

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROJECT RECOMMENDATION

Each applicant **must** request at least one Project Recommendation. The Project Recommendation should be completed by the person who is most familiar with the research and the work you did on a daily basis. In many cases that is a graduate student in a lab rather than the head of the lab.

If you worked closely with more than one mentor, you may request one additional Project Recommendation. Should you choose to request a second Project Recommendation, you will find this option at the bottom of your Task List in the online application system.

If your parent is the person closest to your research and completes your Project Recommendation, we recommend requesting an additional Project Recommendation from someone who has experience with you in a lab or research setting, making it clear that they did not mentor this particular research. **If there is no adult who provided guidance to you, please have a parent or teacher complete this recommendation, stating that is the case.**

PREVIEW OF PROJECT RECOMMENDATION

These are the questions your project recommender will answer in the online recommendation system. Questions #1–#9 can be answered in text boxes or a letter of recommendation can be uploaded. Questions #10–#13 **must** be answered in response boxes on the website.

- 1. Briefly explain how the student first became known to you.** (e.g. personal relationship, summer program, high school partnership, direct communication from student, required or elective high school course). **Is the student related to you or your colleagues?** (son, niece, cousin, etc.) If so, please explain the relationship.
- 2. Please describe the nature of your involvement with the student's research.** What role did you serve for the student? What type of guidance did you provide?
- 3. How did the student get the idea for his/her project?** Was the project assigned; picked from a list of possible research topics; result from discussion with a scientist; arise from work in which the student was engaged; suggested by the student?
- 4. What was the duration and intensity of the student's research experience?** Number of weeks, months or years; full-time vs. part-time; resident vs. non-resident, etc.
- 5. Provide a brief description of your laboratory/research environment and what the student's role was within this group.** (size, number of scientists or students, research levels (post-doc, doctoral, undergraduate, high school))
- 6. If there were other high school students in your research group, please explain the interaction of this student with others.** Name any students who performed research that was similar to this student and explain how this student's work was different and independent from others.
- 7. For what aspects of the research can you give credit to the student as being his or her own unique contribution?**
 - a) Purpose of the Experiment
 - b) Procedural Design

- c) Data Collection
- d) Processing/Analysis of Data
- e) Drawing Conclusions

8. **What did the student do that showed creativity and ingenuity?** Based on your knowledge of the student, please provide examples of how this student demonstrates future promise as a scientist. Was he/she creative in his/her science, or creative for a high school student? What is your impression of his/her knowledge of experimental design, construction or use of equipment, evaluation of data, etc.?
9. **Please provide any additional information that will help to articulate the work of this student.**
10. **Did the student's project involve non-intrusive, non-invasive research on live non-human vertebrate animals?** If yes, please describe the student's training to work with animals, the supervision under which the work took place, and the student's overall interaction with the animals.
11. **Was the student provided with tissue from a non-human vertebrate animal study?** If yes, please provide the title of the IACUC-approved study, the IACUC approval number and date of approval (where required/and or applicable). Please describe the interaction the student had with live animals. (
12. **Did the student's research involve a human participants study being conducted at your institution, either behavioral or tissue?** If yes, please provide the IRB approval number and date of approval. Please describe the student's interaction with the human participants and/or the student's specific role in the larger study.
13. **Did you provide the student with de-identified human data?** (If yes, please describe the data source.)

TROUBLESHOOTING ISSUES

Should your Recommender experience any issues with our online process, please encourage them to email sts@societyforscience.org. Once you request a recommendation from them through the online system, the Recommender should receive an email with instructions. Occasionally these messages are caught in junk mail or strict school email filters, or a recommender could receive requests from multiple students under different email addresses, causing confusion. We are happy to investigate any issues.