

CWSF 2014 - Windsor, Ontario



Niki Manesh

To Paraben or Not to Paraben?

Challenge: Health

Category: Junior

Region: Greater Vancouver

City: Coquitlam, BC

School: Summit Middle School

Abstract: Parabens are a type of preservative used in approximately 85% of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and skincare products in Canada. They are proven to be harmful to both our health and the environment, and are linked to causing cancer. The purpose of this experiment was to find out if essential oils can be used as an alternative preservative to parabens, which overall, was found to be supported.

Biography

Niki Manesh is an eighth grade student at Summit Middle. She enjoys fencing, reading, writing, and obsessing over the ingredients in products. Niki plays five musical instruments, including the piano, and she is working towards her RCM ARCT. She constantly has her nose in a book and is currently writing her own novel. Niki's poems and short stories have been published both online and in local/provincial magazines and papers. She also has a passion for the sport of fencing. Niki tutors, volunteers for various position around the community, and is part of the student council at school. This is her first Canada-Wide science fair, though she has participated in regionals twice before. She got the inspiration for her project by conducting a meta-analysis on the harms of synthetic preservatives in a previous fair and then deciding to do something about the common issue in our society regarding harmful ingredients in products. Eventually, she would like to become a biochemical engineer and completely reformulate a personal-care product, so it no longer contains harmful synthetics.