of the 2019 Calaveras County Science Fair are listed at ccoe.k12.ca.us/sciencefair.

34th Annual Calaveras County Science Fair Results

Grand prize winner: "Mind Over Motion/The Motion After Effect," Nina Hollars, seventh grade, Avery Middle School

Shining star award: "Brine Shrimp vs. Pollution," Reese Roeder, fifth grade, Christian Family Learning Center

Winners selected to go to the California Science and Engineering Fair in April: "Mind Over Motion/The Motion After Effect," Nina Hollars, seventh grade, Avery Middle School

"Spherical Food," Kaylee Kautz, eighth grade, Avery Middle School

Best physical science and engineering project: "Closed or Open," Niko Kreisberg, fifth grade, Albert Michelson Elementary

Best life science project: "Brine Shrimp vs. Pollution," Reese Roeder, fifth grade, Christian Family Learning Center

Best behavioral and cognitive science project: "Mind Over Motion/The Motion After Effect," Nina Hollars, seventh grade, Avery Middle School

Best math and computer science project: "How Many Seeds in an Apple," Isa Luchetti, fourth grade, Albert Michelson Elementary

Best demonstration: "Steam Engine," Jesse Johnson, eighth grade, Christian Family Learning Center