Student Science Fair Checklist

START EARLY for the next YES Fair

Many students begin planning their research at the end of the school year so that they can conduct research during the summer and fall.

1. Decide what science fairs you are going to enter:
    - School fair
    - YES Fair
2. Find a topic that interests you and research what is already known about the topic.
3. Narrow the topic to a specific scientific problem and develop an experiment to solve that problem. (See the Scientific Method to help plan your experiment.)
4. Discuss the project with your parents and teacher and review with them the ISEF Rules and Regulations, noting the specific rules that might apply to your type of research (i.e. are you working with human subjects or animals or working with hazardous substances?).
5. Write a detailed research plan about how you will conduct the research and obtain the appropriate approvals as needed before beginning research.
    - Develop a hypothesis (Scientific Method)
    - Develop a procedure; investigate to test the hypothesis
    - Make observations and collect data in a project journal (all participants must keep a journal)
    - Interpret the data and observations
    - Draw conclusions
6. Complete the required Intel ISEF forms and any additional local science fair forms required.
7. Begin your experimentation following your research plan and any revisions that those supervising or approving your research have recommended.
8. Finalize your project for presentation.
9. Write the research paper and abstract (Intel ISEF does not require a research paper, some regional fairs do require it; check with your teacher or with your regional fair rules and handbook.)
10. Create the project exhibit board being sure to follow the Display and Safety Rules.
11. Practice your presentation and prepare to answer judges' questions.
12. Present the project at your school Science Fair, and/or your regional Intel ISEF-affiliated fair.

> Projects that involve humans or animals must be approved by the Institutional Review Board of your school or the Scientific Review Committee of the YES Fair **BEFORE** you begin the project.

*Information from Science Service web site