

# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

## ✓ Inspiring the Next Generation of Scientists

For the past 28 years, Science Olympiad has led a revolution in science education. What began as a grassroots assembly of science teachers is now one of the premiere science competitions in the nation, providing rigorous, standards-based challenges to 6,200 teams in 50 states. Science Olympiad's ever-changing lineup of events in all STEM disciplines exposes students to practicing scientists and career choices, and energizes classroom teachers with a dynamic content experience.



Science Olympiad National Tournament champs from Ohio are congratulated by President Barack Obama in Washington, DC, at the White House Science Fair on October 18, 2010.

## ✓ Urban Schools Initiative



“ After participating in Science Olympiad and winning two medals at the Regional Tournament, I decided I wanted to major in science. This fall I will be attending Northeastern Illinois University majoring in Biology. ”

BRITTANY FIRSZT, STEINMETZ HIGH SCHOOL, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Since 2006, the Urban Schools Initiative has increased minority participation in Science Olympiad by providing teams with membership, materials and extensive professional development. The program uses a stepping-up progression of events and a protected regional concept to support teams as they advance. At training workshops called “Build It Learn It Days” students work with experts from

museums, universities and businesses to design and construct helicopters, study microbes and solve crimes using forensic techniques. Evaluation by the University of Illinois I-STEM Education Initiative found that a majority of students felt Science Olympiad helped increase their interest in science and STEM courses, and also increased confidence in their ability to do science.



Exploring the World of Science

**Science Olympiad** is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. These goals are achieved by participating in Science Olympiad tournaments, incorporating Science Olympiad into classroom curriculum and attending professional development workshops. [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org)

# ➔ Team Collaboration

Fulfilling a desire to bring excitement to science education and competitions, Science Olympiad was founded in 1983 by educators Dr. Gerard Putz and Jack Cairns. Currently, Science Olympiad holds more than 320 invitational, regional and state competitions, engaging 200,000+ students on 6,200 secondary school teams annually.

At the competitive level, elementary, middle and high school students with a knack for science have a chance to excel inside and outside the classroom. Secondary school teams advancing to state and national tournaments are celebrated at pep rallies, travel to major universities, make new friends and experience what it's like to be a star in the community. Individual medals and championship trophies for each division are awarded, with cash and tuition scholarship offers exceeding \$11 million to date.



## ∨ Science Olympiad Competition

### Middle School Division B (Grades 6-9) and High School Division C (Grades 9-12)

Much like a football or soccer team, Science Olympiad teams prepare throughout the year for tournaments. Each team is allowed to bring 15 students to participate in events in their skill set. Practices vary from monthly meetings to daily work as tournaments near, supported by an interlocking group of coaches, parents and mentors from the community, academia and industry. Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events in each division. Annually, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the changing nature of anatomy, physics, geology, astronomy, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from many disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved in active, hands-on, group participation.

## ∨ Elementary Science Olympiad

### Elementary School Division A (Grades K-6)

Elementary Science Olympiad shows kids that science is fun, accessible and exciting, with 10,000+ elementary schools in the U.S. using Science Olympiad programs. Some hold Fun Days, where every classroom in the school becomes a hands-on science lab, or a Fun Night, where teams rotate through events staffed by local science professionals, parents and teachers. Some states even host district, regional or state competitions for grades 3-6, offering events like Animal Trackers, Don't Bug Me, Science Crime Busters, Pasta Bridge and Rock Hound. The elementary program is a great jumping-off point for Science Olympiad in the upper grades and a perfect way to enhance any school's curriculum.



Parents, PTA members and experts from the community share their enthusiasm for STEM careers at Elementary Science Olympiad events.

“ Science Olympiad sparked my interest in science and technology. During my years with Science Olympiad, I learned that scientific challenges provide a unique, intrinsic satisfaction. After graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, I became a pilot flying military fighters. ”

RYAN HOWLAND, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TEST PILOT, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

# Workforce Development

To strengthen real-world application of skills, Science Olympiad invites partners from industry, government agencies and associations to design and supervise events that provide links to the STEM pipeline. Organizations like Lockheed Martin, Texas Instruments and Centers for Disease Control provide volunteers, access to cutting-edge research and invaluable expertise to Science Olympiad teams, state organizations and local competitions.



