



SCIENCE INQUIRY & ENGINEERING DESIGN PROJECTS

SCIENCE FAIR RULES

1. All entries to the District Science Fair must come from students in grades 6-12 attending a school in the Irvine Unified School District. Entries must follow all Science Fair rules. Students may enter only one project into the Fair.
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 8 or from a combination of students from grades 7 and 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. If work is done directly on the computer, a hard copy must be printed for judges to view.
5. The work on the project should be done by the student(s). 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 & Engineering Design 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.** All props and display items must be contained within this space; this restriction will be strictly enforced at the fair in order to accommodate room for all student projects to be displayed in the limited space.
8. Exhibits must be free-standing and constructed of durable material such as peg-board or heavy cardboard. If electrical hookups are needed students must inform their teacher at least two weeks before the Science Fair.
9. 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. Certification forms can be accessed [here](#) and must be submitted online for SRC Preapproval at ocsef.org. It is the student's responsibility to submit these forms.
10. 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 (see #9).
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. **Projects may be entered in one of two categories:**
 - Scientific Inquiry or Engineering: 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 or Engineering: 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.