

San Francisco Science Fair Rules and Guidelines

- 1) Work exhibited should be done by the entrant during the current school year. Outside advising from parents, teachers, or professionals is fine, but the student must do his or her own work and appropriately cite any help received
- 2) Fair entry is subject to qualification through an approved school fair or other mechanism that may be established at the discretion of the Science Fair Coordinator, and to timely submission of project displays and registration materials. Entrants must reside and/or regularly attend school in the City and County of San Francisco, and must be in grade 6, 7, or 8.
- 3) Projects done by teams of up to four students in the same grade will be accepted into the San Francisco Science Fair at the Randall Museum, but please note that the regional San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair accepts only projects done by one student.
- 4) **The student's name and any identifying information (school, teacher's name, etc.) may appear only on the back of the project and/or in a single area of the display small enough to be covered by a 3" by 5" card.** Names and faces may not be visible during judging. Awards or ribbons from school science fairs must be removed before setting up a display.
- 5) When set up for display, the project must be no larger **than 44 inches wide by 20 inches deep** and must be able to **stand on a table by itself** for at least two weeks. Museum staff will not repair a poorly constructed display or in any other way attend to equipment. **Because it is often necessary to move projects after they are set up, the entire display must be sturdy and easily portable. Display of experimental apparatus is strongly discouraged; please use photographs, descriptions, and diagrams instead.**
- 6) All electrical apparatus used in experiments must be built according to standard electrical safety laws. Projects that use 110 or more volts may not use push-button switches (doorbell type) or open-knife switches. All projects using 110 or more volts must have a main disconnect switch of a type approved by the National Board of Underwriters. All wires must be of the size and insulation appropriate for the current and voltage used. All electrical apparatus of 110 or more volts must be enclosed to prevent users from receiving an electrical shock.
- 7) In keeping with SFBASF guidelines, electricity will not be provided by the San Francisco Science Fair. Working electrical devices included in the display can be powered only by batteries.
- 8) Dangerous chemicals, drugs, heat or flame, and explosives must not be exhibited.
- 9) No hypodermic needles, blades, glass, or other sharp or hazardous objects may be exhibited.
- 10) **No live or dead animals, plants, or cultures (bacteria, fungi, molds, etc.), soil, food, or liquids may be exhibited;** use photographs or drawings instead.
- 11) **Projects that involve animals, humans (including surveys!), pathogens, recombinant DNA, or controlled substances must meet the ethical and project proposal submission requirements of the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair.** Students not eligible to enter SFBASF (6th graders and teams) need not file any forms with SFBASF, but must complete any applicable forms and file them with their teachers. Students should keep copies of all forms. For more information, see the SFBASF website, <http://www.sfbasf.org>.
- 12) Museum staff reserve the right to remove from display and, if necessary, dispose of inappropriate items as outlined above. Final decision as to the appropriateness of any item is at the discretion of the Science Fair Coordinator.
- 13) Entrants are responsible for the installation, maintenance, and removal of their projects. **All projects must be removed from the Randall Museum by 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2009.** Leftover projects will be discarded after this date. Museum staff will not be responsible for the security of items exhibited.