Science Fair Paper Work

~ a few “little” things to remember ☺



Use the website: www.sefmd.org

General Info → Forms

- Overview of Forms and Dates (from ISEF)

- Complete Regeneron ISEF Rules Book (43 pp)
  "International Rules for Pre-College Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs 2026-2027"

The purpose of these rules is to…

- protect the rights and welfare of the student researcher
- protect the rights and welfare of human participants
- protect the health and welfare of vertebrate animal subjects
- protect and promote good stewardship of the environment
- ensure adherence to federal regulations
- ensure use of safe laboratory practices
- determine eligibility for competition in ISEF

Do before starting the project…

- Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1) p. 30
- Student Checklist (1A) p. 31
- Research Plan (instructions) p. 32
- Approval Form (1B) p. 33
- *Risk Assessment Form (3) p. 37

- Required for grades 9-12
- Highly recommended for grades 3-8



New this year

- Student Support Disclosure Form (2A) – required of all senior division students
- Submitted by 2/29/2027

- ALL senior division students MUST complete Forms 1, 1A, 1B, 2A and the research plan and submit with their on-line entry forms

Completing Forms….

- Whether you need one form or many forms, remember:
  - Fill in ALL parts of the form; don't leave questions blank
  - Answer questions accurately and thoroughly
  - Make sure all necessary signatures are obtained
  - Pay attention to dates
    - Ex: "date acknowledged" (must be prior to experimentation)

Science Fair Forms

FORM No.	Form Title
1	Checklist for Adult Sponsor
1A	Student Checklist
--	Research Plan/Project Addendum
1B	Approval Form
2A	Student Support Disclosure Form
2B	Qualified Scientist Form
2C	Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form
3	Risk Assessment
4	Human Participants Form
	Human Informed Consent (suggested template)
5A	Vertebrate Animal Form (home/school/field)
5B	Vertebrate Animal Form (RRI)
6A	Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment Form
6B	Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form
7	Continuation/Research Progression Projects Form

What projects need additional forms? If your projects include…



- Human participants – students participating in activities; surveys; behavioral observations



- Vertebrate animals – live, nonhuman vertebrate mammalian embryos or fetuses, tadpoles, bird and reptile eggs within three days of hatching, and all other nonhuman vertebrates at hatching or birth

What projects need additional forms? If your projects include…



- Potentially hazardous biological agents – microorganisms (including bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.), recombinant DNA, human or animal fresh/frozen tissues, body, or body fluids

- Hazardous chemicals, activities, and devices – DEA-controlled substances, prescription drugs, alcohol & tobacco, firearms and explosives, radiation, lasers, drones, vapes, etc.



IF your project does require additional forms……

- Senior Division students (grades 9-12) must submit all forms for review by our SRC (Scientific Review Committee) by December 1, 2026.
- Junior Division students (grades 6-8) must complete the "simplified SRC Form for Middle School students" and upload it online by February 19, 2027.
- Elementary Division students (grades 3-5) must complete the "simplified SRC Form for Elementary School students" and upload it online by February 19, 2027. NO Potentially Hazardous Agents.



Soooooooooo…… What forms are needed?

If your project uses humans…

- It must receive approval from your school's IRB (Institutional Review Board) before the project is begun.

- Forms must be submitted to our SRC (Scientific Review Committee) by Dec. 1st.

- Additional forms required:
  - ~ Human Participants Form (4) p. 38
  - ~ Human Informed Consent Form p. 39
  - ~ Qualified Scientist Form (2B) if applicable p. 35

If your project uses Vertebrate Animals…

- Forms must be submitted to our SRC (Scientific Review Committee) by Dec. 1st.

- Additional forms required:

  ~ Vertebrate Animal Form (5A) – for projects conducted in a non-regulated research site (home/school/field) p. 40

  ~ Vertebrate Animal Form (5B) – for projects conducted at a Regulated Research Institution p. 41

  ~ Qualified Scientist Form (2B) p. 35

  ~ IACUC approval form from institution

If your project uses Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents …

- Forms must be submitted to our SRC (Scientific Review Committee) by Dec. 1st.
- Additional Forms required:

  ~ Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment Form (6A) p. 42

  ~ BSL-2 checklist may be needed

  ~ Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form (6B) – if tissues, primary cell cultures, blood, etc. are used p. 43

  ~ Qualified Scientist Form (2B) p. 35

  ~ IACUC approval form from institution

If your project uses Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, & Devices…

- Forms DO NOT need to be submitted to our SRC before the project is started.

- Additional forms required:
  - ~ Risk Assessment Form (3) p. 37
  - ~ Qualified Scientist Form (2B) p. 35

There is also a 12-page "Risk Assessment Guide" on the science fair website.

If your project uses Hazardous Chemicals, Activities, & Devices…

- New details have been added this year regarding the safety rating of chemicals, using the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Some projects must be done in a school or RRI (regulated research institution) setting, not at home.

- Conditions are clearly stated regarding projects done in a school lab or home setting.

Engineering Projects & Inventions

- Projects Guide (will be added to “Forms”)
- Some projects may require pre-approval and/or extra safety precautions
- Ex: Are you going to test your project (device, app, invention, etc.) on persons other than yourself or adult sponsor?
- Does your project include any interaction with vertebrate animals in any phase of the project?
- …. And more questions to look at!

Some projects also require….





- Regulated Research Institutional/Industrial Setting Form (1C) p. 36
- -- any worksite other than home, school, or field; research supervised either virtually or on site

- Continuation/Research Progression Projects Form (7) p. 44

Are you totally confused?



The main thing to remember…

- Go to **https://zfairs.sefmd.org**
- Link on resources page: Prior SRC Approval Needed Flow Chart
- ISEF Interactive Rules Wizard (will be part of the project entry form process) – make sure you go through this!
- The "wizard" will ask you questions about your project so you can determine whether you need additional forms! There is also an ISEF Rules FAQ Link.



Next…

- We will see where to find all of this on the website.
- Tim will show us where and how to upload documents when you are entering your project.
- Reminder: Forms can be entered at any time. You do not need to wait until the “deadline date”!!! (Please don’t.)
- We may come back here for a short “true or false quiz”!!

True or False?

- 1. A student who surveys his classmates regarding their study habits does not need to complete any special paperwork. (p. 6)
- 2. A project is not considered a vertebrate animal study if tissue is obtained from an animal that was euthanized for a purpose other than the student's project. (p. 10)
- It is permissible for a student to study the growth of mold on food products. (p. 15)
- A high school student may submit her required SRC forms any time between now and February 19, 2027. (see "what's due when")