

# Ohio Pre-college Student STEM Opportunities

BY THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

**O**PPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR HIGHLY-motivated, pre-college, Ohio students with original STEM-related ideas (see chart, following page). **The Ohio Academy of Science (OAS)** sponsors programs that can propel any student who has a good idea and persistence to see a complex project through to completion. All OAS programs provide out-of-the-classroom, real-world, preparation for future STEM leaders and entrepreneurs. Numerous awards, scholarships, and networking opportunities are available. Students should talk to their teachers or contact the OAS directly. <https://www.ohiosci.org>

For over seven decades—using the traditional scientific-method based (i.e., science fair) format—**Local, District, and State Science Days** have allowed hundreds of thousands of Ohio students, grades 5 to 12, to complete independent research projects. Students present their research to expert judges at each level who provide both numerical scores and invaluable feedback to the students. Any grade 9 to 12 participant advancing to an Ohio District Science Day event has the opportunity to be selected to present at the **Buckeye Science & Engineering Fair (BSEF)**. The top BSEF awardees, in turn, qualify for the **International Science & Engineering Fair**. Any 6th to 8th grade participant at State Science Day may be selected to participate in the **Broadcom MASTERS** national competition.

The **Believe in Ohio Program** is a free, comprehensive, curriculum-based, STEM and entrepreneurship program for Ohio high school students. Students compete for substantial scholarships through entrepreneurial and business plans. The program creates a “culture of innovation” and prepares students to compete in a rapidly changing labor market. <https://www.ohiosci.org/believe-in-ohio>

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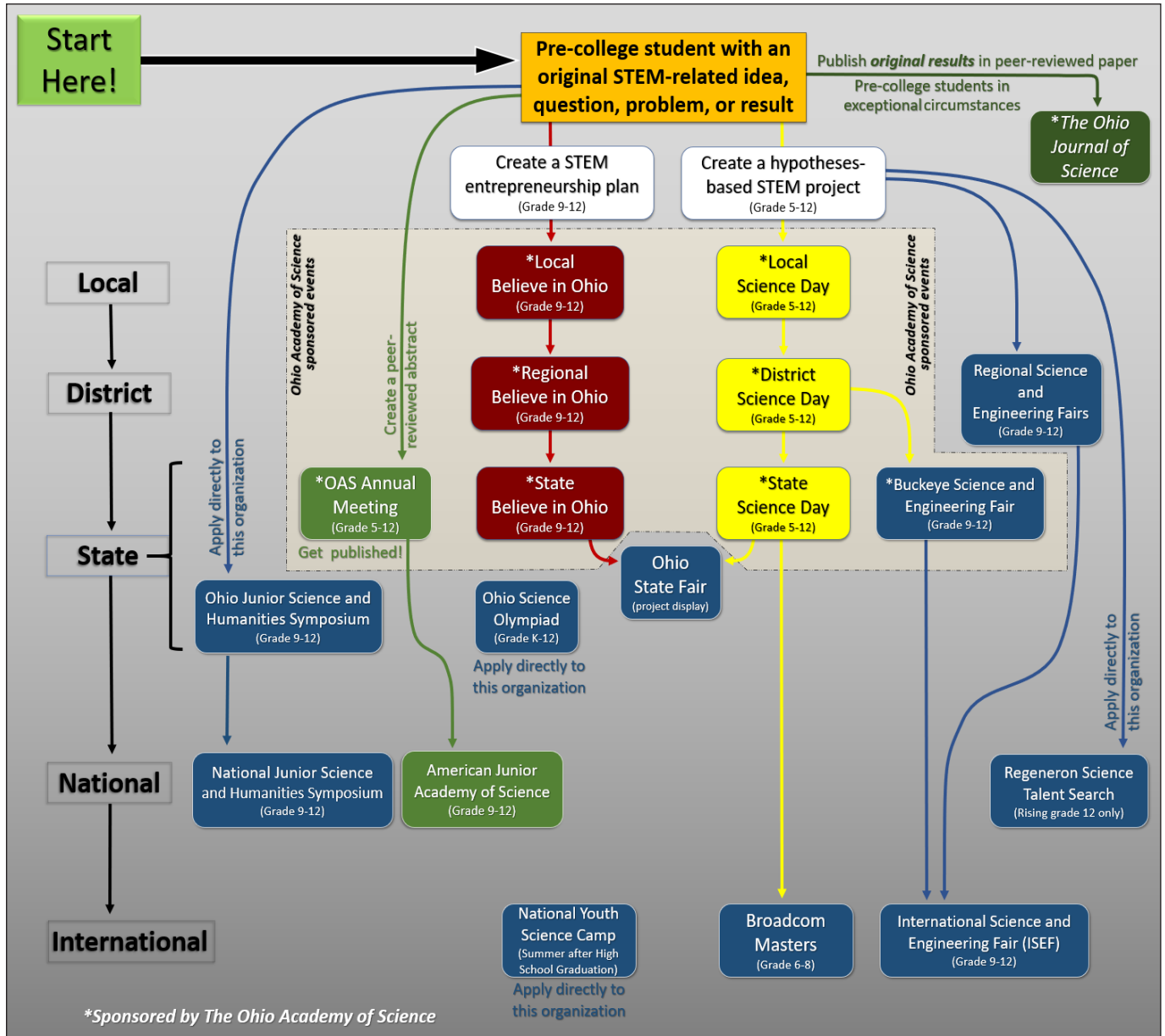
Every April, for 129 years, The Ohio Academy of Science has held an **Annual Meeting**—open to all who are interested in attending. An annual **call for papers** is held in the fall, prior to the year of the April meeting. Pre-college students are encouraged to submit abstracts of the results of their original research. **Submissions are peer-reviewed**, and acceptable abstracts are **published** in the April Program Abstracts issue of *The Ohio Journal of Science*. Those with published abstracts are then expected to present a poster at the Annual Meeting. The top pre-college students who present at the Annual Meeting are recognized as **Melvin Scholars**, and have the opportunity to represent Ohio at the national-level **American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS)** annual meeting.

*The Ohio Journal of Science (OJS)* has published peer-reviewed, original contributions to science, education, engineering, and technology since 1900. The OJS—in exceptional circumstances—will publish fully peer-reviewed papers by pre-college students. <https://www.ohiosci.org/the-ohio-journal-of-science>

In addition to the above OAS sponsored programs, highly-motivated, pre-college STEM students should also investigate participation in these established and highly-selective programs: the **Ohio Science Olympiad** (K to 12; <https://ohso.osu.edu/>), the **Regeneron Science Talent Search** (rising grade 12; <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts/>), the **Ohio Junior Science and Humanities Symposium** (grades 9 to 12; <https://www.bgsu.edu/nwo/programs/ohio-junior-science-and-humanities-symposium.html>), the **National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium** (grades 9 to 12; <https://www.jshs.org/>), and the **National Youth Science Camp** (summer after high school graduation; <http://www.nysf.com/w/programs/nyscamp/>).

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## OPPORTUNITY FLOWCHART



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*Fostering curiosity, discovery and innovation to benefit society.*



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