

GNOSEF GUIDE FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL

This form has been designed to help you determine what approvals, if any, may be necessary before beginning your science fair project. Review the [ISEF Rules and Guidelines](#) then read through each of question and check any that apply to your project to determine if you need to have your teacher/mentor submit your completed paperwork to the GNOSEF Scientific Review Committee (SRC) for Prior Approval BEFORE you begin your project. If you are working with human subjects, you will need to have your teacher submit your paperwork to your school's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for review and approval prior to uploading the approved paperwork to the GNOSEF SRC for review.

Check the box for any that may apply to your project.

Does your project involve Human Subjects such as . . .

Surveys, professional tests or questionnaires.

Experiments on yourself or others.

Anything that causes emotional stress (i.e., ask questions of a personal nature) or that is not allowed due to federal privacy protection laws.

Exercise or physical exertion.

Ingestion or tasting of any substance.

Student-designed invention/app/prototype.

Datasets provided from sources that are not publicly available.

Does your project involve Vertebrate Animals such as . . .

Your pet(s).

Any other vertebrate animals (except people).

Tissue obtained from an animal sacrificed for your project.

Does your project involve any Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents such as . . .

Mold or other fungus. Bacteria. Viruses. Other microorganisms.

Anything that might make you sick.

Cultured samples collected from the environment(soil, water, other surfaces).

Any species not native to an ecosystem (invasives, non-natives).

Working with Recombinant DNA (rDNA)

Anything coming from or part of a human or animal body. Cheek cells or other vertebrate cells or tissues, teeth, bone, fluids such as blood, saliva or urine. (tissues)

Does your project involve chemicals such as . . .

Any chemical such as household cleaning agents, solvents, metals or organic chemicals.

Does your project involve hazardous activities outside of your everyday activities such as . . .

Being on a ladder, roof, etc.

Igniting objects.

Driving a vehicle.

- Does your project involve using hazardous devices or devices you do not regularly use such as... .**
 - Model rockets.
 - Drones.
 - Laser.
 - UV light.
 - Radiation or radioactive substances.
 - Guns or other projectile implements.
 - Power tools, or anything else that might require a level of expertise to ensure their safe usage or are considered dangerous or hazardous.
- Does your project involve any controlled substance . . .**
 - Prescription drugs.
 - Alcohol, wine or beer.
 - Cigarettes or other tobacco.
 - Gunpowder or other explosives.
 - Any DEA controlled substances or products which the student cannot legally purchase.
- Is your project a continuation/research progression project?**

Project is based on any prior research (immediate or past years). Additional research must be substantive expansion from prior work (e.g. testing a new variable or new line of investigation.)

***Note:** repetition of previous experimentation with the same methodology and research question, even with an increased sample size, is an example of an unacceptable continuation*
- Will your experiment be conducted in...**
 - A college or university lab.
 - Commercial lab.
 - Medical or research facility.
 - Industrial setting (machine shop, manufacturing facility, repair shop, etc.).

If you have any checks on this page, you must discuss with your teacher/mentor what forms need to be submitted to gain GNOSEF prior approval PRIOR to you beginning your project.

If there are no checks, review the ISEF Rules Wizard to confirm your review and to determine needed forms.

ISEF Rules Wizard

<https://ruleswizard.societyforscience.org/>