



SCIENCE INQUIRY PROJECT & RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINE SCIENCE FAIR RULES

1. All entries to the District Science Fair must come from sixth - twelfth grade students attending a school in the Irvine Unified School District. Entries must follow all Science Fair rules.
2. Each local school will select a specific number of projects to enter the District Science Fair.
3. **For grades 6-12, individual projects or group projects are allowed. Group projects are accepted for groups of 2 - 3 students.** Any group project requires that each student in the group must be responsible for significant contributions to the project. Group projects for middle school students may be from students in grades 7 and/or 8. For high school, the students in the groups may be either all from a single grade, or from any combination of students in grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12.
4. **Exhibits must include a project notebook.** It should be neat, well-organized and displayed within the exhibit. The project notebook must include rough drafts. If work is done directly on the computer, all versions of each page must be included.
5. The work on the project should be done by the student. If any outside help or assistance is given, it must be described in the project notebook (example: advice from a local scientist, parental typing of the project notebook, help with building or setting up equipment, etc).
6. **All measurements must use the metric system of measure when applicable.** Use of standard units (inch, feet, etc.) will eliminate the student from being selected for the IUSD Science Fair.
7. **For INQUIRY Projects:** Only one space will be provided for each exhibit. Exhibits must have outside measurements **no greater than 3 feet wide by 1½ feet deep and 5 feet high.**
8. **For 6th grade RUBE GOLDBERG Machines:** Only one floor space will be provided for each exhibit. Exhibits must have outside measurements **no greater than 3 feet wide by 1½ feet deep and 5 feet high.** All exhibits will stand on the floor.
9. Exhibits must be free-standing and constructed of durable material such as peg-board or heavy cardboard. If electrical hook-ups are needed, arrangements must be made at least one week before the Science Fair.
10. Certification Forms are required **before** beginning your project if the data includes experiments involving human subjects, hazardous materials, live vertebrate animals and/or vertebrate tissue sources.
11. **No live animals may be displayed.** Consider using photographs or drawings instead. If live animals are used in experiments, humane practices must be observed. A Certification of Humane Treatment of Live Vertebrate Animals is required.
12. Student safety is paramount. Any dangerous chemicals, drugs, machinery, or highly flammable materials or open flames may not be displayed at the Science Fair. All electrical equipment must conform to standard electrical safety laws. The district reserves the right to reject projects which are unsafe or unsuitable for display.

13. Students entering projects in the District Fair should be aware that although care will be taken, damage could possibly occur to projects during the time they are on display. The district will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items.

14. Projects may be entered in one of four categories:

Scientific Inquiry: Biological Sciences: Botany, agriculture, forestry, hydroponics, algae, plant genetics, photosynthesis. Zoology, animal genetics, animal ecology, physiology, animal physiology, anatomy, studies of invertebrates, birds, snakes, bacteriology, health, psychology, etc.

Scientific Inquiry: Physical Sciences: Physics, electronics, mathematics, computers, lasers, communications, optics, solid state. Chemistry, physical, organic, inorganic, materials, plastics, fuel, soil chemistry. Earth Science, space science, geology, geophysics, oceanography, geography, astronomy, astrophysics, etc.

Group Projects: 6th Grade Group Projects; 7th and 8th Grade Group Projects; 9th through 12th Grade Group Projects

Rube Goldberg Machines (6th Grade Only)

15. Scientific Inquiry Projects (individual and group) will be judged separately by grade level and by category; for example, 6th Grade Physical Science, 11th Grade Biological Science, etc. Group projects will be judged in three separate categories: Grade 6, Grade 7-8, and Grades 9-12.

16. Rube Goldberg Machines for grade 6 will be judged. **Rube Goldberg Machines are not eligible for the Orange County Science Fair.**