

# Marin County Secondary Science Fair March 5-8, 2012

## Rules for Working with Human Subjects

1. All human research projects, including surveys and questionnaires, are subject to review before experimentation begins.
2. Student must assess the risks to their human subjects when developing research plans.
  - The following are examples of activities that may contain risks a student researcher might overlook: exercise, emotional stress resulting from invasion of privacy, ingestion of any substance or physical contact with any potentially hazardous materials.
  - The following are examples of groups of humans that may contain risks a student researcher might overlook: any member of a group that is naturally at-risk: pregnant women, individuals with diseases such as cancer, asthma, diabetes, AIDS, etc.; special vulnerable groups covered by federal regulations: prisoners, handicapped or mentally disabled persons, economically or educationally disadvantaged persons.
3. Subjects 18 years and under require consent from a parent or guardian except in
  - observational research where subjects cannot be identified, and
  - in situations in which no interaction takes place between the subject(s) and researcher.
4. A student may observe and collect data for analysis of new procedures and medication only under direct supervision of a licensed professional. Students are prohibited from administering medications to human subjects.
5. It is illegal to publish information in a report that identifies the human subjects directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, including photographs. Names or photographs of human subjects may not be displayed with a project.
6. A consent form must be signed for each human subject involved in a survey project and submitted with the Project Proposal Form.

For more information contact Robin Gerrity, Competitions Coordinator  
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