

Update: Jan. 30, 2013

Hello Science & Engineering Fair Teachers:

Thank you for being involved with a local school fair! We appreciate your hard work and support of your students!

2 IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1 --- PRE-EXPERIMENTATION REVIEW DEADLINE FOR JUNIOR/SENIOR DIVISION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF PROJECTS IS TODAY. (Please read #1 below of the Q & A if you do not understand what this is about.)

Today is the deadline to submit to IPFW for pre-experimentation review the project forms of junior division students at the middle school level doing experiments that involve human participants, animal participants, or bacterial studies (the last must be conducted at a school in an appropriate lab under supervision).

Today is also the deadline for Senior Division students to submit ISEF forms for pre-experimentation review. Senior division students have a broader range of considerations for pre-experimentation review and should contact us for guidance.

See the questions/answers below for more details about pre-experimentation review.

2 --- REGIONAL FAIR REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL DIVISIONS IS MARCH 8, 2013

Please remember that advancing students in ALL divisions must be registered for the regional fair by 5:00 on March 8, 2013.

Registration takes place at the State Fair website: www.sefireg.org

For help if you don't understand the process contact us (see contact info. below)

After you have chosen the students to advance, please also remember that Middle and High School students ONLY must submit their project paperwork postmarked by the registration deadline of March 8 for Post-Experimentation Review.

See below #7 of the Commonly Asked Questions for information on what project paperwork must be submitted for the students advancing to the Regional Fair at the middle and high school level.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS from Middle School and High School teachers:

1. What is PRE-EXPERIMENTATION REVIEW and how does it differ from POST-EXPERIMENTATION REVIEW?

A. Some research projects are "special" in that they involve risks or ethical considerations that could be harmful to humans, animals, or the experimenter. To prevent these harmful situations from occurring, as a regular practice, the students doing these kinds of experiments must submit a description of what they plan to do in the experiment (BEFORE THEY DO THE EXPERIMENT) to an objective, knowledgeable expert for review and recommendations or approval. This is vital part of the research process for anyone and one goal of all regional/state/international fairs is to have young people learn these procedures as they continue with Fair projects in the upper divisions.

While only some projects need Pre-Experimentation Review, ALL projects at the middle/high school level must go through Post-Experimentation Review. This "post-review" is conducted to make sure that any project coming to the regional fair in the upper divisions did not violate experiment guidelines that could have resulted in unsafe or potentially unethical situations particularly in regard to human, animal, bacterial or other types of dangerous research. Most projects will "pass" this review without a problem but occasionally some projects should have been pre-reviewed or that a project research procedure was not allowed by the state fair or the international fair. These are rare, but they do occur and when they do, the student may not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition or win certain awards.

2. Has information about these review procedures been announced before?

A. Yes, it is announced every year several times by email and it is also on the Fair website. These review guidelines are established at the state and international level. If you have not heard of them until now or are new at the fair procedures, you may have missed this information because you just now registered yourself as a teacher associated with the regional fair and have not received previous email messages. To get all the updates and keep "in the loop" about Fair information, teachers must register with the regional fair to get on our email/mail list ASAP in the fall. This is the only way we can get your contact information and communicate with you. A letter was sent in the fall to all school principals explaining and encouraging this teacher registration process.

3. What if we don't submit forms for pre-experimentation review?

A: Students who do projects involving animals, humans, or bacteria but who don't submit their forms for pre-review may be found ineligible to advance to the Regional Fair in March or may risk not being able to win awards or advance to higher levels of competition.

4. What forms need to be submitted for middle school students?

A. The Junior Division Approval Form found on the NEIRSEF website under Forms (see link below) and a research plan that describes the experiment including any procedures to keep the animal, people, or experimenter (bacterial projects) safe and protected.

Forms: <http://www.ipfw.edu/scifair/OnlineEligibilityForm.htm>

5. Who and where do we submit the forms?

A. To the Regional Fair Program Assist. Caryl Spira. You can fax to her attention at 260-481-5734 or scan and email to her at spirac@ipfw.edu

6. How long until we hear if the project is approved by the reviewer?

A. The Scientific Review Committee Chair, Katie Malanson (IPFW faculty) will review the research plan and make recommendations and Caryl will get back to you as soon as possible; usually a week.

7. Do other projects need to be reviewed?

A. Other projects that are chosen to advance to the NE IN Regional Fair do not require **pre-experimentation review but they do require post-experimentation review (see #1 for explanation of the difference).**

ALL projects from middle and high school students advancing to the Regional Fair, must be registered by March 8, 2013 at 5:00 PM and must submit project paperwork for POST-EXPERIMENT REVIEW. For information on what to submit for Post Experimentation Review see the Regional Fair website under FORMS. The link to this page is under question #4.

Good luck with your students and your local fair! For further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call either of us.

Regards-

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