

- Do you teach or work with students in grades K-6?
- Would you like to increase student interest in science?
- Do you wish you could bring academic competition to the same level of recognition and praise normally reserved for athletic competitions?
- Would you like to see more boys, girls and minorities excel in science and technology?
- Would you like to improve community perception of science education?

If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, join Science Olympiad today and become part of a renaissance in science education. Share in the excitement and success experienced by teachers all across the nation for the past 30 years.

WHAT IS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD?

Science Olympiad is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. The Elementary Science Olympiad is also designed to encourage classroom teachers to explore new and challenging ways of teaching science. These goals are accomplished through classroom activities, research, training workshops and the encouragement of intramural, district, county and regional tournaments.

MEETING NATIONAL SCIENCE STANDARDS

Science Olympiad tournaments are academic interscholastic competitions consisting of a series of individual and team events that students prepare for during the year. Competitions are hands-on and fast-paced, following the format of popular board games, TV shows and athletic games. These challenging and motivational events are well balanced between the various science disciplines of life science, earth science and physical science. There is also a balance between events requiring mastery of science concepts, science processes and inquiry skills as well as science and technology applications. The events, which meet current National Science Standards set by the National Research Council, were chosen because of their strong relationship to existing elementary science curriculum.

COOPERATION AND TEAMWORK

Although Science Olympiad events require teams to compete against each other, all of the events require teamwork, group planning and cooperation. The emphasis is on learning, participation, interaction, having fun and developing team spirit.

Registration

All school teams must complete the online registration by March 31st. It is not necessary to name the students who will compete in each event. However, under no circumstances may the team roster be changed following registration on the day of the Science Olympiad.

Team Size

A team can be made up of two to 15 students. Participation is limited to one team per school and the team should have a balanced representation of grades involved with a maximum limit of five (5) 6th graders. In all cases, each team must be supervised by a separate teacher/coach.

Coaches should require each student to have a completed parent permission slip. (See Sample Forms)

Alternates

Have several student alternates in the wings. These students may be placed on the official roster up to the day of the tournament. Every coach has the same difficulty in dealing with family emergencies or student illness. Alternates are not allowed to participate at North Jersey Elementary Science Olympiad because of limited space and the need for student supervision.

Cross Training

Try to make sure many of your students are ready to participate in multiple events. The goal is to have all students master all of the events that are related to state and national standards.

Event limits

Teams may enter as many events or as few events as they wish. For each event, each team should enter the required number of students. It should be noted that some events will be occurring simultaneously, so consult the schedule of events in order to avoid conflicts. Please try to schedule each child in as many events as possible.

Scheduling

Check the schedule of events carefully. Do not over-commit any one child. A teacher/coach may want to arbitrarily choose the makeup of the team and this is permissible. Another method of choosing team members would be the use of an intra-school competition to select members.

Awards

At North Jersey Elementary Science Olympiad first, second, third, fourth and fifth place medals will be given to all students who place in each event. Trophies will also be given to teams that place first, second and third. Certificates of participation will be awarded to each participant.

Grade Level Arrangements

The Elementary Science Olympiad tournament is generally run with students in three consecutive grade levels that are found in the same building. There are many different arrangements of students within elementary buildings in the United States. Usually, within the

same district, grade levels are nearly identical. This is one strong reason for running a Science Olympiad tournament at a local level.

Two other such arrangements are grades 3, 4 and 5 or grades 4, 5 and 6. We recommend that students are chosen from grade levels from the same building and that all competitors from all teams be made up in the same manner. Another variation might be that in one Science Olympiad tournament, student competitors may be from grades 3, 4 and 5 while across that state another tournament may be for children in grades 4, 5, and 6. If both of the arrangements are found within the same local school district or county, then another variation might require that teams be made from grades 4 and 5 only since only these two grades are common to both arrangements or allow all grades represented from your area, and limit the number of 5th or 6th grade students. Directors may also allow schools to have limited number of their last year's graduating class return.

