

2017 Gwinnett Science and Engineering Fair Display & Safety Rules Summary of Common Issues

(Aligned with the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair Rules)

For any situation not listed here, follow the [Official ISEF Rules and Regulations](#)

DISPLAY REGULATIONS

These regulations must be adhered to at the Gwinnett Regional Fair and Georgia Fair.

Maximum Size of Project

Depth (front to back): 30 inches

Width (side to side): 48 inches

Height (tabletop to top): 72 inches

GwSEF projects *must* be exhibited on the tabletop. No floor exhibits. No part of a GwSEF exhibit may be placed on the floor or under the table. All project materials, supports, equipment, and demonstrations must be contained on the tabletop. Displays do not have to be trifold boards; pull-ups and pop-ups are allowed if within allowed dimensions.

Abstract

The complete, unaltered 8.5x11 Official Abstract Form is the only abstract that may be exhibited. It must be displayed vertically, preferably by taping it to hang from the front edge of the table. It is acceptable, but not preferred, to incorporate the form on the display board or to stand it in a document frame (no glass). GSEF Official Abstract Forms do not need to be stamped or embossed.

Binder

Arrange photocopies of all other required forms in numeric order in a three-ring binder placed on the table. Required forms include, but are not limited to, Checklist for Adult Sponsor (1), Student Checklist (1A), Research Plan and Approval Form (1B), etc. Optional items such as a research paper may be included if desired. Do not bring originals to GSEF— save them in case you advance to ISEF.

Log Book

Although ISEF regulations no longer require a bound logbook, judges like to see this item and it is highly recommended. Your logbook should be placed on your table.

Other Items on Tabletop

Other items on tabletop may include a photo album of the work, previous logbooks for Continuation projects, and items that are necessary to demonstrate the science if the board and binder are not sufficient.

Photographs, Visual Images, Charts

Credits: You must cite the source of every photo, graph, chart or other image used, including those made by the student and those taken from the internet, journals and books. Citation examples: "All photographs by Jon Kim," or "Image from www.wherever.com." Put the info right by the photo/item, or, if all images were taken or created by the exhibitor or are from the same source, one clearly visible credit line on the poster or on a "tent" on the table is sufficient.

Content: Photos or images on board must not be deemed insensitive, offensive or inappropriate (e.g., no surgery, necrosis or dissection) by any member of the SRC, the Display and Safety Committee or GSEF staff. The decision made by any one of the groups mentioned above is final.

Who can be in photos: Photographs/videos of people other than the finalist are not allowed unless a signed photograph release form is available at the project (see below).

Photograph/Image Release Form

A photograph or video release form must be signed by each person (other than the finalist) shown in any photo or video. If the person is under 18, parent or guardian signature is required. Sample text: *"I consent to the use of this visual image involving my participation/my child's participation in this research."* Keep these releases in your binder. Note that there is no specific official form for this purpose.

Human Subjects (Middle and High School Projects Only)

Human Subject Consent Form 4

When human participants are involved in a project, their consents (Form 4, part 2) should be obtained but not displayed, as they are confidential. Place a note in your binder stating where these forms are being kept.

****New rule for 2013/2014 and beyond: No human subjects or vertebrate animals allowed in elementary projects****

Audio-Visual or Multi-Media

At the Gwinnett Fair, electronic displays, e.g., PowerPoints or videos, are discouraged unless they are *necessary* to demonstrate the science. Judges are not required to view them, and equipment theft is always a possibility. Displays must be under 30 seconds, with 15 seconds preferred. This limitation does not refer to actual content of programs in the Computer Science category.

Handouts: Only Official Abstract Allowed

The only handout allowed is an UNALTERED photocopy of the complete 8.5x11 Official Abstract Form. You are permitted to bring up to 20 unaltered photocopies of your Official Abstract form to GSEF to distribute to judges. This is completely optional. You may not distribute any other items or forms of information.

Continuations

A project that is a continuation of a previous year's work must be about the student's new work for this year, with only minimal reference to the previous research. The project title or subtitle must mention which year the project is; e.g., "Year 2." Longitudinal studies may present only conclusionary data from prior years. Continuation projects must have Form (7) taped to the front of the table.

