

SRC Guidelines

Dear Sponsors;

It is that time again; time to start thinking about the 2010 MSSU Regional Science Fair. It is also time to start thinking about rules and regulations, SRC/IRB approval, and deadlines. This note is a reminder from SRC about changes we made last year that will be continued this year and to help everyone successfully present at the Science Fair and hopefully beyond.

If you remember, we instituted a change last year regarding Human Subject research and IRB/SRC approval. The policy of requiring local IRB approval **AND** SRC approval before experimentation will again be implemented this year. What this means is that you, as the sponsor, will continue to set-up your local IRB to include a medical professional (must be at the RN level or above), a school administrator, and a science teacher. Once the IRB has read and approved the project, the protocol papers must be sent to MSSU and the SRC for final approval. The deadline for receipt of paperwork is Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. We can receive paperwork by mail, fax (417-625-3169), or it can be hand-delivered to the office (210 Reynolds Hall); we must have the paperwork, in the office, by 5 pm on Friday, Jan. 22 (not post-marked).

We noticed a number of problems with Human Subject research and other types of research requiring SRC approval which could have resulted in disqualification and wish to bring these to your attention.

1. Any type of material that will be given to and seen by subjects must be age-appropriate. This includes lyrics, pictures, photographs, video, movie clips, reading material, surveys, etc. I realize students may already be reading or seeing or listening to items that may not be age appropriate but we must deem these as inappropriate for experimentation.
2. Any type of physical research must be reasonable and age appropriate for the subjects. This includes physical activity (how far are you having middle school children run?) and/or ingestion of food or liquids (including sugar, caffeine, fats, etc) at any one time or over an extended time period.
3. Please don't compromise the subject's health, both physical and mental. A violent movie scene can affect people in different ways and even though the subjects see it on the news, we have to be aware that many things we deem as innocuous may lead to an unexpected result in the subject.
4. For projects involving minors, we strongly recommend a letter be sent to the parents, whose consent is necessary, which includes details of the project and any material the minors will be seeing, reading, listening to, or physical activities they will be performing or foods/liquids they may be ingesting. For example, if the subjects will be listening to lyrics, include the lyrics in the letter. Include amounts and times and details in the letter. The parents need to be aware of what exactly they are allowing their child to do as a participant in the research. This also includes sending survey questions to the parents as some questions may be objectionable. This allows the parents to make an informed decision.
5. Protocol papers for all projects needing SRC approval before experimentation but do not involve human subjects must also be received no later than 5 pm on Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. We can receive paperwork by mail, fax (417-625-3169), or it can be hand-delivered to the office (210 Reynolds Hall).
6. Any project using hazardous chemicals only must have a risk assessment performed (Form 3) but do not need SRC approval prior to experimentation. However, if it involves microbes, vertebrates, tissues, body fluids or other categories requiring prior approval, then it needs to come to us by the Jan. 22, 2010 deadline.
7. Please remember, all rules and regulations are in place to protect all those involved including participants, subjects of research (both human and animal), and sponsors. If in doubt, contact the SRC chair (Dr. Donna Johnson) or members of the committee (Drs. Lemmons or Roettger) by email or phone before deadlines.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication and let's have a Fair to remember!

SRC committee for MSSU Regional Science Fair.