

Safety and Ethical Guidelines

The goal with science fair, and all other student research is for the students to learn about the world around them in a safe and respectable manner. Student research in science often starts out as a quest to answer a simple question, but may turn into a complex collection of data and information that can raise some questions about safety, ethics and confidentiality. All teachers must approve student research before research begins. Projects that are completed without teacher approval are not eligible to participate at the regional fair and will be sent home before judging. It is the responsibility of the teacher or school contact to review safety and ethical guidelines with their students and forward safety and ethics questions to the regional science fair committee.

Chemical-Fire Safety Guidelines:

1. No toxic, radioactive or flammable materials may be displayed.
2. Open flames are not permitted.
3. No pressurized containers may be displayed.
4. Chemicals involved in projects may be represented by models or artificial samples.

Material-Electrical Safety Guidelines:

1. All electrical devices must be CSA approved.
2. Student constructed electrical devices must be properly insulated and grounded and inspected by an electrician. No bare wires are to be present unless contained inside the display.
3. No electrical devices that produce a voltage greater than 36V may be displayed.
4. Sharp or dangerous objects or devices must be guarded and protected. Models are recommended where possible.

Biological Safety Guidelines:

1. No bacteria, viruses or other pathogens may be displayed.
2. All plants must be modeled or displayed in a covered display.
3. Animal studies must be done under the supervision of a qualified adult.
4. No live or dead animals may be displayed. (Photographs may be used.)
5. All human and animal research must conform to YSF guidelines. (<http://www.yzf.ca>)
6. Projects involving the ingestions of food, drugs or natural products or the alteration of the regular diet of an individual **are not** permitted unless carried out in coordination with a licensed research facility and the prior approval of the researcher and the Strait Regional Science Fair Committee.

Ethical Guidelines:

1. No vertebrate animal may be harmed during research.
2. Before any research involving humans begins, researchers must have informed consent from all research subjects and their parents when necessary. (Including survey type projects.)
3. Human research that may cause undue duress to research subjects must be discussed and approved by appropriate medical personnel.
4. National guidelines are available at <http://www.yzf.ca/Members/pdirectory4.aspx>.