

2023-2024 Science Fair Entry Packet



Rules for Science Fair

Rule 1: Science Theme

Your entry must be clearly related to a current science topic or concern. Social Sciences are acceptable.

Rule 2: Contest Participation

You may participate in the research, preparation, and presentation of only one entry each contest year. You may share your research with other students who are fellow participants in your group entry. You may not create a common pool of research from which several entries are developed.

Rule 3: Individual or Group Entries

An individual project must be the work of only one student. A group project must be the work of two to four students. All students in the group entry must be involved in the research and interpretation of the group's topic.

Rule 4: Development Requirements

Entries submitted for competition must be original and have been researched and developed in the current contest years. Revising or reusing an entry from a previous year—whether it is yours or another student's—will result in disqualification.

Rule 5: Construction of Entry

You are responsible for the research, design, and creation of your entry. You may receive help and advice from teachers and parents on the mechanical aspects of creating your entry. You may seek guidance from your teachers as you research and analyze your material, but your conclusions must be your own. You may have reasonable help preparing your project.

Rule 6: Contest Day Set-up

You are responsible for setting up your own exhibit, equipment, or props at the fair. You may have reasonable help carrying them, but setup must be completed by you (and/ or your group members).

Rule 7: Supplying Equipment

You are responsible for supplying all props and equipment at the competition. All entries should be constructed with transportation, setup time, size and weight in mind. You must provide your own equipment, including computers and software, unless the contest coordinator has specified that certain equipment will be provided at the contest venue. Check with the contest coordinator about available resources. Be prepared.

Rule 8: Prohibited Materials

Items potentially dangerous in any way---such as weapons, firearms, animals, organisms, plants etc ---are strictly prohibited. Such items will be confiscated by contest officials. Replicas of such items that are obviously not real are permissible. Contact your contest coordinator to confirm guidelines before bringing the replica to a contest.

Rule 9: Title

Your entry must have a title that is clearly visible on all written materials.

Rule 10: Written Material

Your entry must include the following written material in the order presented below:

1. A title page as described in Rule 11.
2. A process paper as described in Rule 12.
3. A bibliography as described in Rule 13.

These materials must be typed or neatly printed on plain white paper, and stapled together in the top left corner. **Do not enclose them in a cover or binder.**

Rule 11: Title Page

A title page is required as the first page of written material. Your title page must include **only** the title of your entry, your name(s) and the category (individual or group).

Rule 12: Process Paper

All categories must include a process paper with the entry. It must describe in 500 or fewer words how you conducted your research and created your entry. The process paper must include three sections that explain:

1. How you chose your topic
2. How you conducted your research
3. How you selected your presentation category and created your project

Rule 13: Bibliography

A bibliography is required. List only those sources that contributed to the development of your entry. Sources of visual and audio materials and oral interviews must be included.

Rule 14: Separation of Primary and Secondary Sources

You are required to separate your bibliography into two sections: one for primary sources and one for secondary sources.

Rule 15: Plagiarism

You must acknowledge in your bibliography all sources used in your entry. Failure to credit sources is plagiarism and will result in disqualification.

Rule 16: Entry Procedure

You must submit a paper entry form, meet specific deadlines, and follow any procedures established by the contest coordinator. You are responsible for knowing and meeting the deadlines.