

Science Olympiad

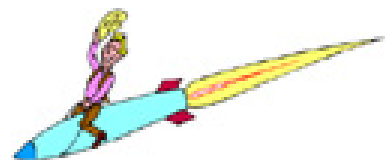
What is the Science Olympiad?

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets consisting of a series of 23 individual and team events. Students select events that interest them prepare to compete in those events.

Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on, group participation. Depending on the event signed up for, students can build a device, take a written test, answer questions verbally, or sometimes a combination of both.

The great thing about it is that you can learn any of the subjects you are most interested in during the semester.

Science Olympiad is a great academic activity. Last year, 17 Olympians learned new things, made new friends, learned to work together to accomplish their goal, received ribbons and trophies for their efforts and had a great time doing it!!! We hope that you'll join this year's team. Descriptions of this year's 23 exciting events are enclosed.



Top 10 Reasons why YOU Should Join 2011/2012 Science Olympiad Team

- 10 Great addition to your academic resume.
- 9 Improve your study skills.
- 8 Learn more about subjects that interest you.
- 7 A sense of accomplishment.
- 6 Build cool gadgets.
- 5 It's spending time doing what you love..
- 4 Show California what River Hawks are made of.
- 3 Promotes teamwork and collaboration.
- 2 Make new friends.
- 1 *Its challenging and **fun!!!***



Frequently Asked Questions about Science Olympiad



Don't you have to be a brain-iac to be on this team?

No! Science Olympiad gives ALL students an opportunity to excel outside the classroom. All students interested in any of the topics can participate. In fact, all students can be successful in science Olympiad- all it takes is hard work and dedication, you even get a partner for each event. Science Olympiad shows students that science is fun, accessible and exciting!

How will I get prepared to compete?

Much like a sports team, the SO team prepares by practicing. The more you prepare the more successful you will be.

I've heard that this is a good thing for my Academic Resume, is that true?

Absolutely! The prestige of participating in a Science Olympiad tournament is a great addition to your college application. In addition, Science Olympiad has a terrific scholarship program, giving you another outlet for finding money for college.

What are the other benefits of Science Olympiad?

You'll learn teamwork as you work together toward your goal, strengthen study skills, discover new aspects of science, build school spirit, and make new friends.

How do I sign up for the team?

Follow the link on the Rio Norte Web Page for the electronic application.

When is the Science Olympiad Competition?

The competitions are held on a Saturday at the end of February or the beginning of March. They take place on a college campus and last all day. It is a fun and busy day.

My mom, dad, uncle, brother, etc. would like to be involved, will the team need help?

Yes! We're looking for adults (or experienced high school students) to help coach SO events. We also need parent volunteers on the day of the competition.

PAST EVENTS

Earth | Space

DYNAMIC PLANET

Learn about earthquakes and volcanoes.



FOSSILS

Emphasis will be on fossil identification and ability to answer questions about: classification, habitat, ecologic relationships, behaviors, and the use of fossils to date and correlate rock units.



METEOROLOGY

Involves the use of process skills as applied to meteorology with respect to weather and climate.

SOLAR SYSTEM

A new event testing Olympians knowledge of the details and interworkings of earth and its neighboring planets.

ROAD SCHOLAR

Requires the accurate interpretation, and understanding, of various map features using a variety of road and topographic maps.



Inquiry | Nature

COMPUTE THIS

This event integrates Personal Computing (PC) technology, the Internet, and quantitative data analysis. Teams are presented with a problem that requires quantitative data capture from the public Internet and the organization and presentation of data in a graphical format.



EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

This event will determine a team's ability to design, conduct, and report the findings of an experiment actually conducted on site.



PENTATHLON

Answer a variety of questions that cover all fields of science.

WRITE IT DO IT

Technical writing exercise where students write a description of a contraption and other students will attempt to recreate it using only the written description.



Life | Social

ORNITHOLOGY

This event will test knowledge of birds, bird behavior and bird calls.



ANATOMY

Test your knowledge of anatomy and health concepts (focus on Skeletal and Circulatory Systems).



BIO-PROCESS LAB

Teams will demonstrate biology laboratory skills related to selected topics.



DISEASE DETECTIVES

Students apply principles of epidemiology to a published report of a real life health situation or problem (focus on Population Growth).



ECOLOGY

Answer questions involving content knowledge and process skills in the area of ecology and adaptation by examining different ecosystems (focus on Grasslands and Taiga.)



Technology

ELEVATED BRIDGE

BUILD EVENT

Design and build the most efficient bridge meeting the design specification



JUNKYARD CHALLENGE

BUILD EVENT

Students will prepare and use "mystery materials to perform certain tasks. The tasks have included designing a coin sorter and finding the mass of an object in the past!



BATTERY BUGGY

BUILD EVENT

Teams will design and build a battery operated vehicle capable of traveling variable distances and then stopping as close to that distance as possible.

WRIGHT STUFF

BUILD EVENT

Teams will design and build a propeller propelled aerodynamic device for greatest time aloft.



Physical | Chemistry

SHOCK VALUE

Students will demonstrate their understanding of electricity and circuits.



PHYSICAL SCIENCE LAB

Teams will demonstrate physics laboratory skills related to selected topics.



TRAJECTORY

BUILD EVENT

Teams will design, construct, calibrate and operate a device capable of launching a projectile into a target using energy provided by nonmetallic elastic solids.

CAN'T JUDGE A POWDER

Forensics like event focused on the properties and identification of unknown powdered solids.



SCIENCE CRIME BUSTERS

Teams will identify the perpetrators of a crime or crimes by using paper chromatography and analysis of unknown solids, liquids and plastics found at the scene of a crime.



Make it a Great Year!

Join Science Olympiad