

Email Update January 23, 2012

Hello Junior and Senior Division Science and Engineering Fair Teachers:

Thank you for working with your students on fair projects! If your students have the potential for advancement to the Regional and/or State Fair, please note the following items in this update with more details as you scroll down this email message:

1. Upcoming Pre-Experimentation Deadline
2. Reminder: Registering you and your school with SEFI: Science Education Foundation of Indiana in order to register for the regional fair
3. Display Guidelines

1. Pre-Experimentation Review Deadline: Wednesday, January 25, 5:00 P.M.

The deadline for submitting project paperwork for all senior division (9th-12th grade) and junior division students (6, 7, 8th graders) with projects that are in a category requiring the Regional Fair Scientific Review Committee (SRC) to look over the research plan PRIOR to the experiment is this Wed., Jan. 25th

Important: Students chosen to advance to the regional fair with projects in any of the categories indicated when answering yes on the SEFI questionnaire, must submit their research plan and appropriate forms for review. You can see a copy of the questions included on this questionnaire at the NEIRSEF website under Grades 6-12 Eligibility: www.ipfw.edu/scifair

If a student answers yes to any of these questions but does not submit their research plan for review prior to experimentation, they run the risk of being ineligible to attend the regional fair or, if allowed to attend, they would not be eligible to win awards and/or advance to the state fair.

Forms to submit:

Senior Division: ISEF Forms; Students can first complete the on line questionnaire at the SEFI website. From there, they will be directed to the ISEF forms needed for their project. In order for students to do this, the teacher must first register themselves and then follow that by entering their students in the registration system. That will allow students to receive a password so they can enter their project on the SEFI website and gain access to the questionnaire. The SEFI website is: www.sefi.org

For assistance with high school projects ; please contact our office ASAP.

Junior Division: Submit to IPFW the SEFI Junior Division Form with a research plan that clearly outlines the experiment, potential dangers (physical or psychological) to the student/participants/animals, and strategies to reduce any risks and/or protect the student doing the experiment and/or those involved in the experiment.

Where to find the Junior Division Forms and see the Junior Division Rules created by SEFI (Science Foundation of Indiana):

www.ipfw.edu/scifair See the column on the left; Grades 6-12 Student Resources; Regional Jr. Forms

Where to mail all project forms:

IPFW

Attn: ETCS Outreach: Caryl Spira

2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.

Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

The following projects will typically need to be reviewed before the experiment:

a. *Experiments using human participants*: Some examples of this are having one or more people do any of the following: complete surveys or tests of any type; perform different activities or one activity different ways so that the student can observe and record results, tasting or experimenting with using different things for various reasons with student recording reactions, etc. ANYTHING where a person or people are participating in the experiment.

b. *Experiments using animals*: Some examples of this are feeding animals different foods or in different ways to see how they react, treating the animal in different ways to see how they react, taking animals to different locations to see how they react, changing the animals environment in different ways to record their reaction, etc. ANYTHING where an animal's behavior is observed and recorded after the student manipulates things in their environment.

c. *Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents*: Please note for the Junior Division this category is *PERMITTED WITH CONDITIONS*: *Bacterial studies of any type* are allowed only if they are overseen by a trained teacher and conducted in a BSL-1 or higher lab (typically a lab that is in a high school or university). This DOES include culturing items.

PROJECTS NOT PERMITTED BY SEFI for Junior Division

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS EXPERIMENTS IN THE HOME

ANIMAL RESEARCH INVOLVING PAIN OR WITHHOLDING FOOD/WATER

CLASS IV LASERS

2. ALL TEACHERS WHO PLAN TO ADVANCE STUDENTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL TO THE REGIONAL FAIR MUST REGISTER THEMSELVES AT THE SEFI WEBSITE BEFORE YOU CAN REGISTER ANY STUDENTS.

www.sefi.org

3. Display guidelines for the regional fair: PLEASE TELL STUDENTS AND PARENTS THAT ALL PROJECTS MUST ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES OR THE STUDENT WILL BE ASKED TO ADJUST THEIR PROJECT DISPLAY WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE REGIONAL FAIR.

www.ipfw.edu/scifair

See the column on the left of the home page, Grades 6-12 Student Resources or Elementary (everyone follows the same rules) Display Rules

Please let us know how we can assist you by providing guidance on using forms or the use of the SEFI website. For questions/concerns, please contact the regional fair director (contact info. at end of update) or the Regional Fair Program Assistant who can provide phone guidance: Caryl Spira at spirac@ipfw.edu
Phone: 481-5756

Good luck with your projects!

Carol Dostal
NEIRSEF Director

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