DISPLAY & SAFETY REGULATIONS

All exhibits must adhere to the following regulations and pass a Display & Safety (D&S) inspection to qualify for competition at GSEF. Knowledge of these regulations is the responsibility of the student and supporting adult(s). D&S Committee members will offer guidance during project set-up; students may be required to make revisions to their exhibits to conform to D&S regulations. These regulations are specific to GSEF but may also be required at regional fairs; all projects must adhere to the rules and regulations of the regional fair in which they compete to qualify for GSEF.

Scientific Integrity: Students are expected to act with honor and integrity when conducting and presenting scientific research and in interacting with their peer community. Scientific fraud, misconduct, and inappropriate use of generative AI are prohibited. Students must not fabricate data or images, plagiarize or present someone else's work as their own. Students must differentiate their own work from the work of others and cite sources. Students must respect confidentiality and intellectual property.

For situations not addressed here, the ISEF Rules for Pre-College Science Research and ISEF Display & Safety Regulations apply.

DISPLAY REGULATIONS

Maximum Size of Project

Max Depth	(front to back)	30 inches
Max Width	(side to side)	48 inches
Max Height	(tabletop to top)	72 inches

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

Official Abstract

The complete, unaltered 8.5x11 Official GSEF Abstract Form is the only abstract that may be displayed. It must be displayed vertically at the project booth, 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 exhibit board or to stand it in a document frame (no glass). **You *may not* use the title "Abstract" for any section on your exhibit unless it contains *only* the Official Abstract Form** (not just the abstract text).

Required Forms in Binder and on Display

Bring **photocopies** (*not* originals - keep those at home in a safe place) of all other required forms to GSEF. Arrange them in order in a **3-ring binder** placed on the table. Required forms include:

- **Form 1**: Checklist for Adult Sponsor
- **Form 1A**: Student Checklist
- **Research Plan/Project Summary**
- **Form 1B**: Approval Form
- **Form 2A**: Support Disclosure Form
- **Forms 2B** through **7** as required for your project*

Optional items such as research paper may be included in binder.

*If your project requires ***Form 2C (Regulated Research Institution)*** or ***Form 7 (Continuations)***, these forms must be **taped to the front of your table** or otherwise **vertically displayed** (like the Abstract form).

Log Book & Other Items on Tabletop

Although GSEF regulations do not require a bound logbook, judges like to see this item, and it is highly recommended. Your logbook should be on the table. Other items may include a photo album of the work, previous logbooks for Continuation projects, and items necessary to demonstrate the science if the board and binder are not sufficient, provided these items do not violate any other D&S Regulations.

Continuations (see rules, p. 4)

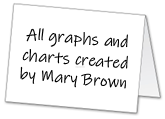
A project that is a continuation of a previous year's work must be about the student's new work for this year, with minimal reference to the previous research. It is preferred for the project title or subtitle to mention which year the project is; e.g., "Year 2." Longitudinal studies may present only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

Human Informed Consent/Assent Forms

Completed informed consent/assent for a human participant study are **NOT** to be displayed and should **NOT** be present at the exhibit. A sample (incomplete) form may be included in the binder. (Note: This applies only to the forms signed by the research participants. Form 4 ***is*** required to be in the binder for all human participants projects.)

Displayed Graphs, Tables, Images & Photos

CREDITS: **Every graphic (photograph, image, chart, table, graph, figure, etc.) must have a credit or citation**, including those made by the exhibitor and those taken from the internet, journals, and books. The credit must state who created the graphic, where the graphic came from, or who took the photograph. For example: "All photographs by John Kim," or "Image from www.website.com." Graphics created or modified by AI must be clearly marked as such. Credit statements may be placed next to each item or elsewhere on the front of the exhibit. If all graphics were created by the exhibitor or are from the same source, one clearly visible credit statement for all items is sufficient.



PHOTOGRAPH RELEASE: Photos/videos of people other than the exhibitor are not allowed unless a signed photo release is provided. If the person is under 18, parent/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."* There is no official form for this.

CONTENT: Photos or images on exhibit must not be deemed insensitive, offensive or inappropriate (e.g., no surgery, necrosis or dissection) by any member of the SRC, the Display & Safety Committee or GSEF staff. The decision made by any of these groups is final.

Mentor's Work / Acknowledgements

The mentor's name and institution may NOT appear anywhere on the exhibit except in an optional acknowledgements section and on Form 2C. Only minimal reference to a mentor's or another researcher's work is allowable and must only reflect background information or be used to clarify differences between finalist's and others' work.

