

23 January 2010

To: Chair, Chief Judge and Ethics Chair of all Regional Science Fairs.
From: Youth Science Canada Ethics Committee
Subject: Ingestion Projects

Hello,

The Ethics Committee of Youth Science Canada has within the last week received several proposals involving ingestion projects. These are no longer allowed for presentation at Regional Science Fairs or at the Canada Wide Science Fair, unless carried out in a research laboratory which is authorised to carry out such studies. We have explained to several students that they have to select a different topic, or re-design their project to remove the ingestion component. This applies even if the product can be bought at the grocery store, e.g. grapes, green pepper or ginger ale.

It is likely that some ingestion projects will enter your Regional Science Fair, because the first time anyone at the RSF sees many projects is during set up. Some may demonstrate superb science.

Please make sure that you do not select such a project for the CWSF!

The Ethics Committee will disqualify it during the screening that takes place as soon as the registration for the CWSF is closed.

Before you announce the winners of your trips to the CWSF, please take time to review the projects to ensure they fulfil the policies of Youth Science Canada, and are eligible for display at the CWSF. If they involve the use of animals or the participation of humans, check them again.

Here is the Ethics Committee web site, where there is full discussion of ethical issues, and the policy documents that govern them.

<http://www.ldstf.ca/ethics/>

If you have any questions, please contact me. Please circulate this letter to all the appropriate members of your Regional Science Fair Committee.

<http://www.ldstf.ca/ethics/>

Yours sincerely,

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