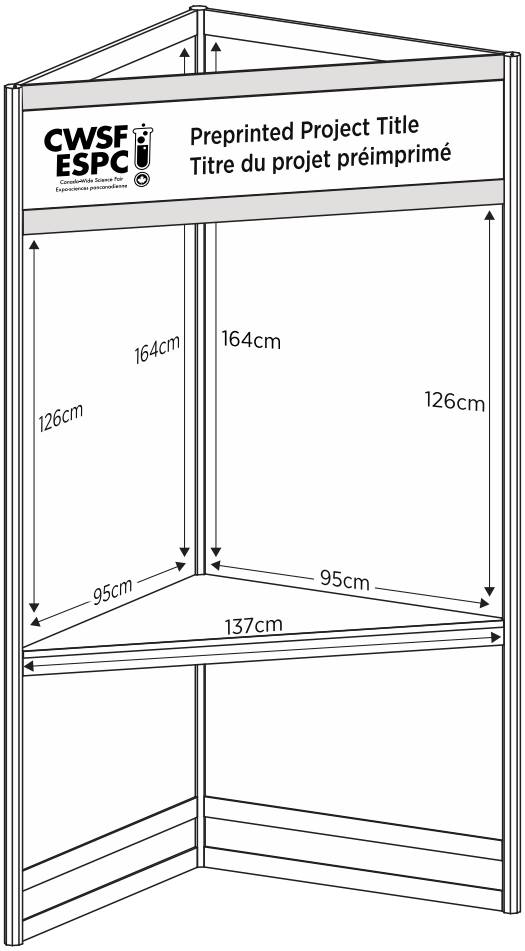
Youth Science Canada
Sciences jeunesse Canada

Document Name CWSF Project Displays
Effective Date 2003-12-14
Approved By Reni Barlow – Executive Director | directeur général

CWSF Project Displays

1 Display Dimensions



1.1 Every project at the CWSF uses the same display unit - an aluminum frame with two white vertical panels, a triangular shelf, and a header sign pre-printed with the project title and finalist name(s). Use of the CWSF display unit is mandatory - do not bring a backboard of any kind. The height of the display is 2.5m from the floor, with a triangular shelf provided at a standard table height of 0.76m (30 inches). Pre-printed headers will be provided for each participant on a 0.48m tall header panel attached across the top of the display area. The approximate dimensions are as follows: each panel is 0.95m wide, with the height of the display area being a maximum of 1.64m, with 1.26m available for an unobstructed viewing area. The total display area of the panels is 3.12 m^2, with an unobstructed viewing display area of 2.39 m^2. The total area of the triangular shelf is 0.45 m^2.

1.2 Presentation and prop material and all display equipment must fit entirely within the display dimensions. No portion of the project may extend beyond the display panels onto the frame, nor beyond the front edge of the triangular shelf. No portion of the display shall project into the aisle.

1.3 A project may be granted additional space to display an innovation that exceeds the display unit dimensions by request from the Regional Coordinator to the CWSF Fair Director. The final authority for approval rests with the Executive Director.

2 Display Materials

2.1 Presentation information including text, graphics, photographs and other data on the display panels must be printed on bond paper (laser, inkjet, or standard copier), photographic paper, or as a professionally-printed poster. Lamination is permissible, but discouraged due to the environmental impact.