Another variation is to set up specific events for each grade level. For example, since weather is part of the fifth grade curriculum, then the weather event is assigned as a fifth grade event only. Mystery Powders is part of the sixth grade curriculum and open to sixth graders only. Another variation could require that the Science Bowl team must be made up of at least one student from each grade level. The number of possible grade level variations is infinite. The most important consideration is to choose variations that will help all students and put no schools or students at any advantage or disadvantage. Make the Science Olympiad work for you!

Choosing Students for Your Team

The students on the Science Olympiad team should reflect the diverse student population of a school. Remember, Science Olympiad is for all students! Choose some of your best students, of course, but don't forget about those with specific skills. Choose a student who has a rock collection and who works on it at home for Rock Hound. Choose students with well-developed athletic skills to populate your Pentathlon team. Choose a child who is great in wood shop for Bridge Building or Rubber Band Catapult. Choose students whose parents are willing to assist in coaching the team and who have some expertise that they can share with the whole team. (See Sample Code of Conduct on page 19)

GETTING HELP

Running a Science Olympiad or coaching a Science Olympiad team requires people and resources. Recruit help from every place you can think of. If you are soliciting help, a letter on official stationery is recommended, place a notice in the school newsletter or community newspaper or on a local TV station. In the past, teams and events have had sponsorship from local service clubs, parent groups, school boards or regional school districts. Some teams hold bake sales or car washes to raise funds, while others ask for donations and materials directly from science supply houses, community colleges, universities, businesses, professional associations or science museums.

Many businesses require about six weeks for contributions to be processed, so allow enough lead-time. You may want to consider background checks on volunteers. Seek help with judging, organizing and publicity from your community. A successful Science Olympiad is good public relations for any school and good PR for the whole town. You may find, as several schools have, someone from the community who will help prepare students for an event. Encourage

those who volunteer to wear something identifying them with the group they represent, or all event supervisors could wear a common Science Olympiad officials' T-shirt, hat or identification badge. Be sure to thank all those who help both publicly (perhaps with a resolution from the Board of Education or Mayor) and personally in writing. Also, ask if letters may be sent to superiors.

POST-SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

After a Science Olympiad tournament, don't forget to celebrate your success. At the very least, recognize the members of the team. Have their participation announced in a school newspaper article and have their names and events read over the school's public address system. Submit a short article to the local newspaper. Arrange to have the kids accept their "Certificate of Outstanding Performance" at a school assembly. Be sure to also recognize parents and organizations that helped sponsor your team. If any of the students or team won a medal or ribbon, temporarily collect them after a few days and develop a display for the principal's office or science display case. Include pictures of the students accepting the award. Make certain that the team's picture is given to the yearbook editor for inclusion as an important student activity. You may also want to develop a Power Point presentation and have the students demonstrate their event at a School Board Meeting.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD CODE OF ETHICS

Student participants are expected to compete in tournament events with honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. Team members are expected to be the builders of all the devices used in the events. The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Students, coaches, parents, and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Science Olympiad officials, other teams, and guests of the Science Olympiad. Failure to show honesty and/or courtesy by a participant, coach, or guest of the team may result in the disqualification of the team from that event, the entire tournament or future tournaments.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PLEDGES:

Student: I pledge to put forth my best effort in the Science Olympiad tournament and to uphold the principles of honest competition. In my events, I will compete with integrity, respect, and sportsmanship towards my fellow competitors. I will display courtesy towards Event Supervisors and Tournament Personnel. My actions will exemplify the proud spirit of my school, team, and state.

Coach: On behalf of the coaches and assistants at this tournament, I pledge to encourage honesty and respect for tournament personnel, our fellow coaches, and other team members. We want our efforts to bring honor to our community and school.

Parent: On behalf of the parents and spectators I pledge to be an example for our children by: Respecting the rules of Science Olympiad, Encouraging excellence in preparation and investigation, Supporting independence in design & production of all competition devices, Respecting the decisions of event supervisors and judges.

Event Supervisor: On behalf of my fellow supervisors and tournament personnel, I pledge to run my event with fairness and respect for the participants and their coaches. Our actions will reflect the principles of the Science Olympiad program and display the pride we feel as representatives of our colleges, universities, companies, states or organizations.

Our collective example will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all participants.