

2023 Frequently Asked Questions

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

Absolutely! This year's Scitec Expo is open to any Nelson Tasman students from Years 1-13. Just [register your entry online](#) before Wednesday 2 August.

Can I enter if I don't live in Nelson Tasman?

A key aspect of the expo is having your work on display for people to view, and having local judges interview you about your project. It is preferable that we have you in attendance at the expo for this, but we will arrange video interviews for any rangitahi who can't attend in person. Entries from throughout Te Tau Ihu will be considered.

Canterbury/Westland and Marlborough both run their own science fairs, as do all other regions in the country.

What if I'm not available to attend the expo on August 22 and 23?

You must be available to attend an interview to be eligible for any awards. Your interview can be conducted via video if you're not able to attend in person. Judging interviews will be scheduled after online entry registrations close. Please [contact us](#) if you are unavailable to be interviewed on August 22 and 23 so we can explore options.

I want to nominate my project for one of the special awards. How do I do this?

When registering your project online, tick any of the identified topics that your project might cover. This provides our specialist topic judges the list of projects that they need to consider for the award. Your project will not likely be considered for these special awards if you fail to register for them.

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. You could also nominate it to be considered for the data science/coding special award when registering your entry.

Where can I get a science board?

These can be purchased from stationary stores, including [OfficeMax](#), [The Warehouse](#) and [PaperPlus](#) are varying prices. Check with your own school stationary supplies as they may have some boards from previous year that can be repurposed, or be able to offer discounted rates via their own suppliers. If cost is a problem, we encourage you to consider doing a digital presentation instead.

I registered my project as a science board presentation but now want to change it to a digital presentation. How do I do this?

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 Foundation@Cawthron.org.nz

I've never done a digital presentation before. What should it look like?

This should be a powerpoint presentation of no more than 12 slides. You will find more details about submitting a digital presentation on Page 15 of the [Student Teacher Guide](#).

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 (or a computer) 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.

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 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.

My project includes a perishable exhibit. Can I bring this to the expo?

We recommend students include photos of 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.

Got more questions you'd like answered? Please read the Student/Teacher guide and if you can't find the answer in there, please email foundation@cawthron.org.nz