

## **Guidelines for the Science Research Projects Competition (SRPC) –2023/24**

1. Age limit:
  - i. 13-20 (Should not reach age 20 on or before 01<sup>st</sup> of May 2024)
  - ii Be in Grades 9- and upwards
2. Students can conduct their research either as individual project or as group projects
  - a. All group members in the group should be within the above age limit
  - b. Group projects can have a maximum of 03 members
3. Research Projects can be conducted in any field of sciences (Physical, Life Sciences or Social Sciences) as per the subject areas given below:
  - Animal Sciences
  - Behavioral & Social Sciences
  - Biomedical & Health Sciences
  - Chemistry
  - Materials Science
  - Mathematics
  - Plant Sciences
  - Translational Medical Science
  - Earth & Environmental Sciences
  - Energy: Chemical
  - Energy: Physical
  - Physics & Astronomy
  - Computational Biology & Bioinformatics
  - Microbiology
  - Biochemistry
  - Environmental Engineering
4. Projects that are demonstrations, library research or informational projects, explanation models or kit building are not accepted for the competition.
5. **One student can participate only in one project. One school can conduct any number of projects.**
6. Obtaining ethical clearance is mandatory if the projects are to be conducted using human participants/vertebrate animals as experimental subjects, genetically modified organisms, exposure to hazardous chemicals or methodologies.
7. The use of non-animal research methods and the use of alternatives to animal research are strongly encouraged.
8. Research associated with Biosafety Levels 3 & 4 (BSL-3 & BSL-4), culturing Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and genetically engineered bacteria with multiple antibiotic resistances are prohibited.
9. Research associated with hazardous chemicals and sensitive social issues are prohibited.
10. Project duration: Should be 05 to 06 months and should not include projects started before January 2023.
11. Project proposals are to be prepared by the students and submitted to the NSF on or before the given deadline.
12. Projects should be carried out by the students under the guidance and supervision of the supervisor/teacher in-charge of the project.

13. A qualified scientist is required for all studies involving Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) potentially hazardous biological agents, Drug Enforcement Administration-controlled substances (DEA-controlled substances) and human participants/vertebrate animal studies.
14. It is compulsory to participate all the Progress Review Workshops conducted by the NSF to review the project.
15. The NSF will assist students and teachers by directing them to relevant qualified supervisors and facilitating necessary technical support to carry out projects successfully. The teacher-in-charge may suggest supervisors for research projects proposed by the school. The NSF will not entertain parents of students who participate in the competition as supervisors, especially for group projects.
16. A synopsis and a project report should be submitted to the NSF upon completion of the project.
17. A research project could be a part of a larger study performed by professional scientists; however, the projects presented by the student must be only their own portion of the complete study.
18. Students are expected to present their projects in front of a panel of judges appointed by the NSF. It will be conducted in two steps.
  - Step I: Multimedia presentation
  - Step II: Poster presentations
19. The Final decision of the competition will be the decision of the Panel of Judges. No grievances or appeal will be entertained once winners are selected
20. The NSF will give financial support to a few selected projects considering the needs and merit of the proposed study.
21. The winners will be rewarded by a valuable certificate.
22. Selected projects might be nominated for international and/or other local competitions.

***Note: The research proposals which address inventions will not be considered in SRPC category.***

**For further information:**

Contact: WhatsApp Ms Chamarika (0706652226) / Ms Ajantha (0706652225) to obtain applications and relevant documents from NSF.

Visit [www.nsf.gov.lk](http://www.nsf.gov.lk) to download application format, sample project proposal.

Ms. Maduka Senaratne / SSO Science Communication and Outreach, Division, National Science Foundation (Tele: 011-2696771 Ext 183)