Mentor's Work / Acknowledgements

The mentor's name and institution must not appear anywhere on the display but can be mentioned at the end of the optional research paper in the binder. A mentor's research is *not* a part of the student research project and must *not* be included in the display. Very minimal reference to work done by a mentor or others may be included *only* as background to clarify what the student's own research did and didn't cover and must clearly indicate that it was not part of the student's work.

Replacement of Disqualified Items

If any GSEF representative requests that an object or item be removed from a display and that item is returned to the exhibit without specific permission from the GSEF Director or Co-Director, the exhibit may be disqualified.

Electricity at Project

The Gwinnett Regional Fair will not be able to provide electricity to any students at the regional fair. Electricity is available at the Georgia State Fair for a cost of \$100.

Lasers

Lasers may be used only when they follow the Official ISEF Rules and Guidelines. Display and Safety Inspectors may revoke the privilege and require lasers to be removed if any careless or indiscriminate use is observed. Offenses may result in revoking the right to participate.

Stability

All parts of the exhibit must be stable. Particular care must be taken with tall or heavy displays to ensure that they cannot tip over onto participants, judges, or guests.

Other Safety Policies

GSEF staff, and/or the Display and Safety Committee reserve the right to remove any item or entire project at their discretion for safety reasons or to protect the integrity of the GSEF and its rules and regulations.

Laptop/Tablet Suggestion (not a safety regulation)

If you are bringing a laptop, tablet, or other valuable electronic device, consider investing in a security device such as a locking cable system to secure your laptop at the exhibit. There are no holes in the table, so the locking device has to be able to hook around the table leg. The Gwinnett Regional Fair or its organizers is not responsible for theft or damage to any exhibits or parts of exhibits, including electronic devices.

Items Not Allowed at Project

PER SAFETY REGULATIONS

The following items *cannot* be displayed at a GSEF project:

- Living or dead organisms, including fungi, animals, plants and microorganisms
- Taxidermy specimens, parts, pelts, or hair
- Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals or animal parts, including cells
- Human or animal food of any kind
- Human or animal parts or body fluids (including bones, urine, bloodstains)
- Plant materials including potpourri, grain, birdseed, spices, leaves, flowers, logs, branches, etc. Plastic or other inorganic replicas or photographs should be used instead. (Exception: manufactured construction materials used in building the project or display)
- Soil, sand, rock, minerals, or waste samples, even if fully encased in acrylic
- All chemicals, including water.
- All liquids, gels, powders, and creams, such as shampoo, sunscreen, salt, soap, agar, etc. It is no longer permitted to display even empty containers of such products.
- Dry ice or other sublimating solids
- Hazardous substances or devices, including poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, martial arts weapons, ammunition, etc.
- Sharp items, including syringes, needles, pipettes, nails, knives
- Flames or highly flammable materials
- Glass or glass objects unless deemed by the Display and Safety Committee to be an integral and necessary part of the project (e.g., glass that is an integral part of a computer screen)
- Hammering, pinching, or pounding devices that are not fully immobilized, pulleys or hinges with pinch points, etc.
- Batteries with open-top cells
- Any apparatus or item deemed unsafe by any member of the SRC, the Display and Safety Committee, judges, or the GSEF staff, (e.g., vacuum tubes or dangerous ray-generating devices, pressurized or empty tanks that previously contained combustibles, etc.)

PER DISPLAY REGULATIONS

The following items *cannot* be displayed at a GSEF project:

- Acknowledgments, endorsements, thanks.
- Awards, medals, flags, logos (including school and university logos).
- Give-away items such as flyers, pens, postcards, CDs, business cards, etc. You may give out unaltered copies of your Official Abstract Form.
- Contact information of any finalist or their school: email or postal address, social media address, QR code, telephone, business card, fax number, or contact URL (URLs used solely to cite the sources of photos are permitted).
- Active Internet or email connections.
- For Continuation projects, no prior years' written material or visual depictions on the display board. However, previous years' logbooks and binders may be on the table if desired and if clearly marked, e.g. "Year I." The project title should mention which year the project is, e.g., "Year Two".