

Safety and Consent Form

Texas Middle School Science Fair Students (Junior Division)

Student and Project Information

Team Project:		# of Participants:		District	
First Name		Last Name		Grade	
1				School	
2				Teacher Name	
3				Teacher Email	

Project Title:

This doc must be filled out & signed **BEFORE** the student begins experimentation.

BEFORE Experimentation Begins – Project Safety Concerns and Pre-Approval Signatures

Certain projects require additional considerations and supervision. Read through each of the following restrictions carefully. Determine if any of these apply to your project. Some projects may be subject to multiple restrictions. If any of these restrictions apply to your project, check the box for that area. **If no restrictions apply** only the science teacher signature is required. **Before beginning experimentation**, you will need to obtain any additional signatures listed in the restrictions.

☐ **Human Test Subjects** (Example: surveys, taste tests, play a game or interact with another human in any way)

If you are working with humans of ANY age, you need PRE-approval from a Science Teacher, School Administrator, AND a Psychologist, Medical Doctor or Registered Nurse to make sure your research is safe. This includes the student researcher participating in the experiment or testing their product. During the review, if it is determined that there is more than minimal risk to the human subjects involved in the project, the student must receive written consent from each of the participants and written parental consent for students under 18 years old if required.

Required Signatures: Science Teacher, School Administrator, AND a Psychologist, Medical Doctor, or Registered Nurse. A copy of the surveys or test you intend to use must be attached.

☐ **Non-Human Vertebrate Animals** (Example: fish, rats, rabbits, dogs, cats etc.)

Experiments involving laboratory animals or pets (fish, rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, rabbits, etc.) cannot be conducted in a student's home except for behavior studies on pets. Proper animal care must be provided daily, including weekends, holidays and vacations. Experimental procedures that cause unnecessary pain or discomfort are prohibited. Experiments designed to kill vertebrate animals are not permitted. Death of any animals due to experimentation will disqualify the project. Behavioral studies or supplemental nutritional studies involving pets or livestock may be done at home.

Required Signatures: Science Teacher AND a Veterinarian or other Biomedical/Biological Scientist

☐ **Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents** (Bacteria, Mold, Fungi, Viruses, Parasites, Recombinant DNA (rDNA), Human or Animal fresh tissues, blood or body fluids, etc.)

All Biosafety Level 1 projects can be performed in a school laboratory. **BACTERIA MAY NOT BE GROWN AT HOME.** Standard microbiological practices must be used and all hazardous agents must be properly disposed of at the end of experimentation. The experiment must be supervised by a qualified scientist or a trained designated supervisor.

Required Signatures: Science Teacher AND a Biomedical/Biological Scientist

☐ **Controlled Substances** (Example: Over the counter or prescription drugs, tobacco, and alcohol)

Students must adhere to all federal, state and local laws when acquiring and handling controlled substances. Only under the direction of a qualified scientist or direct supervisor may a student use federally controlled or experimental substances for experimentation.

Required Signatures: Science Teacher AND a Direct Supervisor or Qualified Scientist (the adult monitoring the student)

☐ **Hazardous Chemicals, Substances, Activities, or Devices** (Chemicals, firearms, power tools, welders, lasers, radioactive substances, radiation)

Students must adhere to federal and state regulations governing hazardous substances or devices. An adult must directly supervise experiments. Students working with hazardous substances or devices must follow proper safety procedures for each chemical or device used in the research.

Required Signatures: Science Teacher AND a Direct Supervisor or Qualified Scientist (the adult monitoring the student)

Projects Involving Human Test Subjects

(may require add'l paperwork)

- ☐ Consent forms are required for all participants.
- ☒ Parental consent forms required for all participants under 18.
- ☐ Consent forms are not required for participants over the age of 18.

School Administrator (required for ALL projects)

I have reviewed and approved this project prior to experimentation.

School Administrator Signature

Safety APPROVAL – Psychologist, Doctor or Nurse, Biomedical/Biologist Scientist, Veterinarian (Not teacher or parent)

The teacher, mentor, parent or relative of the student can NOT sign this part of the form to avoid a conflict of interest.

Signature/Date:

New for 2026 - ISEF requires parental consent for any human subjects under 18

Student Name(s): _____

Project Title: _____

This doc must be filled out & signed **BEFORE** the student begins experimentation.

Direct Supervisor or Qualified Scientist:

Students must have an adult supervisor when working on a project that involves controlled substances, activities, or devices. This may be a parent or guardian, a teacher, or a laboratory supervisor. I, the Direct Supervisor, certify that:

- I have read the student's plan and understand all safety requirements.
- I have been trained in the techniques to be used by this student prior to the start of experimentation.
- I will provide direct supervision and take responsibility for the safety of my student(s) and any possible participants.
- I will review the project and make sure that only the student's work will be presented by the student at the fair.

Direct Supervisor's Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Teacher APPROVAL (required for ALL projects)

I have reviewed and approved this student's research plan for to experimentation and certify that it will comply with all the experimental rules of the Texas Science & Engineering Fair.

Teacher Signature _____

Date _____

Phone _____

Research Location:

Locations: Please list the names, addresses, and type of location for each place you plan to conduct your research or work on your problem.

If you work or collect data at a place of business or university, you will need a document showing you had permission to work there.

Facility Type (check all that apply): Home ☐ School ☐ University ☐ Business ☐ Public Facility (Park, Library, etc.) ☐ Other ☐

Location #1: _____

Location #2: _____

Continuation Project: Any project that expands on your previous science fair project by changing a variable or new line of investigation.

Is this project a continuation from last year? ☐

If YES, submit your research plan and abstract from last year and explain how this year's project is different.

Student & Parent/Guardian Signatures:

If this is a team project, each team member and member parent/guardian must sign below.

Students - I certify the following (must agree to all in order to participate):

- ☐ My science project complies with all the experimental rules of the Science Fair.
- ☐ I have attached a written Research Plan for my project, indicating all materials, procedures, and methods.
- ☐ I have attached any additional paperwork required for review (surveys and/or permission to work at business, etc.).
- ☐ I will respect other projects and property.
- ☐ I will treat all fellow participants, judges, volunteers and other science fair staff with respect and courtesy.
- ☐ I understand any violation of the above could result in removal from the competition.

Parents - I have read the agreements above and understand the risks and possible dangers involved in the project plan. I consent to my child participating in this project and I authorize my child to create an on-line account with STEM Wizard to enter necessary information for use with their science fair project. I authorize the publication of photos/videos taken of my child at Science Fair events.

Signature: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian: _____

Date _____

Signature: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian: _____

Date _____

Signature: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian: _____

Date _____

This must be signed **BEFORE** the student begins experimentation.