

## A-MSA 2009 Annual Meeting – Poster Competition Guidelines

Below are the guidelines for participation in the A-MSA 2009 Annual Meeting Poster competition. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2009. Please contact the Chair of the Poster Competition, Dr. Steven Grice at [sgrice@nsparc.msstate.edu](mailto:sgrice@nsparc.msstate.edu) if you have any questions.

1. There is no limit on poster size. However, it is recommended that posters not exceed 4' by 6'.
2. Tentative plans are that your poster will be on display for a 6-hour time period. You will need to have your poster set up before the start of the display period. Allow yourself plenty of time for the setup. You are expected to be present during the two-hour poster session to discuss your work with judges and interested parties and be available to remove your poster.
3. Your poster represents you, your school, and the A-MSA. Take great care to plan and organize it well. Your poster should be constructed so that it presents the desired information in a self-explanatory manner. Make sure it communicates the intended information in an interesting, visual manner.
4. Keep it simple and brief. Think of a poster as a series of highly efficient, organized “panels” upon which appear synopses of the relevant information you want to convey – just enough to get your point across.
5. Organize your poster materials using headings, such as “Introduction,” “Research Question,” “Methodology,” and “Findings.” These headings will help establish a logical flow to your poster.
6. Use large enough fonts so people will not have to squint to read the material. For headings, use at

least a **48-point** font. For text, use nothing less than **18-point**.

7. Make your poster visually appealing. Have fun. Be creative. Incorporate color. Use photographs, maps, charts, graphs, and the like. Simplify charts and figures to include only relevant information. Be attentive to the layout and placement of your materials.
8. Place the title of your work in a prominent position on your poster. Include your name and your institution/affiliation.
9. Provide a concise handout that summarizes your work so that interested observers may have something to take away from the event.
10. Do not plan on using any audio-visual equipment. None will be available, and if you bring your own, it will not be secure.
11. All Submissions will be evaluated by Competition Judges during the poster session. The Competition Judges will select the outstanding poster. A special certificate will be awarded to the author(s) of the outstanding poster. The monetary award is \$200.00 for the selected poster.
12. The outstanding poster will be announced during the banquet. In addition, the authors' names and poster title will be posted on the A-MSA website and announced in the A-MSA newsletter.