Science fair certificate template: free to print, for every child

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Free science fair certificates: eight awards from taking part to most curious scientist, two to a page, a line for the name you write, no logo, and by entry code.

A good science fair certificate says what the child did, not just that they turned up: "for asking a question, testing it and showing what you found" on every child's, and a reason on each award, like "for a table and a graph anyone can read". Peabody prints eight of them, free: one for taking part and seven awards. They come two to a letter-size page, with your fair's name and year at the top, a line for the name you write by hand, and no Peabody logo, so they read as the school's own.

There are four places on Peabody's science fair pages that print a certificate, each for a different job. Here's which to use.

The organiser's print shop: a certificate for every child

The science fair organizer ends with a print shop. Pick your fair's name (Science Fair, STEM Fair, or Science and Engineering Fair), the year and the grades, then tick the certificates you want:

- Certificate: Science fair scientist · What it says it's for: for asking a question, testing it and showing what you found
- Certificate: First place · What it says it's for: for a fair test, clear numbers and a conclusion that uses them
- Certificate: Second place · What it says it's for: the same line
- Certificate: Third place · What it says it's for: the same line
- Certificate: Best question · What it says it's for: for a question that changes one thing and measures one thing
- Certificate: Clearest data · What it says it's for: for a table and a graph anyone can read
- Certificate: Best board · What it says it's for: for a board that tells the whole story in your own words
- Certificate: Most curious scientist · What it says it's for: for the best "what if…?" of the fair

Choose how many "taking part" certificates to print (up to 60) and one of each award you ticked. Each certificate reads "awarded to" with a line for the name, the reason underneath, and lines for a signature and a date. They print two to a page with a dashed line to cut along.

The same print shop makes a flyer for the school's walls (with the fair day and the boards' due day from your date) and thank-you cards for the judges, four to a page. None carries a

Peabody mark.

The fair-night tally: certificates by entry code and place

If you judge with Peabody's fair-night tally, it prints its own certificates once the scores are in. Every judged entry gets one. The top three in each grade band get "1st place", "2nd place" or "3rd place" (with "(tie)" where judges tied, because the tally never breaks a tie), and everyone else gets a "Certificate of taking part". Each one names the entry by its code and group, such as "Entry B4, 3–5: Science fair.", with a blank line labelled Name for you to fill in, and your fair's name and the date at the bottom.

That keeps children's names off the device entirely. The code-to-name key stays on your paper, and you write the names on the certificates by hand. Judging by code isn't just a Peabody habit: Washington County School District's science fair rules in Utah (read 31 October 2026) say "all projects will be identified only by an assigned number".

The project packet: one child's own certificate

Every Peabody project has a printable packet of nine sheets, from the plan and the hypothesis to the board titles. The last sheet is the judge's nine questions, and below a cut line, a "Certificate of Real Science": it says the child asked a real question, tested it three times at every level and showed what they found, with the project's own question printed on it and a line for the name. The class packet prints the same nine pages blank, so a teacher can hand every child one, certificate included.

After the fair: the child's own copy

A child who keeps their project on Peabody and puts in their fair date gets one more: after the fair day has passed, their My project page offers a "Certificate of Real Science" with their question and the fair's date, to print at home. It's never offered before the fair, because it's for having done it.

Which should I use?

- Running the whole fair, by hand: the print shop. A certificate for every child and the awards you choose.
- Judging with codes: the fair-night tally's certificates, which carry each place.
- A classroom or a single family: the class packet or the project packet.

A simple plan uses two: every child gets the "Science fair scientist" certificate, and the placed entries get a tally certificate too.

Making certificates feel earned

- Say why. The award lines are written in a child's words for that reason: "a question that changes one thing and measures one thing" tells a 2nd grader exactly what they did well.
- Give the curious one. "Most curious scientist" goes to the child who asked the best "what if…?", often one whose project didn't place.
- Sign them. A teacher's or judge's signature makes it real.
- Write names by hand, neatly. It takes about ten minutes for a class.

Questions grown-ups ask

Can I add our school's logo?

The certificates are plain on purpose, with the fair's name and year printed at the top. Print them on letterhead or add a stamp by hand if you want a logo.

Can I type the names in?

No. Nothing on Peabody's fair pages asks for a child's name, and the certificates have a line for it instead. Writing them by hand keeps names off any device.

Is there a reading certificate too?

Yes, for reading challenges: see the reading certificate post.

Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, with no ads and no sign-up, and nothing a child taps on the science fair pages is sent anywhere. The library has stories by reading level, a good prize for any scientist.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/science-fair-certificate-template