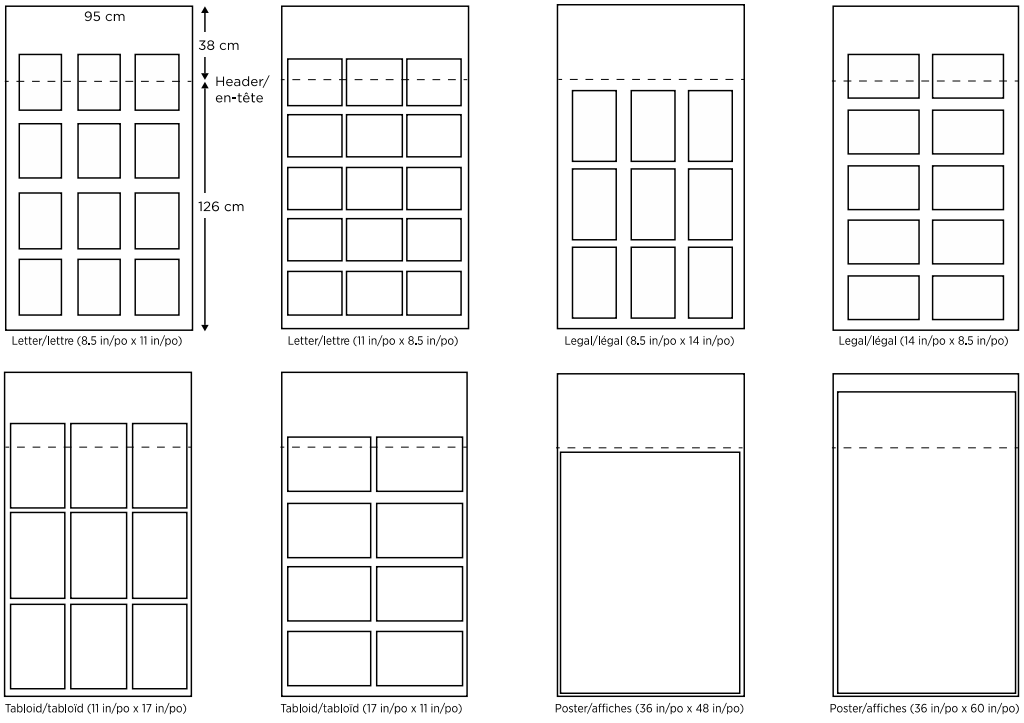
2.2 Construction paper, Bristol board and papers listed in 2.1 may be used to outline or border presentation information or to add small decorative elements to the display panels.

2.3 Papers, including the project logbook, to be displayed on the shelf must be secured in a binder, Duo-tang, presentation folder, plastic sleeve or other appropriate enclosure.

2.4 Toxic adhesives shall not be applied to project materials inside any building at the Canada-Wide Science Fair.

2.5 The display panels must be returned to their original condition, with all project materials and adhesives removed upon project takedown.

3 Fitting Posters to the Display Panels



3.1 The diagram illustrates how standard paper pages fit on a display panel when arranged in a grid.

4 Affixing the Display Materials to the Panels

4.1 3M Scotch 110 Mounting Tape, as pictured above, is the only adhesive allowed to attach presentation materials to the white display panels. Presentation materials may overlap from one panel to the other; however, materials may not be attached to the display unit frame, or preprinted header sign.

4.2 Adhesives for affixing presentation materials to the display panels will be supplied; no other adhesives may be used.

5 Fire Safety

5.1 Operation of an open flame, candle, torch or any other heating device is not permitted.

5.2 Smoking is not permitted in the exhibit area.

5.3 Packing material may not be stored in the exhibit hall, including under the display shelf.

6 Electrical Safety

6.1 Electrical cords shall have a 3-wire conductor with ground and must be CSA approved and in good repair.

6.2 Power bars, lighting and other electrical devices shall be CSA approved.

6.3 Any modification to an electrical device negates the CSA approval and that device must not be used.

6.4 Dry cells (Alkaline, NiCad, NiMH, LiIon, etc.) and sealed lead-acid batteries (gel cells) may be used. Wet cell batteries are not permitted.

6.5 Electrical devices constructed by finalists must comply with the following requirements to be approved for display. As they cannot be CSA approved, these devices may only be connected and operated during judging.

a) Electrical devices must be protected by a non-combustible enclosure.

b) An insulating grommet is required at the point where electrical service enters an enclosure.

c) Electrical devices shall use as low a voltage as possible.

d) The electric current must be limited so as not to cause any danger or discomfort if the terminals are touched.

e) A pilot light must be used to indicate when power is on.

7 Structural and Mechanical Safety

7.1 Sharp edges or corners of prisms, mirrors, enclosures and glass or metal plates that may be contacted by the public must be removed or protected to prevent injury.

7.2 Dangerous moving parts, such as belts, gears, pulleys and blades, must be provided with a guard to prevent access to the moving parts.

