

Family science event is Saturday at JCC

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North country students in grades 5 to 12 will be able to get a glimpse of how a science fair works Saturday when they compete with families in the region's Family Science Adventure.

Students and their families will complete mini-projects that essentially go through the scientific method, and they will be judged as if they were competing in a science fair.

Mary Eileen Wood, director of the Tri Region Science and Engineering Fair, said children will learn what they can expect when they participate in the Tri Region fair in March.

"It's like a sneak peek, but they actually get to do the science," she said. "Kids walk through the process of the scientific method, which is ask a question, find ways to explore and see if you can come up with an answer."

Families can participate in the Family Science Adventure from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Jules Center at Jefferson Community College.

The event is a partnership with JCC and the Sci-Tech Center of Northern New York. Funding comes from a three-year grant in the amount of \$6,000 from the Northern New York Community Foundation.

By the time students and their families complete Family Science Adventure, they will have completed a project, been interviewed, had an awards ceremony and walked out with a prize.

"What's exciting is the process in doing this — a quick three-hour you're in and you're out kind of thing, and they'll have all the tools they need to do the same thing in a topic that fascinates them," Ms. Wood said.

Materials will be provided.

Ms. Wood said younger students will be able to do activities such as compare the number of seeds in fruits, while older students will be able to do more complex work such as removing strands of DNA from strawberries.

Stephen A. Karon, director of the Sci-Tech Center, said he hopes Saturday's event will get students excited for the Tri Region fair in March.

Saturday's event "is to motivate everyone, and for them to begin to think what their project might be," he said. "We've talked with some Watertown schools this past spring and there's definitely the desire we can see as far as having a regional fair."

As a thank you to the Sci-Tech Center and JCC for participating, students and their families will be asked to help create a mural for both of them.

Ms. Wood said any art teachers or artists who would like to assist in that effort should e-mail her at trsef@verizon.net.