

An Ideal Timeline and Rules for a Science Fair Project for Middle and High School Students:

Aug - Oct:

Student selects research topic, begins literature review in library

Oct-Nov:

Student completes literature review; writes hypothesis, objectives, and methods and materials; prepares data book; completes necessary paperwork such as human subjects forms

Dec:

If using either human or vertebrate subjects or any hazardous substances student submits research plan to Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (see below)

Student Submits SMHEA Entry form by January deadline.

Nov - Jan:

Student completes experiment, analyzes data, prepares backdrop, and writes report and abstract.

Feb:

SMHEA Fair will be held at this time; winners selected to participate in SASEF

Student uses online entry site to complete and print entry forms available on www.sasef.com

Student mails SASEF entry forms (if qualified to enter) to SASEF, 2506 EJ Chapman Dr, Univ Tenn, Knoxville, TN 37996-4531 - DUE FEB 28th

Mar:

Student and teacher are informed about acceptance into SASEF (listed on this website), all paperwork issues must be resolved

Student prepares poster; practices for judge interviews

Apr:

SASEF during first week

May:

ISEF (our top two Senior Division projects and Team Project (optional) qualify for expense-paid trip to ISEF)

SASEF Rules

Rules for scientific experimentation are necessary to protect both the student researcher and their human or animal subjects. To satisfy the requirements of an affiliated fair, SASEF must abide by the rules and guidelines of the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), sponsored by the Society for Science and the Public. The rules, including a Rules Wizard, are found at http://sciserv.org/isef/about/rules_regulations.asp.

In general, we highly recommend that middle school students do not conduct experiments with either human or vertebrate subjects, and that there be few if any hazardous substances involved. This helps to avoid additional paperwork to enter the SASEF.

If using either human or vertebrate subjects, or any hazardous substances

If after using the Rules Wizard it shows that the project requires SRC (Scientific Review Committee - for hazardous substances or vertebrate studies) or IRB (Internal Review Board - for human subjects) review, the home school does not need to form its own committees. The SASEF has a regional-level SRC/IRB, and

this group will review your research plan for you. The deadline for submitting your research paperwork to SASEF for SRC/IRB approval is **December 20**. It is best to submit your plan well before this deadline, though, in case it needs revision before it can be approved. Please submit the following information:

- Typed Research Plan - title, abstract, hypothesis, objectives, procedures, bibliography (generally 2-3 pages total); be sure to include information relevant to human subjects, vertebrate animals, recombinant DNA, or hazardous materials if used in your experiment - the more information, the better
- ISEF Form 1B - Approval Form - signed by student, parent
- Additional forms, if required (human subjects, etc.)

Mail forms to:

SASEF, 2506 EJ Chapman Dr., Univ Tenn, Knoxville, TN 37996-453