7.3 An in-running pinch point hazard of any part of a motor, device or thing that may be a danger shall be guarded to prevent contact.

7.4 A certificate of safety inspection must be displayed if a project involves the construction or use of a boiler or pressure vessel with a capacity greater than 42.5 litres or operated at a pressure greater than 103 kilopascals. Evidence of inspection by an engineer with certification in boilers and pressure vessels should be displayed when the project involves any finalist-constructed pressure vessel, regardless of size or pressure. Such vessels may be displayed, but must not be pressurized at any time.

7.5 Compressed gas cylinders shall not be displayed.

7.6 Moving exhibits (e.g., radio-controlled vehicles, robots) shall be restricted to the display space. The CWSF Fair Director may, at their discretion, provide an area to safely demonstrate projects that require more than the regulation display space.

8 Chemical Safety

8.1 The following materials shall not be displayed:

a) Flammable, toxic or dangerous chemicals.

b) Prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

8.2 Photographs or empty packages of prohibited materials may be displayed.

8.3 The display of chemicals is discouraged; however, other substances can be used to simulate chemicals for display purposes.

a) Table salt can be used to simulate many chemicals, such as ammonium nitrate.

b) Water can represent alcohol, ether and many other liquids.

c) Molasses can be used to simulate petroleum products.

8.4 When chemicals are simulated, they should be identified with the name of the substance they represent, preceded by the word “simulated.” Any WHMIS labels for the chemical being simulated (supplier or workplace) should be attached to show understanding of safe work practices.

8.5 The total quantity of liquids displayed at a project shall not exceed 1 litre. Photographs and/or video should be used to demonstrate processes requiring larger quantities of liquid.

9 Biohazards

9.1 The following materials shall not be displayed:

a) Biological toxins.

b) Cell or tissue samples including blood and blood products, except on sealed microscope slides, which may be displayed.

c) Plants or plant tissue.
d) Soil containing organic material.
e) Cultures - only photographs or simulated cultures may be used.

10 Human Subjects

10.1 The project display may include pictures of participants if prior permission has been obtained and documented. Projects dealing with forensic science topics must preserve the anonymity of any human victims, and project displays must avoid sensational or gratuitous, macabre images.

11 Animals and Animal Parts

11.1 Live animals (microorganisms, non-vertebrate and vertebrate) shall not be displayed.

11.2 The only parts of vertebrate animals that may be displayed are those that are either naturally shed by an animal or parts properly prepared and preserved. For example, porcupine quills (safely contained), shed snake skin, feathers, tanned pelts and hides, antlers, hair samples, skeletons and skeletal parts are permissible, while cell and tissue samples are not, as indicated in 9.1).

11.3 Photographs of animals, animal parts or organs may be used on the display; however, finalists and Regional Science Fair committees must be aware that other exhibitors and members of the public might find such photographs offensive. Finalists are encouraged to choose their photographs in accordance with the accepted norms of the community. Final decision regarding suitability rests with the Safety Check Coordinator and the Executive Director of YSC.

12 Firearms, Hazardous Materials and Equipment

12.1 Firearms (even if appropriately locked), ammunition, dangerous goods or explosives shall not be displayed. The manner in which such materials were used in a project may be conveyed through text, photos, video, computers or simulation.

12.2 Images of humans or animals that have been injured by the use of firearms or explosives shall not be displayed. Such images are deemed unsuitable for general public viewing and do not contribute to the scientific value of a project.

12.3 X-ray or hazardous radiation-producing equipment may not be displayed.

12.4 Radioisotopes or compounds containing radioisotopes at activities above normal background shall not be displayed.

12.5 Lasers may only be operated during judging.

13 Display Equipment and Damage

13.1 The finalist or his/her Regional fair must supply all presentation materials and display equipment.

13.2 Although every effort will be made to prevent damage to exhibit materials, YSC, the exhibit hall venue, sponsoring organizations and co-operating groups accept no responsibility for loss or damage to any exhibit or part thereof.

14 Infractions

14.1 Any infraction to this policy shall be identified to the delegate responsible for the finalist. Required changes shall be the delegate’s responsibility.