

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Our rules for the Science Fair seek to allow maximum creativity and exploration of ideas for the student, while still remaining safe and logistically feasible.

1. All work presented must be the student's work. Outside parents, teachers and professionals can work as guides and can supervise the investigation, but should not take part except in cases of safety. Parents cannot participate in the preparation or presentation, except to help with materials and act as an audience for practice.

2. All outside assistance and research needs to be cited, using the citation sheet included in this packet.

3. Projects may be completed by an individual or in a group of up to six students.

4. Projects involving animal subjects or animal data are limited to the following: Use of data from pre-existing, publicly available resources; and use of data from observational or behavioral projects that involve animals in their natural environment or in an existing observation laboratory (e.g. a university). Non-live animals and insects must not be exhibited and are not permitted for use in this event. Observations can be displayed through photos if the subject does not meet these requirements.

5. Projects involving human subjects, human data or human testing are limited to the following: Use of data from pre-existing, publicly available resources; Use of data from behavioral observations of unrestricted, public settings; and, use of data received and recorded in an anonymous/de-identified format.

RULES AND GUIDELINES (CONT.)

6. Dangerous chemicals, drugs, heat or flame, and explosives must not be exhibited, and are not permitted by municipal/state laws for this event. No project may involve usage or handling of hazardous chemicals. THE USE OF CARCINOGENS OF ANY CATEGORY IS STRICTLY BANNED.

7. Any of the electrical apparatus used in experiments must be built according to standard electrical safety laws. Projects that utilize 100 or more volts may not use push-button switches (doorbell type) or open-knife switches. All projects using 100 or more volts must have a main disconnect switch. All wires must be of the size and insulation appropriate for the current and voltage used. All electrical apparatus of 100 or more volts must be enclosed to prevent users from receiving an electrical shock.

**8. Projects involving biological agent subjects, biological agent data or biological testing are limited to the following:
Use of data from pre-existing, publicly available resources; Use of organisms recorded as being in Biosafety Level 1 (BSL1) and lower; Approved categories include; Baker's yeast and brewer's yeast, except when involved with DNA studies; Lactobacillus, Bacillus thuringiensis, nitrogen-fixing, oil-eating bacteria, slime mold and algae-eating bacteria introduced into their natural environment. Culture of bacteria or fungi within domestic areas is strictly prohibited. Culture where carried out must be in sealed petri dishes under appropriate supervision by professionals routinely engaged in biological agent culture, by participants with access to autoclaving facilities. Studies of mold growth on food items outside of a professional laboratory may only be allowed if the experiment is terminated at the first evidence of mold;**

RULES AND GUIDELINES (CONT.)

9. Use of tissues are limited to the following:

Plant tissue; Established cell and tissue cultures (e.g., obtained from the American Type Culture Collection). Note: The source and catalog number of all cultures should be identified in the Research Plan. Meat or meat by-products obtained from food stores, restaurants, or packing houses; Hair; 8 Teeth that have been sterilized to kill any bloodborne pathogen that may be present. (Chemical disinfection or autoclaving at 121 degrees Celsius for twenty (20) minutes is a recommended procedure); Fossilized tissue or archeological specimens.

10. The student's name and any identifying information may appear only on the back of the project. A copy of the completed registration form should be taped to the back of the display board. Names and faces may not be visible during judging. Awards, ribbons grades from previous assessments must be removed before Reno Earth Day judging.

11. When set up for display, the project must be able to stand on a table or the floor by itself for at least 24 hours. Reno Earth Day staff will not be able to repair a poorly constructed display or in any other way attend to equipment. As it is often necessary to move projects after they are set up, the entire display must be sturdy and easily portable. If display of experimental apparatus is not possible; please use photographs, descriptions, and diagrams instead.

12. Earth Innovations staff reserves the right to remove from display and, if necessary, dispose of inappropriate items as outlined above. Final decision as to the appropriateness of any item is at the discretion of the Science Fair Coordinator.

13. Entrants are responsible for the installation, maintenance, and removal of their projects. All projects must be removed from the California Building by 7pm on April 28, 2019. Leftover projects will be discarded after this time. Reno Earth Day staff will not be responsible for the security of items exhibited.

RULES AND GUIDELINES (CONT.)

14. Entrants will have the opportunity to present an oral presentation of their project for the judges the day of the event at approximately 3:00 pm. Participants are encouraged to present and demonstrate their projects during the event where feasible. If the nature of the project can only be demonstrated once, this demonstration should be saved for the judging. Presentation for the judging should be a maximum of 3 minutes each.

15. All participants in the fair will receive a Certificate of Participation. Category winners will receive prizes from a diverse pool of prizes donated by local business and organizations.

16. Judging will be done on site the day of the event, April 28, 2019. Winners and prizes will be announced at approximately 4:00 pm on event day on one of our prominent stages.

17. The entire program, participating schools and teachers, winners and prizes will all be featured on our event website, press releases and possible public service announcements leading up to and after the event.