Tova Peltz, a geotechnical engineer in Oregon, said participating in Science Olympiad events like Write It Do It gave her the training to develop construction plans and specifications, vital to her current job.

“ Science Olympiad encouraged me to pursue a science degree and career. I’m convinced my participation in Science Olympiad is the main thing that got me into -- and prepared for -- college. I now coach two middle school teams on the South Side of Chicago. ”

CHRISTY PAGE, SCIENCE TEACHER,  
GEORGE WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY, CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 100% Aligned to Science Standards

All Science Olympiad events are aligned with current National Science Standards set by the National Research Council. Teachers seeking curriculum resources that illustrate standards in action have found success with Science Olympiad because it emphasizes the close relationship between teaching and assessment. Science Olympiad showcases a broad spectrum of events in 40+ professional development workshops across the US, including the Science Olympiad Summer Institute.



At all levels, girls represent more than half of all participants in Science Olympiad. Many have found that the teamwork aspect of Science Olympiad carries through their entire career.

## Events Include:

### DIVISION B EVENTS FOR 2012

#### Life, Personal & Social Science

- Anatomy (Respiratory, Digestive)
- Disease Detectives (Food Borne Illness)
- Forestry
- Microbe Mission
- Water Quality

#### Earth & Space Science

- Dynamic Planet (Earth's Fresh Waters)
- Meteorology (Climate)
- Reach for the Stars
- Road Scholar
- Rocks and Minerals

#### Physical Science & Chemistry

- Keep the Heat
- Optics
- Storm the Castle
- Crime Busters
- Food Science

#### Technology & Engineering

- Bottle Rocket
- Mission Possible
- Mousetrap Vehicle
- Towers

#### Inquiry & Nature of Science

- Awesome Aquifers
- Compute This
- Experimental Design
- Write It Do It

### DIVISION C EVENTS FOR 2012

#### Life, Personal & Social Science

- Anatomy & Physiology (Respiratory, Excretory, Digestive)
- Disease Detectives (Food Borne Illness)
- Forestry
- Microbe Mission
- Water Quality

#### Earth & Space Science

- Astronomy
- Dynamic Planet (Earth's Fresh Waters)
- Remote Sensing (Earth's Hydrosphere)
- Rocks and Minerals

#### Physical Science & Chemistry

- Optics
- Sounds of Music
- Chem Lab
- Forensics
- Protein Modeling
- Thermodynamics

#### Technology & Engineering

- Helicopters
- Gravity Vehicle
- Robot Arm
- Towers

#### Inquiry & Nature of Science

- Experimental Design
- Fermi Questions
- Technical Problem Solving
- Write It Do It

# Science Olympiad National Tournament

Attracting crowds of 5,000+, the Science Olympiad National Tournament is the pinnacle of team science competition. Hosts like The George Washington University, North Carolina State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder offer state-of-the-art facilities, superb faculty and a wealth of scholarship opportunities to the best and brightest students, recruiting the next wave of engineers, researchers and technicians to the STEM workforce.

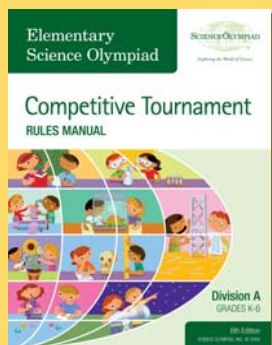
## UPCOMING NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SITES:

- 2012  
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- 2013  
Wright State University, Dayton, OH
- 2014  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE



“ I definitely feel that my early involvement in Science Olympiad had an impact on my career choices. The preparation helped me immensely throughout my college and post-college career. ”

JEFFREY SILVERMAN, PhD STUDENT, ASTROPHYSICS,  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY



## ONLINE STORE:

Please visit [store.soinc.org](http://store.soinc.org) to order Rules Manuals, CDs, DVDs, Test Packets and other educational materials you can use to prepare for Science Olympiad tournaments and classroom instruction!

**MEMBERSHIP** For a complete listing of events, state websites and tournament information, or to learn more about becoming a registered member team, please visit our website.

Two Trans Am Plaza Dr., Suite 415  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
(630) 792-1251 Phone  
(630) 792-1287 Fax

[www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org)



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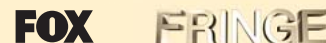
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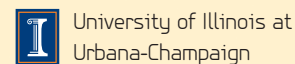
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I-STEM Education Initiative

