

Informed Consent – Letter of Information Template

Good STEM is ethical STEM! It is important to make sure your idea will not harm or be unethical towards people. If your idea involves people, either in Low Risk or High Risk participation, **before beginning**, you must prepare a Letter of Information for your participants. This means they have all the information they need to understand your project and how they will be participating before they agree to participate. This is called *informed consent*. It is a simple way to make sure you're doing ethical STEM, and making the safety and wellbeing of your participants your first priority.

Develop and share this letter with your adult supervisor – they can be a teacher, parent, guardian, mentor, or anyone supporting you with your idea.

On the next pages, follow these steps to develop your Letter of Information:

1. **Adult and Scientific Supervisor(s)** Who will be supporting you with your idea? When working with people, it is important to also have a scientific supervisor. Your adult supervisor can be your scientific supervisor too, if they are qualified to support you in the area of STEM you are working in.
2. **Data Collection** When will you start and stop collecting data from participant(s)?
3. **Location** Where you will be collecting your data?
4. **Purpose** What is your idea looking to achieve? Briefly explain the research you did to support your idea. Explain the general procedure you will be using.
5. **Benefits from Participating** What are the benefits to a participant from participating?
6. **Risks from Participating** What are the risks to a participant from participating?
7. **Time Commitment Required** How much time will a participant be expected to contribute?
8. **No Remuneration** No remuneration or reward will be paid. It is the policy of Youth Science Canada that incentives not be offered for participation in projects.
9. **Confidentiality of Data** How will you guarantee the confidentiality of participant data?
10. **Withdrawing from the Project** Explain that each participant has the right to withdraw from the project at any time, and for any reason. Describe how the participant communicates the decision to withdraw from the study.
11. **Results** How will the results of the research be communicated to the participant?
12. **Ethics Approval** Before starting your project, you need to get ethics approval. Note you have ethics approval (and the date you got it) from your regional fair.

Once the Letter of Information is complete, print off the next 3 pages (not this instruction page) and give a copy of it and a Permission Form to each participant in your study.

If you choose to participate in a science fair, you may be required to share this plan.

Informed Consent – Letter of Information

1. Student Researcher(s), Adult and Scientific Supervisor(s)

Project Title				
Regional Science Fair				
	First Name	Last Name	Email	
Student 1				
Student 2				
Adult Supervisor ¹				
Scientific Supervisor				

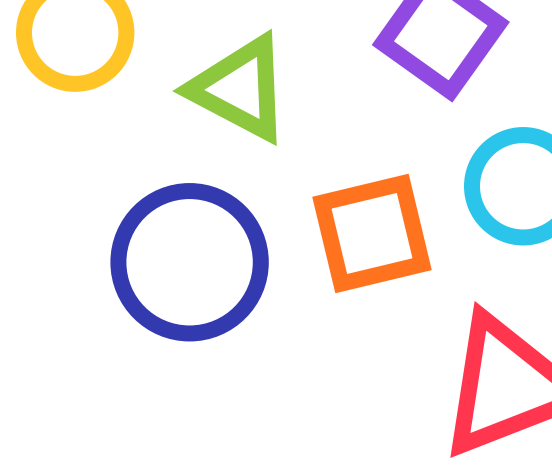
2. Data Collection

Start Date	
End Date	

3. Location

4. Purpose

¹ This person can also be the Scientific Supervisor, if they are qualified to support the project's area of STEM



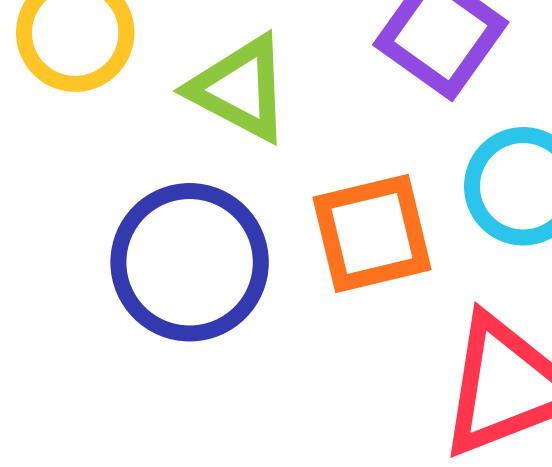
5. Benefits from Participating

6. Risks from Participating

7. Time Commitment Required

8. No Remuneration

No remuneration or reward will be paid to participants. It is the policy of Youth Science Canada that incentives not be offered for participation in projects.



9. Confidentiality of Data

10. Withdrawing from the Project

11. Results

12. Ethics Approval

This project received ethics approval from _____ Ethics
Chair for the _____ Regional Science Fair, on this date:
_____.