

Governor's Honors Program

Science Interview Preparation (2024)

Interview Format:

Part 1: Semifinalists will be allowed approximately 20 minutes before the interview to: (1) analyze a data set and draw conclusions; and (2) propose a possible research investigation within the constraints of a broadly defined topic that the data set is based. Semifinalists will be able to choose from data sets and research topics within the fields of science. Their analyses and proposals will be discussed during a portion of 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.*

Example data sets include, but are not limited to:

- Change of the absorbance of elements within a spectrophotometer
- Range of suitable water pH for Nile tilapia
- Photographs picturing extent of decay in *Alnus sp.* stems

Note: The examples above will not be choices on the day of the interview.

Example of proposed research investigation based on the broadly defined research topic, *Alnus sp.*

*The significance of grey alder (*Alnus incana* (L.) Moench.) as a fast-growing renewable source for energy and wood production has increased during the last decade. The aims of this study were to: (1) estimate the incidence of stem decay in *A. incana* stands, (2) measure the extent of decay within individual stems, (3) estimate the impact of decay on wood yield and (4) identify decay-causing fungi.*

Part 2: Semifinalists will answer carefully prepared questions, presented by interviewers, to determine the semifinalist's intellect, choices, habits, plans, ambitions, and knowledge of their area of science.

Semifinalists must be prepared to discuss their previous experiences in their area of science as well as research, their current knowledge level, plans for the future, and their expectations for a rigorous program of this nature.

Semifinalists are expected to dress in a professional manner appropriate for an interview.

Semifinalists should anticipate being on site at least 2 hours.

The use of electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, projectors, etc.) is prohibited during all parts of the interview process.