What’s Needed to get SRC Pre-Approval—Before You begin Your Project

Some projects may be covered by the rules for more than one category.

Is your project a continuation of last year’s project?

Yes → Continuation of Previous Project form required for SRC Approval.

No →

Does your project involve:
... experiments with people in any way (this includes asking questions, testing of a student designed invention, prototype or concept by a human)?

(Human Participants)

Yes → IRB approval may also be required. Refer to ISEF Human Participant rules.

No →

Does your project involve:
... any animals that have bones—including your pet?

(Live Vertebrate Animals)

Yes → Student research projects with vertebrate animals which cause more than momentary or slight pain, distress, or death are prohibited.

No →

Does your project involve:
... mold or other fungus? bacteria? virus? anything that can make you sick?
... samples collected from the environment?
... DNA from one organism inserted into the DNA of another organism?
... anything coming from a human or animal body? (for example: cheek cells, teeth, bone, fluids such as blood, saliva, urine?)

(Biohazards - PBHA)

Yes → Projects with PHBA may not be done in the home with some exceptions. Refer to the GSDSEF and ISEF rules for guidelines. Proper disposal of PBHA is required.

No →

Does your project involve:
... potentially dangerous activities, such working in a lab? or igniting objects?
... any chemical such as household cleaning agents, solvents, metals or organic chemicals?
... model rockets? lasers? radiation? or anything else that might be considered dangerous or hazardous?
... consumable alcohol distillation, cigarettes/tobacco products, loading/reloading ammunition are prohibited in GSDSEF projects.

(Hazardous Materials, Activities, or Devices)

Yes → You must complete your SRC Pre-Approval Form online and submit with the Signature Page and any necessary Certification forms with required signatures, and receive SRC approval and/or IRB approval before beginning the project.

No →

No Certification forms are necessary. However, your SRC Pre-Approval Form and Signature Page must be submitted online and receive approval before beginning the project.

All forms are found on gsdsef.org.

Note: Appropriate disposal of biological agents, chemicals, etc. must be noted in the SRC Pre-Approval “Procedures.”

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