

SWSC Science Competition Rules Template

Science Competition Title: Go Fish

Instructor's Name: Mike Littmann

School of Instructor: Amos Alonzo Stagg

Email Address of Instructor: mlittmann@d230.org

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Description and Rules for Competition: Students will be identifying freshwater fish from Illinois (IL) using a taxonomic key. Basic anatomy and general ecology questions related to freshwater fish may also be included. Students will use mainly binocular and perhaps compound scopes to help identify the specimens. Students are allowed to bring: a hand lens of their choice – though not necessary, and a taxonomic key of their choice, as well as any fish identification source -there is no limit as to how many sources students may bring. Several specimens may have short answer requirements based on their relationship to other aquatic organisms, water quality, and/or aquatic habitats. Students should review the families of freshwater fish common to IL. Several short answer questions may be asked.

How Scoring will be performed: Scored by hand, one point/correct answer, highest score wins. The test is a lab practical where contestants write in answers on a blank answer sheet. See above regarding keys and sources. Specimens will be arranged at stations. Students may be given a time requirement for each specimen depending on the length of the test.

How Tie-Breaker will be performed (if needed): Tie-breaker will be accomplished by completion of a designated question that is both challenging and exhaustive in scope.

Number of students allowed in each individual team: 2

Number of teams allowed to compete from each individual school: 2