

## Science Days Frequently Asked Questions

### **“Am I eligible to compete at an Upper Miami Valley Science Day?”**

You must be a student, grade 5-12, attending public school, private school, or home school, and residing in Champaign, Darke, Miami, or Shelby Counties or an adjacent school district with an existing arrangement with Upper Miami Valley Science Days.

### **How do I register for a Science Day?**

Each county has its own Science Day. Information and registration instructions may be found on this website. Look for your county in the menu.

### **How do I decide on a topic for my project?**

It should always be something that interests you. It may be related to something learned in science class, or to a hobby, sports, scouts, FFA, 4-H, or some problem that you, your family, or friends have experienced, and you want to find the solution. This website has more ideas for you. Go to “Students” in the menu, click on “Getting Started”.

### **There seem to be a lot of rules. How will I know if my project will qualify?**

Yes, there are a lot of rules. Some of them are to make sure you follow the scientific method. Besides learning new information through your research, your project results are only as good as the methods used to get them. Find more on the scientific method on this website at “Getting Started”. Most of the rules are for safety. The International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) Rules were developed with that in mind. Local, Regional & State Science Days all require that the same rules be followed. The rules are found on this website menu under “Students” and then find the page labeled "Research Plan-Project Rules". You will be required to check in with your teacher or mentor at several points along the way. If you are not sure about the rules, ask your teacher or mentor, or contact the Science Day Committee to ask about your project.

### **There are also lots of forms to complete. Do I have to complete all of them?**

All students are required to complete (with signatures) these ISEF Forms:

- Form (1) Checklist for Adult Sponsor
- Form (1A) Student Checklist
- Form (1B) Approval

All students are required to complete and turn in a Research Plan.

Instructions are found in the ISEF Forms (found in this website under “Student/Experiments, ISEF Forms” and under “Students/Research Plan/Research Paper Requirements”).

Additional forms are required if project includes human subjects, vertebrate animals, potentially hazardous biological agents, human or vertebrate animal tissue, hazardous chemicals, activities or devices or regulated substances. The ISEF Rules (see “Getting Started”) explain each of those requirements. All Forms must be completed with required signatures BEFORE you begin your experiment. If you have questions, Please send us an email. We will be happy to help.

### **What should I bring with me to my County Science Day?**

Each student should bring:

Project Poster (bring large plastic bag to protect it in case of rain)

One copy of complete research paper

Four copies of abstract including student name, grade, school

(To give to your judges)

\*Project journal

Some Engineering prototypes and/or project equipment or materials may be permitted at Science Day. A specific list of criteria is provided in the Science Day Standards found on this website and provided to teachers. Items brought to Science Day must meet the criteria. A specific list of items which are NOT permitted is also found in the Science Day Standards.

In addition:

No test samples or materials may be applied to poster.

No freestanding displays or apparatus. (must fit on table)

### **What should I wear?**

Dress professionally (No jeans or t-shirts)