



DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS, INC.

Check-in Procedures

Your project must be checked in after it has been set up. **You cannot leave until your project has been approved by a DVSF Display and Safety (D&S) Committee Member** (blue jackets with DVSF logo on the back). They will need to sign a couple of forms in order to make sure your project meets the D&S requirements and is ready for judging.

Maximum size of project: THE DIMENSIONS HAVE CHANGED
76 cm (30 inches) deep; 122 cm (48 inches) wide; 240 cm (94 inches) high, including table

After you set up your project, please put your name and project number on the yellow Display Approval Form. Ask a DVSF D&S Committee Member to review your display. When they finish, they will complete and sign your form. Leave the yellow Display Approval form with your project so we know you have been reviewed and approved for judging.

**** Important ****

Artificial Intelligence, AI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful research tool. Students should document exactly how they used AI in their project, just like they should document the use of any other technology. Students must cite the use of AI just as they would cite research, results, conclusions, and tools from the literature. This documentation must be clearly cited in their procedure, logbook, research paper, or poster. Judges must be able to understand the details of your use of AI, and not some bare-minimum statement of ‘I used AI in my project.’

Photographs/Visual Images/Charts/Tables/Graphs: All images must be properly cited, including clip art and stock images. If you took the picture or created the Image, Graph, Chart, or Table, it should be cited as “Photograph, Image, Graph, Chart, or Table created by Researcher”.

Abstract: An abstract must be displayed, preferably on the board. This is important since the judges look at these first. Bring extra copies for the judges.

Logbook: A logbook can be your most treasured piece of work. If you have one, be sure to leave it with your project. Accurate and detailed notes make a logical and winning project!

Work Done in an Outside Laboratory or Research Institution: Students who worked in an outside lab or research institution must display a copy of Form 1C. The name of the direct supervisor, institution, and contact information must be blocked out!

Continuation projects: Abstracts and Display Boards must reflect ONLY the current year’s work. The project title may mention years (ex. “Year Two of an Ongoing Study”). Supporting data books from previous research may be exhibited on the table and properly labeled as such. A Continuation Project Form 7 must be displayed.

***** DVSF cannot provide you with a copy of your Abstract, Form 1C, or Form 7 *****
You are required to bring your own. We will not print them or have a copier on site.

During the interview, the judges will want to ask you questions about your project and you should make a brief, appropriate response. This competition is not like Junior Academy of Science where you make an extended, formal presentation. Be prepared to share briefly what your project is about and be prepared for questions. It is an interview.

If you have questions, read the *International Rules for Pre-college Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs 2025-2026*. These “ISEF Rules” are available on our website (www.dvsf.org) under “Students/ ISEF Rules” and at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>. If you still have questions, contact Bob Solomon, Fair Director, at bsolomon@dvsf.org.

Projects must adhere to the following safety regulations. Anything which could be hazardous for display is prohibited. *DVSF reserves the right to remove any items that do not comply with the display rules. Under no circumstances are you to return items to your exhibit if they have been removed!*

See <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules/> for more information.

Unacceptable For Display

1. School names, accomplishments, self-promotions, endorsement, or acknowledgements of mentors and companies. Acknowledgements may be included in the research papers or in a notebook, but not on the project board or abstract.
2. Completed informed consent forms for human participant studies should **not** be present at the project display. You may have a blank sample copy.
3. Awards or medals from previous science fairs, business cards, logos, institutional crests, or trademarks.
4. Live or dead organisms, including plants, animals, preserved vertebrates/invertebrates (including embryos), dried plant materials, microbial cultures, fungi, and taxidermy specimens and parts.
5. Human/animal parts or body fluids (such as blood, urine, etc.) Exceptions: Historical dry mount sections, completely sealed wet mount tissue slides, hair, hooves, nails, feathers and teeth that have been sterilized and obtained from a dentist
6. Human or animal food, including food wrappers/ packaging.
7. Soil or waste samples, either living, dead, or non-manufactured state (these samples are allowed if permanently encased/sealed; not in baggies. Sand, rocks, wood, or manufactured construction materials used in building the project or display may be displayed if they pose no hazard or risk.
8. Poisons, drugs, controlled substances, dry ice or other sublimating solids, hazardous substances or devices (including firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, etc.)
9. Laboratory or household chemicals including water. If a small amount of water is integral to the functioning of the apparatus, this small amount of water will be allowed.
10. Flames or flammable materials.
11. Items, including filters, that may have contained or been in contact with hazardous chemicals.
12. Sharp items, including but not limited to, syringes, pipettes, knives, or other similar devices.
13. Glass or glass objects unless deemed to be integral to the project.
14. Batteries with open-top cells or wet cells.
15. Class 1, Class 2, Class 3A, or Class 3R lasers are allowed. No other lasers may be used or displayed.
16. Drones or any flight-capable apparatus unless the propulsion power source is removed.
17. 3D Printers unless the power source is removed.
18. High voltage equipment in excess of 12 volts must be shielded to prevent shocks. All wiring must be insulated.

19. Any apparatus with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points may not be operated. Inadequately insulated apparatus capable of producing dangerous temperatures are not permitted.
20. Photographs or other visual presentation that depict a) animals in other than normal conditions (i.e., surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies, other lab techniques, improper handling techniques or improper housing conditions, etc., b) humans, other than self, family or persons for whom you have a written Informed Consent, or c) any offensive photographs as determined by the fair officials.
21. Any display items that are deemed to be distracting (i.e. sounds, lights, odors, etc.) or apparatus/project material deemed to be unsafe by DVSF.