



NEIRSEF Notes



Northeast Indiana Regional Science and Engineering Fair

December 2008

www.ipfw.edu/scifair

Letter from the Director

Dear Fair Educators:

The 2009 fair season will usher in a new era in judge's scoring for all grades at the Regional Fair and also new, easier paperwork for junior division (grades 6-8) students.

In 2008, we successfully "piloted" a new scoring form for judges at the junior/senior division level. We will continue to use this form for the 2009 Fair. We also plan to adapt this form for the elementary level. These scoring forms will be available on the website prior to the fair.

In addition to improvements in judging score sheets, there are also significant changes in the junior division paperwork. Since the beginning of this decade, junior division students advancing to the regional fair have been required to follow the same paperwork procedures as the senior division in order for our Regional Fair to be in compliance with the Indiana State Fair. The paperwork guidelines are established by the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and emphasize safety and ethical considerations in research protocol that must be strictly followed by any researcher. Unfortunately these complex guidelines generated a large amount of paperwork that many junior division teachers found difficult to complete with their busy classroom schedules.

Recent changes at the Indiana State Fair have allowed regional fairs to generate their own paperwork guidelines for the junior division. As a result, the NE Indiana Regional Fair Committee approved the creation of new, streamlined forms that would be more "teacher and student friendly" at the junior grade levels. Over the summer, Caryl Spira, Fair Program Assistant went to work on the new regional forms guided by our three primary goals:

- 1) reduce the number of forms and required signatures
- 2) simplify the required forms for research in categories requiring pre-review
- 3) provide forms that help students to consider safety and ethical rules without being overly complex

The objective was to provide forms that help students transition between the elementary division where no forms are required and the senior division where students must adhere to all ISEF guidelines. After hours of work, multiple drafts and reviews by committee members, the new forms were finalized and are now posted on the regional fair website. We are extremely grateful to Caryl for all her work on the project! Since this is the first year introducing the regional junior division forms, we fully expect that they may not be perfect. We welcome your feedback and truly hope that this major change will make your fair "life" easier. Please contact Caryl or me (all of our contact info is listed on back) with any Fair questions.

Carol Dostal, NEIRSEF Fair Director

Highlights of the Changes for Junior Division forms

- ◆ **Only 4 questions to answer on the Pre-Experimentation Review online questionnaire.** If the student answers "YES" to any of the 4 questions for pre-review, a link immediately before they print their Cover Sheet page, takes them to the science fair Home-page www.ipfw.edu/scifair to access the regional forms.
- ◆ **The new regional junior division forms can be filled out on the computer and saved** or printed and hand written. Remember to change file name if a computer is shared or the file will be overwritten.
- ◆ **Faster review processing for Human Subject Projects** by reducing the number of people required to review each project. The form asks specific questions to eliminate the "back and forth" between the student and the reviewer to find the answers. A user-friendly **Consent Form** is provided for students to use with their subjects. As most human subject projects require consent, the IRB chair will indicate the necessity of this consent form when signing the human subject form.
- ◆ **Eliminated the Qualified Scientist form**, instead students are asked specific questions on the form as to who is advising them.
- ◆ **One form, the Regional Checklist, replaces three forms:** Checklist for Adult Sponsor, Student Checklist, and Approval form.
- ◆ **An optional "Research Plan Form" is available** for students which guides them through the questions the reviewer will need. This would be in lieu of a written research plan if approved by the teacher.
- ◆ **What hasn't changed:** All safety and ethical guidelines are still adhered to as found in the ISEF International Science & Engineering Fair Rulebook www.societyforscience.org/isef/document/index.asp



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Junior (grades 6-8) & Senior (grades 9-12) Regional Fair Eligibility

All Junior & Senior students must become eligible to advance to the Regional Fair. Evaluating if the project requires **PRE**-experimentation review is an important step that must be followed to become eligible.

Pre-Experimentation Review or Exempt from Pre-Review?

2 Routes

Any answers Yes=
Pre-Review

All answers No=
Exemption

Go to the Science & Engineering Fair website to begin the online process www.ipfw.edu/scifair/OnlineEligibilityForm.htm

Step 1: You must complete the Questionnaire to access the Online Eligibility Forms. Fill in student information and answer the 4 questions in the Pre-Experimentation Review Questionnaire. **SUBMIT**

If **ALL** of your answers were "NO", a Project page confirming Questionnaire submission will appear with a link to the **Exemption Form**

Step 2: CLICK on this Exemption Form link

- PRINT and follow directions

Step 3: OBTAIN required signatures with dates. **IF** you advance to the regional fair, **MAIL** Exemption form to the Program Assistant at IPFW by March 6, 2009 deadline with paperwork for **POST**-review.

OR

If **ANY** of your answers were "YES", a Project page confirming Questionnaire submission will appear with links to the **Forms*** and to the Pre-Review **Cover Sheet**.

Step 2: CLICK on link for Forms* (opens a new window). Forms may be printed to be completed by hand OR complete on the computer, save, and when finished print for the signatures.

Step 3: CLICK on the Cover Sheet link

- PRINT and follow directions

Step 4: MAIL Cover Sheet and required project paperwork (forms) with required signatures to the Program Assistant at IPFW by January 28, 2009 **PRE**-review deadline.

Forms* = Jr. Division completes Regional Forms for their paperwork

Forms* = Sr. Division completes ISEF Forms for their paperwork

All Junior & Senior division students chosen to advance to the Regional Fair submit their paperwork for **POST**-review by 3/6 deadline.

If your project requires pre-experimentation review, don't begin research until the project has been reviewed and returned **AS APPROVED**.

An email confirmation will be sent to the teacher with the student's ID Number. **SAVE THIS EMAIL**. The URL in the email will enable the teacher to access this student's record as needed including ID needed for fair registration.

For a copy of the International Rules and ISEF Forms for the

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

www.societyforscience.org/isef/

Important Dates

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 by 5 PM

Deadline to submit for
Pre-Experimentation Review Grades 6-12

Friday, March 6, 2009 by 5 PM

Deadline to submit paperwork for POST review for grade 6-12 projects that are advancing to the Regional Fair. For students with projects that were Exempt from Pre-review, this paperwork includes the signed exemption form.

Friday, March 6, 2009 by 5 PM

Deadline to register Grades 6-12 for the Fair

Friday, March 13, 2009 by 5 PM

Deadline to register Grades K-5 for the Fair

Thursday, March 19, 2009 by 5 PM

Deadline to pay \$10 project fee

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Northeast Indiana Regional
Science and Engineering Fair
IPFW Gates Sports Center

For Senior Division projects, ISEF Forms

are required. To ensure eligibility for the Regional Fair as well as advancement to the Hoosier State Fair and the INTEL International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF), please contact us for assistance if you have questions regarding which forms to complete. NEIRSEF is hosted by the IPFW College of Arts & Science and College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science (ETCS).

Carol Dostal, NEIRSEF Director

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