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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER SCIENCE FAIR, FEB. 22–25

Students visit George Washington Carver exhibit for Black History Month

WHAT: The Academy of Natural Sciences hosts the 31st annual George Washington Carver Science Fair, one of the largest fairs of its kind, with more than 225 elementary school entries this year. The fair promotes scientific inquiry and discovery through experiments that the students research and conduct themselves. The experiments are judged by a panel of experts, and winners are announced at an awards ceremony.

As an extra bonus this year, students can tour the temporary exhibit *George Washington Carver* about the scientist and humanitarian who was born into slavery and left a legacy of scientific accomplishments. *Carver* closes Sunday, Feb. 28. (www.ansp.org/carver)

WHO: Philadelphia public, private, parochial, charter and home-schooled children in grades four through six compete for first-, second- and third-place medals, as well as numerous special awards and scholarships.

WHEN: Feb. 22, 3–6 p.m. – Students drop off projects and set up in Commons Room

Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. – Judges examine projects
1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. – Judges interview students

Feb. 25, 1:30–3:30 p.m. – Awards ceremony. Students, parents and teachers are invited to tour the *George Washington Carver* exhibit before the ceremony begins.

WHERE: The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia

BACKGROUND: The Academy has been an active partner in the fair with the Philadelphia School District since its inception and has hosted the elementary school entries since 1979. The fair is named for the African American agricultural chemist, botanist and humanitarian George Washington Carver (1864–1943) whose creative genius led him to develop hundreds of products from peanuts, sweet potatoes, soy and other plants, and to help revolutionize farming in the Deep South.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3–12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!