



2009 Student's Science Project Display Guidelines & Rules for Elementary & Middle Schools

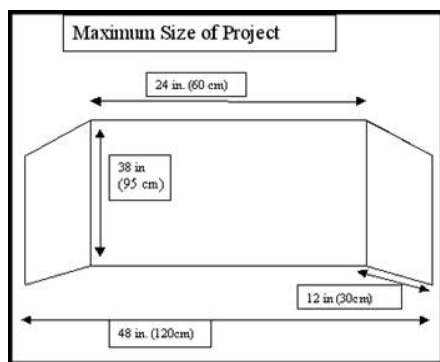
Your Project Display Board should look professional and not too crowded. It should be appealing to the eye and should explain both what you did and what you found. Make sure your poster clearly outlines what your project is about. Judges should be able to "get" what the project is, how it works, and how it was created just from reading the poster.

Pictures are very helpful and often say more than words. Diagrams are also very useful as they allow the judges to follow your train of thought easily and without confusion. Avoid putting up an entire written report; try explaining your project visually with graphs, diagrams, pictures and subtitles. Use color to separate ideas and arrows to direct your audience. Avoid buying expensive presentation tools. Your artistic touch is much more appreciated and shows your involvement in the project. The information does not need to be typed, but it does need to be neat and concise.

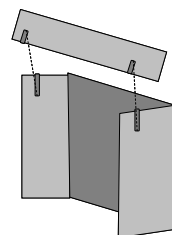
There are a tremendous range of project boards at the regional fair. Some will be simple or elaborate, clear, concise, colorful, and above-all, indicate that the student spent time thinking about, performing and learning something from their project, which we call "good science." Some will look like they were assembled in an hour, because in many cases they were. Remember, judges are keen enough to recognize good, *age-appropriate* science, as long as it is presented reasonably well and it doesn't look like your parents prepared the display for you. You will not be there to talk with the judges, so your board will do your talking for you. It needs to communicate your work well.

There is no way to foresee every situation that may adversely affect the safety of a project display. The prohibited items shown on page two are areas of major concern, but may not include all limitations. You should keep in mind that children of all ages will be viewing project boards. Anything that could injure curious, pre-school age children should not be attached to the board, or should be covered. All project displays will be inspected when submitted to SNRSEF on the first day of the Fair. Fair Inspectors have the right to request that any part of the display be removed or covered, should it be deemed a safety concern, or if it violates the display rules.

Items that must appear on the Project Display Board are: Question, Hypothesis, Methods, Results, Conclusions, Abstract (see the Guidelines), and the Science Log Book in front of the board (not attached). Prohibited items are shown on page two.



Board Specifications: The dimensions of the board shown to the left reflect the MAXIMUM size of the board. Smaller boards are acceptable. Project boards must be freestanding and stable. Boards do not need to be purchased; they can be made out of any material that is free-standing and that meets the size requirements above. Detachable "Header" Title Boards, as shown to the right, are encouraged (but not required), since they stabilize the board. Again, they can be hand-made, not purchased. With the exception of the Science Log Book, all items displayed must be attached to the project board and may not touch the table top or destabilize the project board to the point that it is no longer free-standing.



Science Log Books must accompany the Project Display Board. Log books will be placed on the table in front of the project board. Both the board and the book will receive a numbered sticker at check-in. The student's name and/or school name should appear on the inside the Science Log Book, but should be covered with a "post-it" or similar arrangement before submission, so that it is not visible to judges. Project Display Boards must be accompanied by a Science Log Book in order to compete in the fair.

and grade must appear on the BACK of the project board. As you face the BACK of the board, this information should appear on BOTTOM RIGHT-hand side of the project board (as shown as X in the diagram to the right). Students may use the cut-out label below. Photographs on the front of the Project Board showing the student's face must be covered with a "post-it" or similar arrangement.



NEW - Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval Form: Student's who use animals or humans in their science fair project need approval by the IRB (see IRB Guidelines on this website) must attach the signed IRB form to the board on the UPPER LEFT-hand side of the project board (as shown as ✓ in the diagram to the right). **Projects using animals or humans that arrive at the fair without the IRB will not be allowed to compete.**

Cut out board label:

Student's Name	
Student's School Name:	
Student's Grade:	



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Items Not Allowed at Project

1. Living organisms including plants
2. Taxidermy specimens or parts
3. Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
4. Human or animal food or beverage
5. Human/animal parts or body fluids (for example, blood, urine)
6. Plant materials (living, dead, or preserved) which are in their raw, unprocessed, or non-manufactured state, UNLESS they are in a sealed bag or container (allergy risk); EXCEPTION: manufactured construction materials used in building the project or display.
7. Laboratory/household chemicals, water or any liquid.
8. Poisons, drugs, controlled substances, hazardous substances or devices (for example, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices)
9. Dry ice or other sublimating solids.
10. Sharp items (for example, syringes, needles, pipettes, knives, sharp metal, etc.)
11. Flames, highly flammable materials, or anything that would burn on contact with human tissue.
12. Batteries with open-top cells; bare wires and exposed switches may be used only on circuits of 12 volts or less; provide safety covers
13. Glass or glass objects unless deemed by Display & Safety Committee to be deemed an integral part and necessary part of the project
14. Pressurized tanks
15. Awards, medals, business cards, flags, endorsements and/or acknowledgements (graphic or written) unless the item(s) are an integral part of the project
16. Photographs or other visual presentations depicting vertebrate animals in surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies, or other lab procedures
17. Photographs showing students faces must have faces covered unless consent forms are included; students' names or school name may not appear on the board
18. *Active* Internet or e-mail computer connections as part of displaying the project
19. Any other item or apparatus deemed unsafe by the Display & Safety Committee

Items Allowed for Display BUT with the Restrictions Indicated

1. Soil or waste samples **if permanently encased in a slab of acrylic**
2. Postal addresses, World Wide Web and e-mail addresses telephone numbers, and fax numbers **of participant only.**
3. Photographs and/or visual depictions **subject to the following restrictions:**
 - a. **If not deemed offensive or inappropriate** by the Display and Safety Committee.
 - b. Citations if their origins ("Photograph taken by ..." or "Image taken from...") are attached. (If all photographs being displayed were taken by the participant or are from the same source, one citation line prominently displayed is sufficient.)
 - c. They are from the Internet, magazines, newspapers, journal, etc., and citations are attached. (If all photographs/images are from the same source, one citation prominently displayed is sufficient.)
 - d. They are photographs or visual depictions of the participant with the face covered.
 - e. They are photographs of human subjects for which signed consent forms are at the project.
4. Any apparatus with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points **if for display only and not operated.**
5. Class II lasers (**High School ONLY**) **if:**
 - a. Operated only by the participant
 - b. Operated only during judging
 - c. Labeled with a sign reading "Laser Radiation: Do Not Look Into Beam"
 - d. Enclosed in protective housing that prevents physical and visual access to beam
 - e. Disconnected when not operating
6. Class III and IV laser (**High School ONLY**) **if for display and not operated**
7. Any apparatus producing temperature that will cause physical burns **if adequately insulated.**