

Science Club News



Science Pioneers

► **SCIENCE PIONEERS, Inc.**, is a Kansas City nonprofit organization founded in 1956 to foster and encourage youth in the study and understanding of science.

Science Pioneers is the sponsor of the Greater Kansas City Science Fair, which was host to the International Science Fair in 1961 and will again be host in 1971. This year, nearly 10,000 requests for science fair entry blanks were received from the primary and secondary schools in the five-county metropolitan Kansas City area.

Of course, since there is space for only 1,000 exhibits at Municipal Auditorium, run-off preliminary fairs are held.

Support comes from a cross section of American societies and public-spirited groups. Support, of course, is necessary to maintain a year-round activity of such great scope. Science Pioneers has a great many activities besides science fairs.

Science Pioneers is working with the Recreation Division of the Kansas City Welfare Department to set up a Natural Science Summer Camp at Camp Hope Nature Center in Swope Park.

These programs are designed for boys and girls 10 to 14 years of age. Science Pioneers sends application blanks to all the area schools, and those interested may call for additional information. The campers will learn how animals live in the fields, woods, streams and ponds; how to preserve natural resources against erosion and improper treatment; how to improve the land to provide more food and nesting sites for animals.

Also, visiting scientists will give evening lectures. A high point of summer evenings includes study of the stars and planets with a 16-inch telescope.

Science Pioneers is interested in college students, too. A series of lectures by scientists from area firms on Saturday mornings is being attended by 50 to 100 students selected by the science faculties of the 18 regional colleges and universities. Talks and demonstrations have been given by scientists from Kansas University Medi-

cal Center, Butler Manufacturing, Bendix, Chemagro, Gustin-Bacon, Spencer Research Center and Midwest Research Institute. The audience travels to the home base of the scientists for these lectures.

Another activity is the Dr. Max H. Thornton Essay Award, named for the first president of Science Pioneers, who died in 1961.

Entries are judged for their clarity, vigor of style, organization and content. Science is not dull, and writing an essay to catch the attention of as wide an audience as possible, without compromising the integrity of the subject matter, is the best way to prove it.

Permanent display facilities at the Kansas City Museum have been established through funds raised by the Bacchus Ball, a social event in Kansas City. Outstanding science fair exhibits are shown, and the Science Pioneers Room is one of the most popular areas of the Museum.

Science seminars co-sponsored by the Kansas Academy of Sciences, Science Pioneers and the National Science Foundation, are held for high school science students. Over 250 students attend, and a typical meeting might begin with a scientific paper on lasers and masers, the language of the bee, or computer theory, delivered by a recognized authority, and might proceed with papers by the students from the more than 50 participating high schools.

Science Pioneers is a going concern, and will be happy to share information. They are at Linda Hall Library, 5109 Cherry Street, Kansas City, Mo.

Won't you share news and views of your science club with others, too? Send a full report to Science Clubs of America, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

• *Science News*, 89-324 April 30, 1966

SPACE

'Bean Bag' May Replace Astronauts' Couches

► **COMPLEX SEATS** that have been made to support astronauts over every available square inch of body surface may be fine for one man but less than ideal for another.

Future space missions, however, may put an end to the spaceman's "personal perch."

Mercury astronauts were the most pampered of all. Molds were actually made from their bodies in wet sand, later in plaster. Their seats were then cast in the molds.

By the time Project Gemini got underway with Astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom and John Young, scientists had learned that acceleration, zero-gravity and blood circulation were not quite as critical as they had thought. The Gemini seats were adjustable rather than rigid with only the back panel molded to fit the individual astronaut's spinal contour.

Long-life space stations with rotating crews make universal seating a necessity. Interplanetary space flights may well suffer from undermanning due to weight limitations, and the resultant need for each man to "fill several chairs."

One solution has been suggested by the Northrop Corporation, Beverly Hills, Calif., which has devised a "bean bag" full of millet and other seeds to fit in a couch framework and serve as a mattress.

An astronaut would sit on the bag, which would form itself to the exact contours of his body. Then all the air would be drawn out of the bag, letting the normal cabin pressure maintain the cushion's general shape. Straps and other spacesuit fittings would sink into the bag rather than into the astronaut.

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You are cordially invited to attend the
17th International Science Fair
A Science Service Youth Activity

Dallas Memorial Auditorium, Dallas, Texas

More than 420 exhibits from 227 regional, state and nation-wide science fairs will be shown, including international participation from Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, Philippines, Puerto Rico and Sweden.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, MAY 12 and 13

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Finalists will be present

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

17th International Science Fair closes Friday, 9:30 p.m.