

Mentorship

Teachers and parents/guardians often support student research. But sometimes students seek an additional person -- a mentor -- who is also involved in directly supporting the student because of their expertise or experience in the field of work related to the research.

Mentors may be paid, unpaid, or provide the student(s) with an internship (paid or unpaid). Mentors may assist the student(s) through the science fair paperwork process, provide a space to work (e.g., access to a science lab), respond to science questions about the project, or help the student(s) meet experts in the field of their project.

Mentorship is not limited to work done in a lab or industry setting only. It can be done virtually, via phone, via e-mail, and/or in person by individuals or through a service that charges for science fair assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to come up with the project idea, plan the experiment or engineering design, perform the research or create the product, write the report, and create the display. As long as the student follows these guidelines, mentorship is allowed but must be fully disclosed.

For the Senior Division, all mentors must fill out a Form 1C. For the Junior Division, students must upload a signed copy of the Middle School Mentor and Research Location Form from their mentor(s) explaining the assistance provided as an additional file in "Files and Forms" in STEM Wizard. All students with mentors must explain the mentorship assistance by answering the questions in the "Submissions for Judges Review" milestone in STEM Wizard. Disclosure must occur prior to the deadlines for those milestones in STEM Wizard.

Failure to disclose mentorship can result in disqualification. Our fair reserves the right to revoke recognition of a project that did not disclose mentorship. All students, teachers, and mentors should review the [ISEF Ethics Statement](#).