

Cawthron Scitec Expo Questions and Answers

I want to do my project on racing cars. What type of project is this?

You need to take your interest to the next stage to come up with a project.

If there's a question or problem related to fast cars that you can develop an experiment to answer, then that would be a science practical project. If it's a question that can't be solved by experimenting, it may be a research project. Or if you want to develop something new related to fast cars, it might be a technology project. Or you could create some art – using any form of media - inspired by the science of fast cars. That would be an art in science/technology project. Check out the [student/teacher guide](#) for more details on types of projects.

My school has decided not participate in this year's Scitec Expo. Can I still enter a project?

Absolutely! Scitec is open to any Nelson Tasman students from Years 1-13 to enter. Just register your entry before October 1 via our webpage; <https://www.cawthron.org.nz/scitec/>

I want to put my project forward for a specific category award. How do I do this? Our judges look at all the entries and select the special category winners based on the criteria for the award. You don't need to nominate yourself or enter your project into special categories.

Can I develop a computer app as a Scitec Entry? Yes. This would be an entry in the technology section which enables you to develop a product, device or process to serve a human need, or a problem that needs solving.

I registered my project as a science board presentation but now want to change it to a digital presentation. How do I do this? Yes, you can change any details in your online entry registration but we recommend that you do this as soon as possible so that we can be adequately prepared for judging. Entry registration changes can be made by emailing comms@cawthron.org.nz

I've never done a digital presentation before. What should it look like? A digital presentation can be completed in powerpoint, google slides or as a wall chart. We suggest 10-15 slides but ultimately it's up to you to decide how many slides your project requires. Wall charts are similar to a science board, only its in digital format. If you present it in one big

poster where judges can zoom in to read different sections of your project. Here are some [virtual science fair examples](#).

I've done a digital presentation. How do I bring this to the expo? We ask that you bring a printed copy of your slide presentation and have it loaded on a fully charged laptop and/or USB stick when you attend your judging interview.

My neighbour is scientist. Can I get her to help me with my project? Yes – it's fine to ask for expert advice and help, and in fact we encourage that. But you can't get other people to "do" your project for you. It's important that you understand your own work. You will need to explain it to the judges and it becomes quite obvious if you don't comprehend your own work.

I'm home-schooled. What school year do I enter? Enter the equivalent school year for your age. Eg a 5-year-old would be year one, a 6-year-old could be year one or two, a 7-year-old could be year two or three etc.

How are Scitec Expo projects judged? We have a team of volunteer judges – scientists, teachers and other professionals – who review your projects, interview you and give marks according to a set criteria for each project category. You will find this criteria in the student teacher guide. All judging results go back to a team of lead judges who then review the results and moderate as required.

What will happen to the Scitec Expo if we are in lockdown? Digital presentations and photos of science boards and art/technology entries all have to be uploaded to an online link by Friday 22 October. We will move the event online and conduct video interviews should COVID restrictions prevent us holding a physical expo as we have done in the past.

Where do I find that online link? This link is emailed to you once you register your entry. If you have already registered your entry and not yet received the link, please email us (comms@cawthron.org.nz) to receive it.

My project includes a perishable exhibit. Can I bring this to the expo? We recommend students include photos of their experiments in their project presentations rather than bring their experiments to the expo. This is to avoid unnecessary hazards, and the potential of your property being lost or damaged.

I'm entering the art in science/technology section. Do I still have to submit photos of this prior to the event? Yes. We require photos of all entries to be submitted by the Friday prior to the event (October 22) so that we can move to an online event if required.

I've completed a Scitec project but am no longer available to attend the event. Can I still enter? Yes but if you aren't going to be available on the day that your age group is being judged, we cannot commit to conducting an interview with you. Please advise us via email (comms@cawthron.org.nz) as soon as possible if you aren't able to attend on the day.

Can my family attend the Scitec Expo? Yes, the public are invited to view the expo between 3pm and 6pm on Thursday October 28, subject to COVID restrictions that exist at the time of our event. We will issue further advice on this in mid-October.

Will I get my project back? Yes. We collect all the projects up at the end of the expo and will be returning them to schools and/or making them available for collection from Cawthron in the week beginning November 1.

When will I find out if I've won a prize? We are still working on our revised prizegiving details. A further update on this will be issued in mid-October.