

AzSEF TEACHER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Teacher's code of conduct is a reminder to assist with student research that emphasizes ethics, support, guidance, and fostering independence.

1. **Integrity:** Encourage students to do authentic research. Talk to them about plagiarism and academic misconduct. Respect the confidentiality of students' data and promote fairness and support to all students irrespective of their backgrounds. Avoid favoritism and provide equal opportunity to all students. Honesty, objectivity, and avoidance of conflicts of interest are expected during every phase of the research. The project should reflect independent research completed by the student(s), and represent only one year's work.
2. **Timely Guidance and Support:** Provide timely feedback to concerns and be willing to provide resources to the students. Try to teach the students about data collection, analysis, and critical thinking. If you need support in locating resources to help your student(s), reach out to Rachna Nath at nathr@azscience.
3. **Legality.** Compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations is essential. In addition, projects conducted outside the U.S. must also adhere to the laws of the country and jurisdiction in which the project was performed. All projects must be approved by a Scientific Review Committee (SRC), and when necessary must also be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). You can find all the paperwork and rules for your reference at <https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/international-rules/>
4. **Create a sense of Independence and Professionalism:** Guide students to think critically and encourage them to try new things. Train them to embrace failure and encourage resilience in the face of challenges, (lack of resources, etc.). Provide constructive feedback and teach them about professional boundaries while recognizing their effort and contributions. Look at AZ Science Standards for more information (<https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/standards-science>)
5. **Respect for Confidentiality and Intellectual Property.** Confidential communications, as well as, patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property must be honored. Unpublished data, methods, or results may not be used without permission, and credit must be given to all contributions to research.
6. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Try to look at problems or issues from the lens of the student.. Build a relationship of trust and openness. Address any biases or

stereotypes that may arise in your classroom (like non-STEM students afraid of scientific research) and discuss the relevance of inclusion, equity and belonging.

- 7. Proactive decisions:** You as a teacher/mentor have the responsibility to enable students to participate in your school/district/regional fair. If you need help identifying those, reach out to your administrators or contact Rachna Nath at nathr@azscience.org. Look at the Teacher Timeline of science fair milestones to help you through the process on the AzSEF Website, www.azsef.org.

P.S: Please sign the page below and keep for your records and email to Rachna Nath
Rachna Nath

Disclaimer

I have read the Teacher Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it and the Ethics Statement above and agree to support my students with their research endeavors.

Teacher Name (print) _____

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____
