

**Governor's Honors Program**  
2020 Science Interview Preparation

Semifinalists will be allowed approximately 20 minutes before the interview to: (1) analyze a data set and draw conclusions from it; and (2) propose a possible research investigation within the constraints of a broadly defined topic that the data set is based on. Students will be able to choose from data sets and research topics within a variety of science fields. Their analyses and proposals will be discussed during the individual interviews. Students will be provided with writing materials to make notes during the 20-minute preparation period. The interviewers will not examine these notes.

Examples of data that could be presented for analysis at the on-site interview include but are not limited to:

- a periodic chart showing the electrical conductivities of the elements;
- graphs of the position, velocity, and time of a roller coaster car; and
- a chart showing the daily locations of a pod of whales in the North Pacific.

An example of a broadly defined research topic would be the following (*based on the pod of whales data set above*)

*A research team wants to examine the effects of El Niño in term of ocean currents and sea surface temperature on the birth rate of North Pacific whales. The student should be prepared to discuss how they might design such an experiment, what equipment they would need, what they would measure to answer their research question, and what the limitations of their research might be.*

**Note: Neither of these sample data sets will be choices on the day of the interview.**

Students should anticipate being on-site for approximately 90-120 minutes.