IRIS Science Science Fair Rules and Guidelines

Participant Requirements:

- Participants must be between grades 1st through 8th
- Participants must have attended an information session before the fair
- All participants must register before the fair and submit their abstracts in the google classroom platform along with all other necessary forms.

Project Requirements:

- Projects must be presented on a tri-fold poster board
- Project teams may not include more than 3 participants
- All project blurbs (these tell us what your project is about) must be submitted at least 2 weeks before the fair
- All presented work must be the original work of the participant with the help of a parent or mentor if needed

AI and Ethics Policy

- AI should only be used to aid your reading by breaking down complex points, fix your grammar/spelling, or help you brainstorm. It should not write your whole abstract and/or presentation, though it can be used to get ideas and improve your writing.
- In coding projects, AI may be used to generate an initial code, but all prompts and results should be logged. We must be able to see what parts of the final code are your own, and what parts are “AI”’s
- All work that is not the original work of the participant; including images, paraphrasing, quotations or work where AI was used; should be cited. A citation guide is included in the resources section of the IRIS website.
- No images of people, including test subjects, should be portrayed on the presentation board without their express permission.

Mentoring

All participants will be able to seek the help of a mentor. Mentors can either be found through the IRIS portal on the resource and mentors tabl, or from elsewhere.

- Mentors can help brainstorm and shape project ideas and outcomes, but should not do the work for participants. They can teach, revise, suggest or nuance, but should not create. This is an opportunity for students to learn and experiment, not for mentors to show off their skills.
- Mentors should not conduct any part of a participant’s experiment without them there.

- Mentors should not write any portion of the presented text on the poster board, abstract or speech. Mentors may only assist participants in their brainstorming process, revise wording or check for grammar and clarity.
- Students working with a mentor for their project should explicitly say so.

Prohibited Projects and Animal Use

- Any projects that could lead to harm to the environment, spread misinformation (for example a social media project about the spread of rumors), or involve misconduct toward animal life are prohibited.
- Any projects that involve pathogenic bacteria, genetic mutations, or genetically modified organisms are prohibited.
- Studies on animals may be performed but no purposeful starvation, dehydration, or dissection is allowed. You should only monitor behavior or change factors about their living situation.
- Non-domesticated animals may not be removed from their environment.
- No animal testing is allowed
- No live animals may be brought to the fair, but pictures, videos or presentations to complement your poster are allowed.

Safety

- Any use of chemicals that are considered hazardous by the FDA may only be used in a lab setting with a qualified mentor or adult.
- No hazardous chemicals may be consumed by participants or test subjects, no hazardous chemicals may be brought to the fair.
- Extremely flammable materials must be handled with care and only under the supervision of an adult.
- Fire safety must be maintained; playing with fire is not an experiment.

Human test subjects

- Human test subjects are allowed, but all test subjects must sign a participation agreement. Participation agreements are linked in the resource page. These require the signature of both the test subject and their parents.

I have fully read this agreement and agree to fulfill all parts of it. I am aware of the limitations on my project and I understand why they are there. I will respect my space, my teammates (if applicable), my resources, the environment and the IRIS science fair rules.

Full name of participant _____

Signature of participant _____

Full name of parent _____

Signature of parent _____