Guidelines for the Science Research Projects Competition (SRPC)

1. Age limit: Be in Grades 9-13

2. Students can conduct their research either as individual projects 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 science (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, 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. Project duration: This should be completed within 6 months and projects started before January of the particular year should not be included.

10. Project proposals are to be prepared by students and submitted to the NSF on or before the given deadline.

11. Projects should be carried out by the students under the guidance and supervision of the principal supervisor of the project.

12. 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.

13. It is compulsory to participate in all the Progress Review Workshops conducted by the NSF to review the project.

14. The NSF will assist students and teachers by directing them to relevant qualified principal supervisors and facilitating necessary technical support to carry out projects successfully. The teacher-in-charge may suggest principal supervisors for research projects proposed by the school. The NSF will not entertain parents of students who participate in the competition as supervisors.

15. A synopsis and a project report should be submitted to the NSF upon completion of the project.

16. 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.

17. 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 presentations
    - Step II: Poster presentations

18. The final decision of the competition will be the decision of the Panel of Judges. No grievances or appeals will be entertained once winners are selected.

19. The NSF will give financial support to projects considering the needs and merits of the proposed study.

20. The winners will be rewarded at a ceremony organized by the NSF.

21. Selected projects might be nominated for international and/or other local competitions.

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

For further information:

Contact: Ms Anjalee / Ms Chamarika (011-26967713 Ext 181/185) to obtain applications and relevant documents from NSF. For more details, please contact Ms Maduka Senaratne /SSO or Ms Dilrukshi Ekanayke / SSO, Science Communication and Outreach Division, National Science Foundation (Tele: 011-2696771 3 Ext 183/185)

Visit www.nsf.gov.lk to download the application format, and sample project proposal.

Procedure to conduct a research project

- Guidance is to be obtained from the principal supervisor appointed by the NSF to carry out a research project under the supervision of the teacher in charge of the particular project.
- The teacher in charge and the students should visit the principal supervisor for the first discussion before starting the project.
- A log book should be maintained to record information in the following format.

Date	Time spent with the principal supervisor	Brief note	Student signature	Principal supervisor's signature

- A field notebook should be used to record day-to-day activities in the field/laboratory related to the project.

Reimbursement of expenses

1. Projects selected for Step I of the competition will be reimbursed for expenses up to a maximum limit of LKR 50,000/-
2. All receipts should be certified by the principal supervisor and forwarded through the school principal. Please consider the following matters.
    i. No claims will be accepted for on-approval bills.

    ii. Damaged and unclear bills will not be accepted.

    iii. All bills should be pasted on a half-sheet, numbered and signed by the teacher in charge.

    iv. Take photos/photocopies of bills such as bus tickets and supermarket bills as these may become unclear those bills when reimbursement is processed. If any bills are unclear, please attach the copies as well.

3. When seeking reimbursement for tri-show or vehicle charges, a letter signed by the vehicle owner should be attached, including their ID number, vehicle number, and destination.
4. Receipts should be issued in the name of the school. Reimbursements will not be made for receipts issued to parents or relatives of students.
5. All reimbursement requests should be submitted within three months of project completion. The NSF will not accept applications received after this period.

Note: The programme has been designed following international criteria, safety standards etc. used by similar programmes conducted internationally for college students.