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?

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 Subjects)

Yes

Continuation of Previous Project form required for SRC Approval.

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

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.

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

(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?)

(Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents)

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? guns or gunpowder? or anything else that might be considered dangerous or hazardous?
... Prescription drugs, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes or other tobacco products cannot be used in projects.

(Regulated Substances)

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.

All forms are found on gsdsef.org.

Note: Appropriate disposal of biological agents, chemicals, etc. must be noted on project proposal.