

Ethics Questions

All projects involving **humans or animals** at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair (GVRSF) must meet the Youth Science Canada ethics policies, which also apply to projects at the national Canada-Wide Science Fair. We encourage students and teachers to become familiar with these guidelines – not only to avoid disqualification and disappointment, but also to understand the basic principles of research ethics.

Please read [“Ethics in STEM Projects”](#) a general overview of current Youth Science Canada ethics requirements and answer the following questions:

If you select **“YES”** to any of the following questions, you must email the ethics committee for approval at ethics@gvrsf.ca if you have not done so already.

1. Humans were used as participants in this project and the project meets the criteria for low risk, as defined in [Youth Science Canada Policy \[Participation of Humans in Research - Low Risk\]](#)

(i.e., the project involves a survey of attitudes and beliefs, skill tests, or observations of behaviour with the participants' consent where there is minimal risk to the participant).

The following are typical examples of low-risk projects:

- Surveys
- Exercise experiments
- Ingestion experiments (food and drink)
- Caffeinated beverage experiments
- Absorption through the skin experiments

YES	NO
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Ethics approval is required. Please visit gvrsf.ca/ethics and navigate to “Low-Risk Projects” for further information. The GVRSF ethics committee may be reached at ethics@gvrsf.ca

- I confirm that I have an Adult Supervisor (as defined in the [YSC Policy](#) for Low-Risk Projects under **Section 2.4**)
- [Request for Advice or Ruling](#)
- [Participation of Humans in Research \[Low Risk – Approval Form\]](#)
- Informed Consent** from participants or their parents/guardians (if under 18): (Include the [Letter of Information](#) and a [Permission Form](#) that you plan to distribute

2. Humans were used as participants in this project, but the project does not meet the criteria for low risk. However, the project does comply with [Youth Science Canada Policy \[Participation of Humans in Research - Significant Risk\]](#)

YES	NO
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Ethics approval is required. Please visit gvrsc.ca/ethics and navigate to “Significant Risk Projects” for further information. The GVRSC ethics committee may be reached at ethics@gvrsc.ca

Please confirm and include the following in your application to ethics@gvrsc.ca:

- I confirm that I have an Adult and Scientific Supervisor (as defined in the [YSC Policy for Significant Risk Projects under Section 2.5](#))
- [Request for Advice or Ruling](#)
- [Participation of Humans in Research \[Significant Risk – Approval Form\]](#)
- Informed Consent** from participants or their parents/guardians (if under 18): (Include the [Letter of Information](#) and a [Permission Form](#) that you plan to distribute

3. Invertebrate animals (e.g. worms, insects, molluscs, and protists) were used during work on this project and the project meets the requirements of [Youth Science Canada Policy \[Use of Invertebrate Animals in Research\]](#)

YES	NO
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While ethics approval is not typically required for projects involving Invertebrate Animals, projects must have scientific merit. The animals must be treated with care and respect.

It is strongly advised that projects reach out to the ethics committee at ethics@gvrsc.ca to confirm that their project meets the [Youth Science Canada Policy \[Use of Invertebrate Animals in Research\]](#) as outlined above.

I will be including the following:

- [Request for Advice or Ruling](#)

4. Vertebrate animals, cephalopods, animal embryos, or animal tissues were used during work on this project and the project meets the requirements [Youth Science Canada Policy \[Use of Vertebrate Animals, Cephalopods & Decapod Crustaceans in Research\]](#)

YES	NO
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Ethics approval is required. Please visit gvrfs.ca/ethics and navigate to “Vertebrate Animals” for further information. The GVRFSF ethics committee may be reached at ethics@gvrfs.ca

Please confirm and include the following in your application to ethics@gvrfs.ca

- I confirm that I have an Adult and Scientific Supervisor (as defined in the [YSC Policy for Vertebrate, Cephalopods, and Decapod Crustaceans under Section 2.3](#))
- [Request for Advice or Ruling](#)
- [Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research – Approval Form](#)] (signed and dated)
- [Use of Animals Research Plan](#)