

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC)

Elementary & Junior Division Projects

It is imperative that all projects involving Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and/or Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents MUST obtain project approval by an IRB or SRC prior to starting the project. Failure to obtain prior approval will result in disqualification at AzSEF. If your school does not have an IRB or SRC contact gutierrezj@azscience.org

In the lower grades, where the projects may be less complicated, teachers, parents, or family friends will often say that it is "OK for a project to proceed", especially if the test subject is family pet or if the human subjects are family or friends. However, all projects competing at any level involving humans or vertebrates must receive prior approval from an IRB or SRC.

All such projects, no matter how innocent they may appear, must be reviewed by an SRC/IRB committee, prior to starting the project. We have created a special SRC form that is easy to complete and will be quickly reviewed. For those who are unsure if they need project approval by the SRC or IRB contact gutierrezj@azscience.org. It is important that a school IRB or SRC comply with the Intel ISEF Rules & Guidelines and also take into consideration any and all district policies regarding safety of the student, subjects, and property involved. Failure to comply with such guidelines will result in disqualification at AzSEF.

Mold & Bacteria projects

Mold - bread mold projects may be allowed at home ONLY if the study is stopped as soon as the mold is seen. I.e., as soon as mold starts to grow, the bread is thrown away.

Bacteria

At NO time is bacteria culturing allowed at home. Samples may be collected at home or in the environment, but they must then be taken to a laboratory (*School or lab*) to be grown. Please review [ISEF rules](#) for specifics regarding the type of bacteria that can be grown in a BSL 1, etc.

Following information will need to be submitted with your form:

- **Written statement of the problem or question being addressed.** Explain why are you doing this study? This should include a justification statement and an explanation of why other alternatives are not used (*especially if humans or animals are used*).
- **Detailed description of the methods, procedures and safety processions to be used.** This must include chemical concentrations, drug doses, number of experiments to be run, etc.
- **Bibliography/References** should include at least three reviews (*i.e., peer review journal articles, books*) from your library and Internet search. If you

plan to use animals, an additional reference regarding animal care must be included.

Specific items SRC members consider in reviewing a project include:

- Evidence of library/literary search (*Internet, Journals, Books, etc*)
- Evidence of proper supervision
- Use of accepted research techniques
- Completed forms, signatures and dates
- Evidence of search for alternatives to animal use
- Humane treatment of animals
- Compliance with rules and laws governing proper care and housing of animals
- Appropriate/safe handling and use of recombinant DNA, potentially pathogenic organisms, tissues and hazardous substances, devices and activities
- Adequate documentation of the substantial expansion of continuing projects

How do I know if my project has been approved?

- You will receive email confirmation that your project submission has been received.
- Project submissions that require additional information will receive email feedback from the AzSEF SRC.
- If no additional information is needed you will receive email feedback that your project proposal is approved and you are ready to begin experimentation.
- PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 2 WEEKS FOR FEEDBACK.
- Submit a copy of your SRC project proposal and the approval email to your school IRB and at AzSEF registration.