



September 10, 2012

**2012 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair Special Award**  
*"The U.S. Forest Service will sponsor the award for  
Integrating the Social and Physical/Biological Sciences"*

The U.S. Forest Service, Integrating Human and Natural Systems in Urban and Urbanizing Environments Research Work Unit located in Athens, Ga., will sponsor a "*Special Award*" at the 2013 Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. The junior (middle school) and senior level (high school) student who best demonstrate the integration of social sciences with physical and/or biological sciences will receive this award.

At this time the General topics for consideration include:

- Evaluation of community proximity to environmental contamination or environmental amenities, e.g., an "environmental justice" analysis using both physical and social metrics
- Cost/benefit analyses of environmental remediation, or other environmental programming
- Community greening (e.g., green roof/wall designs, community gardening)
- Evaluation of land management practices
- Community watershed restoration

*(There may be others that will be considered after reviewing the **GA Science and Engineering Fair Directory** titles and abstracts)*

Projects will be evaluated on:

- ✓ General presentation; format, completeness, and quality
- ✓ Scientific merit (hypothesis, methods, results, and discussion)
- ✓ Research background (i.e. literature search) for the topic; comprehensive? superficial?
- ✓ Project logbook that documents the project and supports the poster
- ✓ Student interview student
- ✓ Importance or applicability of project to real world problems (even if obvious to the judges)

For more information, contact Cassandra Johnson Gaither, U.S. Forest Service, Forestry Sciences Lab, 320 Green St., Athens, GA 30602. Email: [cjohnson09@fs.fed.us](mailto:cjohnson09@fs.fed.us); 706.559.4270.