Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair

Guide to Use of Firearms and Weapons in Science Fair Projects

The regulations below apply to students' use of handguns, rifles, shotguns and other firearms, as well as knives, bows and arrows used in hunting and other similarly dangerous weapons.

School Site Administrator

1. To ensure the safety of the student, any other individual, animals or property in the vicinity of the project, students with projects using firearms or other weapons **must have the School Site Administrator** (principal, superintendent, CEO) approve his/her plans PRIOR to submitting the project to GNOSEF for pre-approval. The **School Site Administrator** will meet with the student and the responsible, qualified **Adult Supervisor** who will personally supervise all student work involving the firearm or weapon. The School Site Administrator will then report their findings to the school IRB for completion of ISEF Form 4.

2. Students must provide the **School Site Administrator** with all of the following:
   a. a completed research plan with detailed written description of procedures and materials/ equipment they plan to use;
   b. a copy of this page which explains the regulations pertaining to the use of firearms and/or weapons;
   c. copies of all state required documentation to indicate:
      1. legal ownership of the firearm;
      2. any federal, state and/or local required certifications for use of the designated firearm(s).

3. The **School Site Administrator** should:
   a. be knowledgeable of the prevailing ordinances regulating the possession and firing of guns or the shooting of arrows, etc. within the city, parish, or county limits in which the student lives and will be working;
   b. inform the Adult Supervisor of all limits and regulations contained in school or district guidelines as pertaining to the student's project;
   c. see and review the student's Hunter Safety Certificate(if a minor, certification of Adult Supervisor); and
   d. complete Part 1 of the Research Approval Certificate. A copy of this Certificate must be submitted with the student's packet for preapproval.

Firearms Risk Assessment Guidelines

To assist students in completing an acceptable risk assessment for projects that involve firearms, the following items must be addressed in the student's research plan and ISEF *risk assessment Form 3. Additionally, all firearms projects require* ISEF *Form 4 be completed by the school site IRB which must include* ***the school administrator****. Once approved by the school site IRB, the paperwork must then be submitted to the GNOSEF SRC for pre-approval. All required safety and risk concerns must be addressed by the student before pre-approval will be considered by the GNOSEF SRC. This will insure that the SRC will be able to review the project's research plan for safety and risk assessment. It does not guarantee that the project will be approved.*

Students must address the following in their risk assessment portion of their research plan and as needed on **ISEF** ***Forms 3 and 4:***

1. All calibers and bullet size *(grain weight)* must be listed, as well as load type *(factory load or home reload)*.
2. Specific type and action of firearm must be listed *(rifle, handgun, shotgun, semiautomatic, pump, bolt, hinge, lever, revolver, automatic, single or double action)*.
3. Identify hearing and eye protection to be worn by all participants.
4. Need to state that all firearms are in proper working order and the barrel is free of obstructions.
5. Location must be in a shooting range unless not allowed by project design restraints.
    a. the name and address must be identified.
    b. Need to include assertions by the student that, "All range rules and safety precautions will be followed."
6. If on public or private land, location needs to be described *(example: Santa Fe National Forest, 13 miles north of the town of Ponderosa on FS road 10, ½ mile east off main road)* and the following are needed:
    a. Surroundings must be described; specifically the area downrange needs to be free of roads, houses, occupied areas, domesticated animals, man-made structures, and anything else that might be damaged by stray bullets at a distance of the maximum range of the gun. There must also be a hill, berm, or other earthen backdrop behind the target.
    b. Target needs to be specifically identified and described in detail. Student needs to identify that this is the only targets which will be fired at during testing.
    c. Need to state that no one will be downrange unless the firearm is holstered or has no round chambered and is on safe.
    d. Need to state that loaded firearms will always be pointed safely downrange.
7. If on private land, signed written permission from landowner must be attached to Form 3.

Air, CO2, BB, Paintball Guns

1. Type needs to be listed and described *(spring, pump, CO2, or paintball, and rifle or pistol)*.
2. All of the requirements for firearms above *(including city limits restrictions)* must also be followed and addressed *in the research plan and on the Form 3.* .

Any other object launching device *(including, but not limited to, catapults and trebuchets)*

1. Type needs to be listed and described
2. Safety precautions concerning possible human, animal, or property damage must be addressed *(including the wearing of eye protection) in the research plan and on the Form 3.*

Archery Equipment

1. Type and draw-weight of bow needs to be listed.
2. Arrowhead type needs to be stated *(field points, target points, blunt tips)*.
3. Description of how you will be following the requirements for firearms above must be included *in the research plan and on the Form 3.*

Model Rockets Including Bottle Rockets

1. Types and maximum height ratings must be listed.
2. Eye protection must be worn.
3. The requirements for firearms above must be followed and included *in the research plan and on the Form 3*...

Research Approval Certificate For Firearms Use in Projects

PART I (*Must be filled out PRIOR to beginning any work on project.)*

I certify that I have met with_____,
(*printed name of student*)
and have reviewed his/her project. The Adult Supervisor, _____, will supervise the actual work with firearms or hazardous substances and has agreed to be responsible for this student's compliance with safety instructions and with Federal or State law or local ordinances and GNOSEF Rules.

Signature of _____Position_____Date_____
School Site Administrator

School/District _____Phone _____

PART II *(Fill out when project is COMPLETE.)*

This is to certify that I, _____
(printed name of Adult Supervisor)
supervised the entire Project submitted by_____
(printed name of student)
and that the Project has been conducted in compliance with the instructions given by the **School Site Administrator** mentioned above and with the ISEF and Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair Rules.

Signature of Adult Supervisor_____Date_____