

### Inventions Display Guidelines & Rules for Elementary & Middle Schools

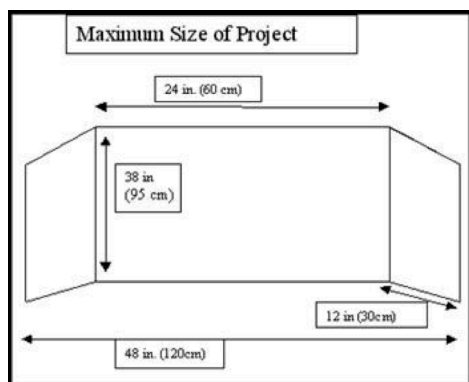
Your Invention Display Board should look professional and not too crowded. It should be appealing to the eye and should explain both what you did and what you found. Make sure your poster clearly outlines what your invention is about and how it's useful. Judges should be able to "get" what the invention is, how it works, and how it was created just from reading the poster.

Pictures are very helpful and often say more than words. Diagrams are also very useful as they allow the judges to follow your train of thought easily and without confusion. Avoid putting up an entire written report; try explaining your invention visually with graphs, diagrams, pictures and subtitles. Use color to separate ideas and arrows to direct your audience. Avoid buying expensive presentation tools. Your artistic touch is much more appreciated and shows your involvement in the invention. The information does not need to be typed, but it does need to be neat and concise.

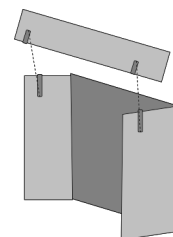
There is a tremendous range of invention boards at the regional fair. Some will be simple or elaborate, clear, concise, colorful, and above all, indicate that the student spent time thinking about, performing and learning something from their invention. Some will look like they were assembled in an hour, because in many cases they were. Remember, judges are keen enough to recognize good, *age-appropriate* inventions, as long as it is presented reasonably well and it doesn't look like your parents prepared the display for you. You will not be there to talk with the judges, so your board will do your talking for you. It needs to communicate your work well.

There is no way to foresee every situation that may adversely affect the safety of an invention display. The prohibited items shown on page two are areas of major concern, but may not include all limitations. You should keep in mind that children of all ages will be viewing invention boards. Anything that could injure curious, pre-school age children should not be attached to the board or included in a model, or should be covered. All invention displays will be inspected when submitted to SNRSEF on the first day of the Fair. Fair Inspectors have the right to request that any part of the display be removed or covered, should it be deemed a safety concern, or if it violates the display rules.

Items that must appear on the Invention Display Board are: whether the project is an Invention or Innovation, Research including Citations, Usefulness, Building the Invention, Results, and an Illustration or Model with accompanying Guide. The Invention Logbook must be included in front of the board (not attached). Prohibited items are shown on page two.



**Board Specifications:** The dimensions of the board shown to the **left** reflect the **maximum** size of the board. Smaller boards are acceptable. Invention boards must be freestanding and stable. Boards do not need to be purchased; they can be made out of any material that is freestanding and that meets the size requirements above. Detachable "Header" Title Boards, as shown to the right, are encouraged (but not required), since they stabilize the board. Again, they can be hand-made, not purchased. With the exception of the Invention Logbook, all items displayed must be attached to the invention board and may not touch the table top or destabilize the invention board to the point that it is no longer free-standing. Invention **models** may be placed on the table in front of the Invention Board.



**Science Logbooks** must accompany the Invention Display Board. Logbooks should not be attached to the board when placed on the table. Logbooks should be **placed on the table in front of the invention board**. Both the board and the book will receive a numbered sticker at check-in. The student's name and/or school name should appear on the inside the Science Logbook, but should be covered with a "post-it" or similar arrangement before submission, so that it is not visible to judges. The Invention Logbook must accompany invention Display Boards in order to compete in the fair.



**Project Identification/De-identification:** Student's name, school name, and grade must appear on the **BACK** of the invention board. As you face the **BACK** of the board, the student's name, school name and grade should appear on the **bottom right-hand side** of the invention board (as shown as **X** in the diagram to the right). Students may use the cutout label below. Photographs on the front of the invention board showing the student's face must be covered with a "post-it" or similar arrangement.

**Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval Form:** Student's who use animals or humans in their invention need approval by the IRB (see IRB Guidelines on this website) must **attach** the signed IRB form to the board on the **upper left-hand side** of the invention board (as shown as **✓** in the diagram above-right). **Inventions using animals or humans that arrive at the fair without the IRB will not be allowed to compete.**

Cut-out board label:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Student's Name         |  |
| Student's School Name: |  |
| Student's Grade:       |  |

### Invention Display Guidelines & Rules for Elementary & Middle Schools

#### Items Not Allowed at Display

1. Living organisms
2. Taxidermy specimens or parts
3. Preserved vertebrate or invertebrate animals
4. Human or animal food or beverage
5. Human/animal parts or body fluids (for example, blood, urine)
6. Plant materials or products (living, dead, or preserved), UNLESS they are in a sealed bag or container (allergy or safety risk)
7. Any liquid, including water or laboratory/household chemicals
8. Poisons, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, over-the-counter medications, controlled substances, hazardous substances or devices (such as, firearms, weapons, ammunition, reloading devices)
9. Dry ice or other sublimating solids.
10. Sharp items (for example, syringes, needles, pipettes, knives, *sharp metal*, etc.)
11. Flames, highly flammable materials, or anything that would cause flames or burns.
12. Glass or glass objects unless deemed by Display & Safety Committee to be deemed a safe integral or necessary part of the project
13. Pressurized tanks
14. Awards, medals, business cards, flags, endorsements and/or acknowledgements (graphic or written)
15. Photographs or other visual presentations depicting vertebrate animals or humans in surgical techniques, dissections, necropsies, or other lab procedures
16. Photographs showing students faces, students' names or school name may not appear on the front of the board
17. Active Internet or e-mail computer connections as part of displaying the project
18. Lasers
19. Websites, e-mail addresses, Facebook pages, telephone numbers, and fax numbers of *individuals*.
20. Models that can cause injury, or any other item or apparatus deemed unsafe, offensive or inappropriate by the SNRSEF Display & Safety Committee

#### Items Allowed for Display BUT with the Restrictions Indicated

1. Soil or waste samples **if permanently encased in a slab of acrylic**
2. Websites, e-mail addresses, Facebook pages, telephone numbers, and fax numbers of project sources if not individuals.
3. Photographs and/or visual depictions **subject to the following restrictions:**
  - a. **If not deemed offensive or inappropriate** by the SNRSEF Display and Safety Committee.
  - b. Citations if their origins ("Photograph taken by ..." or "Image taken from...") are attached. (If all photographs being displayed were taken by the participant or are from the same source, one citation line prominently displayed is sufficient.)
  - c. They are from the Internet, magazines, newspapers, journal, etc., and citations are attached. (If all photographs/images are from the same source, one citation prominently displayed is sufficient.)
  - d. They are photographs or visual depictions of the participant or other human subjects with the face covered.
4. Any apparatus with unshielded belts, pulleys, chains, or moving parts with tension or pinch points **if for display only and not operated.**
5. Any apparatus producing heat that will cause physical burns **if adequately insulated to prevent burns.**
6. Batteries with open-top cells; bare wires and exposed switches may be used only on circuits of 12 volts or less; please provide safety covers
7. Models of the invention that are deemed safe by the SNRSEF Display and Safety Committee