

Junior Division (Grades 4-8) Teacher Project Review

Guidelines for approving projects to be eligible for regional fair awards and/or advancing to state

For projects involving HUMAN PARTICIPANTS

Human participant projects are any that involve humans and include:

- ✓ humans participating in physical activities (even normal, everyday type of activities)
- ✓ humans completing psychological and opinion studies (any questionnaire or survey used)
- ✓ behavioral observations of humans where the researcher **interacts (in any way) with the human participant**
- ✓ when student researcher is the study of the research

These projects require:

A. Consent

Subject's Parent/Guardian must give informed consent BEFORE their child participates in any experiments initiated by another child.

Student researcher creates a consent form (sample available) for their participant's parent/guardian to sign that has:

1. Place for name of participant, parent signature, and date
2. Who is **supervising** the experiment
3. Description of procedures and how the researcher will **protect participants physically, emotionally and/or related to privacy** (Ex: food allergies, creating a stressful situation, not using a child's name in results)
4. Participation is voluntary so **subjects can opt out at anytime**
5. Where experiment will be done

B. A written procedure

Detailed information helps the teacher and the parents make decisions about the experiment and whether there are any safety concerns.

Examples

- ✓ Music, videos, movies, etc.-List them; consider age appropriateness & volume
- ✓ Tasting or eating food or beverages- specific list of the items
- ✓ Exercise - what type and duration. How does this differ from what is done in gym class?
- ✓ Survey or questionnaire-Include questions

For projects involving ANIMALS:

These projects require:

A written procedure

Detailed information to include

- ✓ Who is supervising the experiment
- ✓ Safety precautions for animal and/or researcher
- ✓ Where experiment will be done

Any experiment that is unsafe or would cause discomfort or harm to the animal is prohibited.

SEFI prohibited research/items for Regional fairs Grades 4-8

- Hazardous chemicals or reagents; lasers
- Radioactive substances or equipment that emits any form of ionizing radiation
- DEA controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, prescription drugs, firearms, explosives
- Vertebrate animal research involving pain, withholding food or water
- Bacterial studies of any type (e.g. culturing Petri dishes or slides), tissue, blood, body fluids, biological agent projects that use or study microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, recombinant DNA, prions, fungi, and parasites

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Things to Consider when Choosing Students for Advancement to the Regional Fair

Important: While all schools select students to advance to the Regional fair, the fair conducts a pre-regional fair review of all projects.

- Have they followed appropriate guidelines if they used human or animal subjects?
 - If not, they will not be eligible to win regional awards and/or advance to state and if (during the review of all projects before the regional fair) the project is considered potentially dangerous or has seriously violated state fair guidelines, the regional fair reserves the right to make the student ineligible to attend. This is not a new policy but one that must be considered by each school.
- Did they use items prohibited by SEFI?
 - If yes, the student's advancement to the fair will be in jeopardy and the Regional Fair Director will contact the teacher. Please do not choose projects that use items prohibited by SEFI.
- Are they available to attend the fair?
 - This year the regional fair is being held on Saturday, March 7, 2015.
- How many students can I send to the fair?
 - Review updates below to make sure you select the correct number of entries and grade levels allowed for advancement (major changes effective Sept. 2014)

NEW Junior Division (grades 4th -8th): We encourage schools to send one student from each allowable grade however if you feel your best projects are from the same grade; you may send two from a grade as long as you don't exceed the total allowable entries from your type of school.

- Elementary schools with grades K-5: 2 entries maximum; one project from each grade: 4th, 5th
- Elementary schools with grades K-6: 3 entries maximum; one project from each grade: 4th, 5th, & 6th
- Middle schools with grades 6-8: 3 entries maximum; one project from each grade: 6th, 7th, 8th
- Jr/Senior High Schools with grades 7-12: 2 entries total; one project from each grade: 7th, 8th
- High Schools with grades 9-12: 5 senior division entries maximum

**Team projects (2-3 members) are counted as one entry*

Things to Do to Get Students Ready to Attend Regional Fair

1. Complete information online at SEFI (Science Education Foundation of Indiana) website: www.sefireg.org
 - Research plan
 - Abstract
 - Complete student registration (i.e grade, address, birthdate, project title & category)
2. Pay project fee (\$10 per project) by posted deadline (approx. one week prior to fair).
Checks made payable to IPFW and mailed to:
IPFW
Science Fair Program Asst. - ET 243
2101 E Coliseum Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
3. Print **Fair Date Detail documents** for parents or provide them the link www.ipfw.edu/scifair/FairDateDetails
4. Follow Regional Fair Display Rules found with Fair Date Details www.ipfw.edu/scifair/FairDateDetails