

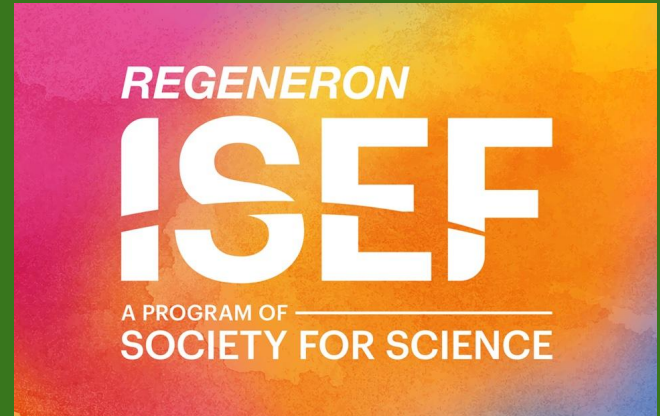
Agenda

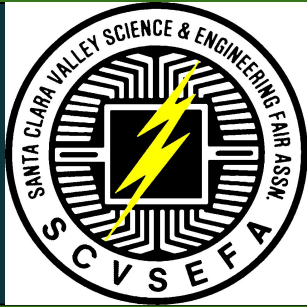
- What is the science fair?
- Who can sponsor student projects and what does that entail?
- Completing a project application
- OPTIONAL - How to support student scientists in defining and completing their science fair projects

Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship

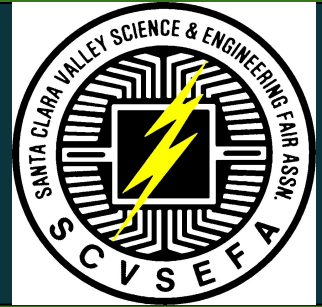


Local science competition providing qualification to state/national fairs





About the Championship



- ❑ Early-Mid March
- ❑ In-Person
- ❑ See the website for application submission and all other deadlines

Visit www.science-fair.org



Sponsoring Science Fair Projects

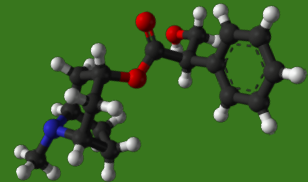
- Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that students conduct their own experiments and do so in a safe manner.
- Teachers sponsor science fair projects. Parent sponsored projects may be accepted from schools where no teachers sponsored last year.
 - Teachers may only sponsor a limited number of projects
 - There are also limits on the total number of projects that a school may submit. Visit our [Application Limits](#) page for details.
- Sponsors should discuss experimentation plans with student(s) to ensure that it can be done safely. Once the sponsor is satisfied, they need to sign application paperwork where required.

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Ensuring student(s) safety.
- Ensuring student(s) actually completed the claimed experimentation.
- Enabling effective communication between student(s) and Science Fair personnel including reviewing and signing appropriate forms.
- Sponsor does not have to personally supervise experimentation or communicate directly with Science Fair personnel.

Types of Projects

- Engineering, Math, Computer Science
- Product Testing in grades 6-8 only
- See website for Engineering PPT
- See link for [Minimum Quality Requirements](#)
- See special rules for projects involving hazards, vertebrates, humans. (Apps that involve medical or mental health may not be done without a doctor as a supervisor & require pre-approval)



Stay Away From

- Pouring Coke on things, plants in Miracle-Gro
- Testing different colors of light on plants
- Anything that starts with “I want to find out what happens when...”
- No experimentation with prion like proteins
- No culturing anything at home in Petri dishes
- For more No-No's see our [list](#) on the website

Supporting Student Project Definition

- Teachers can be as involved as they wish beyond ensuring safety
- Students underestimate how much background research is required
- Students tend to assume they can't do something if they don't have a specific instrument but there is almost always a work around – creativity is rewarded.
- Students are generally poor at planning
 - Developing their proposal early enough for modifications before deadline
 - Ordering materials in time – scientific materials aren't from Amazon!
 - Completing experiments early enough for analysis and poster/abstract preparation
 - Note that completed abstracts must be turned in 2 weeks before the fair

Project applications

- Applications are filled out online
- Application due dates depend on whether SRC pre-approval is required. See website for exact deadlines.
- There are some forms required for all projects and others that are project specific – use the [ISEF Rules Wizard](#) which can be found on our website.
- Most forms should be filled out and saved before uploading.
- Once an application is filed, use check application status to know when it is accepted.

