

Steps for Middle/High School Science Fair Projects

1. Choose a Topic: Something that interests the student (hobby etc.).
2. Ask a question or create an Engineering goal.
3. Write a hypothesis (statement as to what student believes the outcome will be).
4. Write a Research Plan following the guidelines of the Intel ISEF Handbook including a bibliography with 5 major sources.
5. Go to our website www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com and find the Rules Wizard link. Answer the questions to know what forms you will be required.
 - a. All projects will require the following:
 - i. Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)
 - ii. Student Checklist (1A)
 - iii. Research Plan
 - iv. Approval Form (1B)
 - v. Official Abstract Form
 - vi. Austin Energy Media Release
 - b. Some projects may require additional forms and prior SRC/IRB Approval:
 - i. Projects involving mold, bacteria, viruses, prions or microbiology.
 - ii. Projects involving human or vertebrate animal tissue
 - iii. Projects involving vertebrate animals
 - iv. Projects involving humans as test subjects (surveys, tests, etc.)
 - v. Projects involving DEA controlled substances
 - vi. Projects that are done in Regulated Research Institutions or industrial settings. (i.e. outside of the home, field or school environment).
6. Make sure the project does not violate any of the following rules:
 - a. No Microbiology (mold, bacteria, virus) cultures can be grown at home. They must be done and stored in a Lab.
 - b. No projects where the student handles firearms
 - c. No causing pain or suffering of vertebrate animals
 - d. No projects studying illegal activities or that break any local, state or federal laws.
7. Fill out and sign the following forms before you start experimenting:
 - a. Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1)
 - b. Student Checklist (1A)
 - c. Approval Form (1B)
 - d. (other additional forms depending on your project)
8. Start the experiment and collect data (record this date on Student Checklist (1A))
9. End the experiment (record end date on Student Checklist (1A))
10. Write your Abstract on the official Abstract Form.
11. Fill out the Media Release Form.
12. Create a Project Display Board
13. Register online at www.sciencefest.austinenergy.com before the deadline. (School should register first) and then each student will register his/her project under that schools name. Print out each registration confirmation.
14. Make copies of all of the paperwork. Do not send us the originals. Get the packets to us via mail or drop off before the Deadline. School packets consist of:
 - a. School Registration Confirmation
 - b. Student Registration Confirmations
 - c. Media Releases
 - d. All Intel ISEF paperwork and forms for each project.
15. We will review all projects and paperwork and ask for corrections if needed.