Audio/Video or Multi-Media Displays

Audio and/or video displays for non-computer science projects are discouraged unless they are *necessary* to demonstrate the science. Judges are not required to view them. Displays must be under 30 seconds, with 15 seconds preferred. GSEF is not responsible for equipment theft.

Electricity at Project

Exhibitors who wish to have electricity at their exhibit must submit the **Electricity Request Form** and **$100 fee** by **March 19, 2027**. Electricity should only be used for projects that require it to demonstrate the research (e.g., computer science and engineering projects). If electricity is approved, an outlet will be provided within nine feet of the exhibit. The exhibitor must bring an approved extension cord. Attempts to connect to an outlet without approval may result in disqualification.

Replacement of Disqualified Items

If a GSEF representative requests an object or item be removed from a project booth and that item is returned to the booth without specific permission from the GSEF Director, the project may be disqualified.

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SAFETY REGULATIONS

Lighting

Lighting will not be approved for decorative purposes but may be approved if necessary to demonstrate the science. The electricity fee ($100) must be submitted with registration. Bulb and fixture must not pose risk of injury if touched. Cool LED light is preferred. Incandescent, halogen and other warm light sources must be caged, encased, or otherwise protected so that 1) it is not possible to burn a person or item with any part of the apparatus, bulb, fixture, or casing, and 2) no glass can escape if the bulb is accidentally broken. *All other International Rules regarding electricity must be followed. If you are using electricity, please be sure to read the complete rules thoroughly and follow them precisely: www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules*

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.

Lasers

Lasers may be used only when they follow the International Rules *(www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/display-safety-rules).* GSEF staff may revoke the privilege and require lasers to be removed if careless or indiscriminate use is observed. Offenses may result in disqualification.

Laptops & Other Valuables

If you are bringing a laptop or other device, consider investing in a security device such as a locking cable system to secure your item at the exhibit. GSEF and the exhibit hall venue will take measures to discourage to theft/damage to exhibits or parts of exhibits, including electronics, but is ultimately not responsible should theft or damage occur.

Other Safety Policies

GSEF staff and/or the Display & 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.

The following items are NOT ALLOWED at exhibits:

Not Allowed Per Safety Regulations:

- **Living or dead organisms**, including fungi, animals, plants and microorganisms
- **Taxidermy specimens, parts, pelts**
- **Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals** or animal parts, including cells
- Human or animal **food** of any kind
- Human or animal **parts or body fluids** (e.g., bones, urine, blood)
- **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, cement, or waste** samples, even if permanently encased in acrylic
- **All chemicals**, including water.
- **All liquids, gels, powders, and creams** (e.g., shampoo, sunscreen, salt, soap, agar, etc.)
- **Dry ice** or other sublimating solids
- **Hazardous substances or devices** (e.g. poisons, drugs, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices, grease/oil and sublimating solids such as dry ice, etc.)
- **Sharp items** (e.g. syringes, needles, pipettes, knives)
- **Flames or highly flammable materials**
- **Glass** or glass objects unless deemed by the Display & Safety Committee to be an integral and necessary part of the project (e.g., glass that is an integral part of a computer screen)
- **Any apparatus with belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts** with tension or pinch points that are not fully immobilized or shielded
- **Batteries** with open-top cells or wet cells
- **Drones or any flight-capable apparatus** unless propulsion power source is removed
- **3D printers** unless power source is removed
- Any apparatus or item deemed unsafe by any member of the SRC, the Display & 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.)

Not Allowed Per Display Regulations:

- Any **self-promotions** or **external endorsements**, including:
  - **Commercial logos**, unless deemed integral to the project by the Display & Safety Committee.
  - Any reference to **mentor or research institution**, except in Form 2C and an optional acknowledgment section of the exhibit.
  - Any reference to **patent status** of the project.
  - Awards, medals, flags.
- **Give-away items or handouts** such as flyers, pens, postcards, business cards, etc.
- **URLs** (other than those used solely to cite the sources of photos/figures)**, QR codes, postal addresses, email addresses, social media handles, phone numbers** of any exhibitor or their school or research institution.
- **Active internet connections**. No part of the project may require internet connectivity to view.
- Reference to past work on the exhibit must be limited to summative past conclusory data and its comparison to the current year data set. No raw data from previous years may be displayed; however, it may be included in a logbooks and/or binder if clearly labeled, e.g. "Year 1."

No changes, modifications, or additions to projects may be made after approval by the Display & Safety Committee.

Exhibitors who do not adhere to this regulation will fail to qualify for competition.