

Guide to ISEF Forms



All students are required to have the following forms:

Form 1: Checklist for Adult Sponsor

Form 1A: Student Checklist/Research Plan

Form 1B: Approval Form

If students are working in a team, each member must submit Form 1B. Team members will jointly submit Forms 1 and 1A.

Depending on the type of project you do, you may need more forms than the three listed above. Please read the guide below or email info@ohiosci.org with questions.

SRC - Scientific Review Committee--typically consists of three members:

1. A school administrator or STEM career/research person.
2. An educator not associated with the project.
3. Biomedical scientist –Ph.D, M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., D.O., or a school Registered Nurse.

IRB - Institutional Review Board--SRC can serve as the IRB if the project is done at a school. If the project is done at a University/College/Research Institute, it must be completed by their IRB. The IRB should include:

1. A school administrator.
2. An educator not associated with the project.
3. One of the following who is knowledgeable and capable of evaluating the physical and/or psychological risk involved in a given study: medical doctor, physician's assistant, registered nurse, psychologist, licensed clinical professional counselor, or licensed social worker.

Adult Sponsor Qualifications--An Adult Sponsor may be a teacher, parent, professor, and/or other professional scientist

Direct Supervisor (DS) Qualifications--Does not need an advanced degree • Must be familiar with the student's project and agree to any training necessary • May also serve as the Adult Sponsor for the project.

Qualified Scientist (QS) Qualifications--Earned a doctoral/professional degree in a scientific discipline related to a student's area of research. Can also be a science teacher.

HUMAN PARTICIPANTS (Interviews, surveys, test prototypes, etc) requirements:

Form 1B: box 2a signature from IRB prior to experimentation/prototype testing.

Form 1C: Regulated Research Institution--when applicable

Form 2: Qualified Scientist --when applicable

Form 3: Risk Assessment

Form 4: Human Participants (**Exempt studies are prototype testing done by students only, public data review, and some observational studies.**)

Sample Informed Consent Form

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (At home, school or field site) requirements:

Form 1B: box 2a signature from SRC prior to experimentation.

Form 2: Qualified Scientist (**Except for observational studies.**)

Form 5A: Vertebrate Animal Form (will need a veterinarian signature)

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (At a Regulated Research Institution) requirements:

Form 1B: box 2a signature from SRC prior to experimentation.

Form 1C: Regulated Research Institution

Form 2: Qualified Scientist

Form 5B: Vertebrate Animal Form

Form 6A: PHBA Risk Assessment--for all studies involving tissues and body fluids.

Form 6B: Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue --for all studies involving tissues and body fluids.

POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (At home, school, field site, OR at a Regulated Research Institution) requirements:

Potentially Hazardous Biological Agents include: bacteria, viruses, molds, rDNA, vertebrate tissues & fluids, etc.

Experimentation involving the **culturing** of potentially hazardous biological agents is prohibited in a home environment. Research determined to be at Biosafety Level 1 (BSL-1) must be conducted in a BSL-1 or higher laboratory. Research determined to be a Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) must be conducted in a laboratory rated BSL-2 or above (commonly limited to a Regulated Research Institution). Students are prohibited from BSL3 or BSL-4 Research.

Form 1B: box 2a signature from SRC prior to experimentation.

Form 1C: Regulated Research Institution Form — when applicable

Form 2: Qualified Scientist--when applicable

Form 3: Risk Assessment--when applicable

Form 6A: PHBA Risk Assessment Form--when applicable

Form 6B: Human and Vertebrate Animal Tissue Form — for all studies involving tissues and body fluids.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, ACTIVITIES, OR DEVICES (At home, school, field site, OR at a Regulated Research Institution) requirements:

There are additional rules for the following regulated areas:

A. DEA-controlled Substances

B. Prescription Drugs

C. Alcohol & Tobacco

D. Firearms and Explosives

E. Regulated Drones

F. Radiation

Form 1B: box 2a signature from SRC prior to experimentation.

Form 1C: Regulated Research Institution Form--when applicable

Form 2: Qualified Scientist Form--when applicable

Form 3: Risk Assessment Form

A helpful tool in determining what forms you need is Society for Science's Form Wizard: <https://ruleswizard.societyforscience.org/>

For detailed ISEF Forms RULES visit:

<https://www.ohiosci.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2025-ISEF-Rules.pdf>