

Project Supervision

Adult Sponsor

Every Student Researcher MUST identify an Adult Sponsor for their project. The Adult Sponsor can be anyone (teacher, parent, university professor, scientist, etc.), as long as that person has a *solid background in science* and will have *close contact* with the Student Researcher during the course of the project. The Adult Sponsor must be familiar with the regulations that govern *potentially* dangerous research as they may apply to the Student Researcher's project. Because some experiments may involve procedures or materials that are regulated by state and federal laws, if the Adult Sponsor is not thoroughly familiar with the regulations, they should help the Student Researcher enlist the aid of a Qualified Scientist/Mentor.

The Adult Sponsor's job is to:

- assist the Student Researcher in evaluating any possible risks involved with the project in order to ensure the health and safety of the student and any humans or animals involved in the study;
- ensure that experimentation is done within local, state and federal laws and these guidelines;
- ensure that the necessary forms are completed by the other adults involved in approving and/or supervising any part of the experiment; and
- ensure that the Qualified Scientist/Mentor's qualifications are adequate for the type of project the student is doing.

Qualified Scientist/Mentor

Some projects MAY require the Student Researcher to work with a Qualified Scientist or Mentor. A Qualified Scientist/Mentor should possess an earned doctoral/professional degree in a scientific discipline as it relates to the Student Researcher's project. However, a master's degree with equivalent experience and/or expertise in the Student Researcher's area of study is acceptable.

The Adult Sponsor may also serve as a Qualified Scientist/Mentor for the project, if they are qualified as outlined above. A Qualified Scientist/Mentor does not have to be located within the same city/town or even state as the Student Researcher. In cases where the Qualified Scientist/Mentor is unable to directly supervise the Student Researcher, a Designated Supervisor (see below), who has been trained in the techniques the Student Researcher will use, must be obtained.

Designated Supervisor

The Designated Supervisor is an adult who is directly responsible for overseeing the Student Researcher's experimentation. The Designated Supervisor does not need an advanced degree, but should be thoroughly familiar with the Student Researcher's project and must be trained in that particular area of research. The Adult Supervisor may act as the Designated Supervisor.

The degrees of M.O.M. and D.A.D. (parents) need to be accompanied by an explanation of their qualifications to supervise a particular project. Just being the parent is not sufficient.

If the Student Researcher is experimenting with live vertebrates and the animals are in situations where their behavior is influenced by humans, the Designated Supervisor must be knowledgeable about the humane care and handling of the animals.