What projects need SRC pre-approval?

1. Human subjects (even questionnaires & testing apps).
2. Vertebrate animals (fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals)
3. Potentially hazardous biological agents (bacteria, fungi, viruses, rDNA, tissues. (no culturing at home)
4. Hazardous chemicals, devices and activities.
5. If there is any question, file before the SRC pre-approval deadline.

NOTE: Students who have previously participated in any ISEF affiliated fair must apply before the pre-approval deadline – this doesn't mean that they necessarily need SRC pre-approval

Required Forms

→ Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)

- ◆ This is your check sheet. Be sure your Adult Sponsor signature is dated prior to experimentation. We strongly recommend pre approval for all chemicals.
- ◆ For a team project, only 1 Adult Sponsor Form is required in your Forms Folder.

→ Student Checklist (1A)

- ◆ The Team Leader completes this for a team project AND only 1 is required in your Forms Folder.
- ◆ For a team project, list the location where the team will conduct the experimentation.

→ Approval Form (1B)

- ◆ Required for each team member, with signatures dated prior to experimentation.

→ Student Permission and Hold Harmless Agreement

- ◆ Required for each team member, with a signature dated prior to experimentation.

→ Photo/Video/Website/Media Release Form

- ◆ Required for each team member

→ Ethics Statement

- ◆ Required for each team member

→ Research Plan

- ◆ Review SCVSEFA's [Research Plan Instructions](#) and **Minimum Quality Requirements**.

Additional Forms

- **Form (3)** Risk Assessment (Required for any project using hazardous chemicals, activities or devices, and microorganisms that are exempt from pre-approval. Submit BEFORE experimentation begins.) SCVSEFA likes to see all chemical projects.
- **Form (4)** Human Participants (Required for SRC/IRB pre-approval of any project involving human participants. Submit BEFORE experimentation begins.)
- **Sample** Human Informed Consent (Sample consent form is required for ANY project involving humans)
- **Form (2A)** Student Support Disclosure Form
- **Form (2B)** Qualified Scientist (Required for any project involving humans, vertebrate animals, potentially hazardous biological agents (BSL2 level projects) and controlled substances. Submit BEFORE experimentation begins.)
- **Form (2C)** Regulated Research Institutional / Industrial Setting (After experimentation)

Additional Forms Continued

- **Form (5A)** Vertebrate Animal project done at Home/School (Not permitted at this fair)
- **Form (5B)** Vertebrate Animal project done at RRI (SRC pre-approval required; submit BEFORE experimentation begins.)
- **Form (6A)** Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents Risk Assessment (SRC pre-approval required; submit BEFORE experimentation begins.)
- **Form (6B)** Human & Vertebrate Animal Tissue (SRC pre-approval required; submit BEFORE experimentation begins.)
- **Form (7)** Continuation/Research Progression Projects, required for all returning students (complete application before pre-approval deadline even if SRC pre-approval is not required for the project)

Completed Application

Online application folder must contain:

- **Required Forms**
- **Signature / Dates**
*Signature dates MUST be before experimentation begin date
- **Sponsoring Teacher:** Who can sponsor?
- **Projects with potential risks must have SRC/IRB pre-approval.** Do I need SRC pre-approval? See our [Eligibility & Rules](#) page.
- **Payment or Voucher Code is needed to complete application process** (Admins CAN NOT complete the application process unless it has been paid)

CONTACT US

Use our [Contact Us](#) page or email us
directly:

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We hope this is the beginning of great things to come!

