Ethics Statement

Student researchers are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Scientific fraud and misconduct are not condoned at any level of research or competition. This includes plagiarism, forgery, use or presentation of other researcher's work as one's own and fabrication of data. Fraudulent projects will fail to qualify for competition in the Conference Science Exhibit and Fair during Festival Expo. Conference personnel (employees or designated representatives) reserve the right to revoke recognition of a project subsequently found to have been fraudulent.

Eligibility/Limitations

1. Each school may send to Festival Expo is designed to be done in looping. Therefore, grade bands have been joined. Each school may send one project for each of the following grade bands: 3 &4; 5 & 6; 7 & 8; high school.

2. A student must be selected by their school during a school science fair, and meet both of the following:
    a. be in grades 3-12; and
    b. currently enrolled in a South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventist school.

3. English is the official language of the Festival Expo. Student project boards and abstracts must be in English.

4. Each student is only allowed to enter one project. That project may include no more than seven months of continuous research and may not include research performed before August of the current school year.

5. Team projects are not permitted.

6. Projects that are demonstrations, 'library' research or informational projects, 'explanation' models or kit building are not appropriate for the Festival Expo.

7. All sciences (physical, life, earth/space) are represented at the Festival Expo.

8. A research project may be a part of a larger study performed by professional scientists, but the project presented by the student must be only their own portion of the complete study.

Requirements

General

1. All projects must adhere to the Ethics Statement above.

2. It is the responsibility of the student and the school principal to evaluate the study to determine if the research will require forms and/or review and approval prior to experimentation, especially projects that include human participants, vertebrate animals, or potentially hazardous biological agents.

3. Projects must adhere to local, state and U.S. Federal laws, regulations and permitting conditions. In addition, projects part of a larger study performed by professional scientists conducted outside the U.S. must also adhere to the laws of the country and jurisdiction in which the project was performed.

4. The use of non-animal research methods and the use of alternatives to animal research are strongly encouraged and must be explored before conducting a vertebrate animal project.

5. Introduction or disposal of non-native and/or invasive species (e.g. insects, plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates), pathogens, toxic chemicals or foreign substances into the environment is prohibited. It is recommended that students reference their local, state or national regulations and quarantine lists.

6. Festival Expo exhibits must adhere to SAC display and safety requirements.

7. All projects must adhere to the requirements of the local school science fair in which it competes to qualify for participation in the Festival Expo. School fairs may have additional restrictions or requirements. Knowledge of these requirements is the responsibility of the student and parent.

Approval and Documentation

1. Before experimentation begins, a local or regional Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Scientific Review Committee (SRC) associated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) must review and approve most projects involving human participants, vertebrate animals, and potentially hazardous biological agents.

   Note: If a project involves the testing of a student designed invention, prototype or concept by a human, an IRB review and approval may be required prior to experimentation.

2. A qualified, professional scientist is required for all studies involving Biosafety Lab-2 (BSL-2) potentially hazardous biological agents and DEA-controlled substances and is also required for many human participant studies and many vertebrate animal studies.

3. After experimentation, each student must submit a 250-word, one-page abstract which summarizes the current year's work. The abstract must describe research conducted by the student, not by the supervising adult(s).

4. A project data book and research paper are not required, but are strongly recommended for judging purposes. Regional or local fairs may require a project data book and/or a research paper.

5. All signed forms, certifications, and permits must be available for review by all. This review must occur after experimentation.

Digital Paperwork and Signatures

Submission of forms generated by a digital system are allowable under the following conditions:

1. The forms must have the same content and order as the Intel ISEF forms.

2. Digital signatures must have a verification system via login and have a time and date stamp to indicate this authentication.

3. Paperwork submitted to Society for Science & the Public for Intel ISEF must be scanned and submitted via the online portal.

Continuation/ Research Progression of Projects

1. As in the professional world, research projects may build on work performed previously. A valid continuation project is a sound scientific endeavor. Students will be judged only on laboratory experiment/data collection performed over seven continuous months beginning no earlier than August of the Current school year through March of the current school year.

2. Any project based on the student's prior research could be considered a continuation/research progression project. These projects must document that the additional research is a substantive expansion from prior work (e.g. testing a new variable or new line of investigation). Repetition of previous experimentation with the same methodology and research question, even with an increased

sample size, is an example of an unacceptable continuation.

3. The display board and abstract must reflect the current year's work only. The project title displayed in the finalist's booth may mention years (for example, "Year Two of an Ongoing Study"). Previous years' databooks, research papers and supporting documents may be at the booth if properly labeled as such.

4. Longitudinal studies are permitted as an acceptable continuation under the following conditions:

    a. The study is a multi-year study testing or documenting the same variables in which time is a critical variable. (Examples: Effect of high rain or drought on soil in a given basin, return of flora and fauna in a burned area over time.)
    b. Each consecutive year must demonstrate time-based change.
    c. The display board must be based on collective past conclusionary data and its comparison to the current year data set. No raw data from previous years may be displayed.

5. All projects must be reviewed and approved each year and forms must be completed for the new year.