

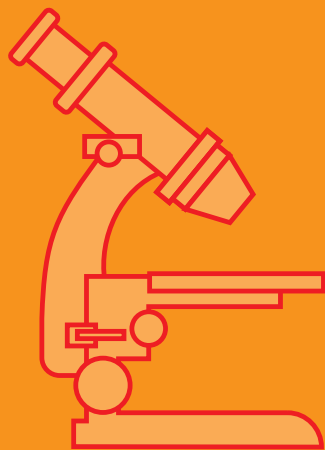
Science Olympiad



Bottle Rocket, always one of the most popular spectator events, rewards the longest time aloft of a device propelled by air and water pressure only.

We have a mission.

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 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 teacher training institutes.



America's Most Exciting Science Competition

Imagine 5,000 people cheering for a high school junior who designed a robot that could play billiards. Imagine an academic pep rally, with the mayor of your town sending off a bus load of 13-year-old chemists, geologists and astrophysicists in a confetti-filled parade. Imagine a girl getting a chance to meet with the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an astronaut, a famous pediatric neurosurgeon or a U.S. president. Imagine Science Olympiad.

An alternative to science fairs.

Fulfilling a desire to bring excitement to science competitions, Science Olympiad was founded in 1983 by educators Dr. Gerard J. Putz and John C. Cairns. After successful tournaments were held in Michigan and Delaware, the program began to attract interest from school districts all around the country. What began as a grassroots assembly of science educators has now become one of the premier science competitions in the nation. Currently, Science Olympiad has members in all 50 states and Canada, totaling more than 14,500 actively participating K-12 schools.

At the competitive level, elementary, middle and high school students with a knack for science have a chance to excel outside of the classroom. Secondary 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, all without throwing, catching or hitting a ball. One of Science Olympiad's most important goals is to bring academic competition to the same level of recognition and praise normally reserved for athletic competitions in this country.



www.soinc.org

Exploring the World of Science



In March of 1992, **President George H. Bush** honored a group of 180 Science Olympiad students, teachers, coaches and administrators for their achievements and contributions to science at a Washington, D.C. ceremony.

Alumni Notes

Of the working alumni responding to our 2004 online survey, 86% said that participating in Science Olympiad had a direct impact on their career choice.

“As a young girl, being on Science Olympiad with other girls created an important support group; together we discovered that women can succeed in the fields of engineering, math and science.”

- **Vanessa Rogers**, Management Consultant, IBM

“Science Olympiad helped me to learn how to work with team members, each with different skills and talents, to accomplish a mutual goal. This has been an invaluable lesson for my current line of work, where I manage the resources of many engineers and scientists to come up with a solution to challenging problems.”

- **Anthony Hays**, Division Manager, Michigan Aerospace Corporation

“Science Olympiad established and confirmed my desire to pursue engineering in college and beyond. My experiences associated with Science Olympiad are among the best of my life.”

- **Brett Strayer**, Systems Engineer, Lockheed Martin

The nuts and bolts of competition.

Boys and girls work together in events like **The Wright Stuff**, where students are challenged to build a rubber-motor-powered, propeller-driven monoplane that stays in the air for the longest time period.

Much like a football or soccer team, Science Olympiad teams prepare throughout the year for tournaments. Some have paid coaches, some have volunteers, most practice every week, some practice every day. Each team is allowed to bring 15 students who may participate in one or all of the events within a division.

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 individual and team events. Each year, events are updated to reflect the ever-changing nature of the latest advances in biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, computers, astronomy, engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to participate. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on, group participation. Through the Olympiad, students, teachers, coaches, principals, business leaders and parents bond together and work toward a shared goal.



Teachers from across the nation attend Science Olympiad **Summer Institutes** to learn about new events.

Teamwork is a required skill in most scientific careers today, and Science Olympiad encourages group learning by designing events that forge alliances. In **Bridge Building**, an engineering whiz and a kid from wood shop can become gold medalists. Similarly, a talented builder and a student with a good scientific vocabulary can excel in **Write It, Do It**. Science Olympiad seeks to shatter the isolated scientist stereotype.

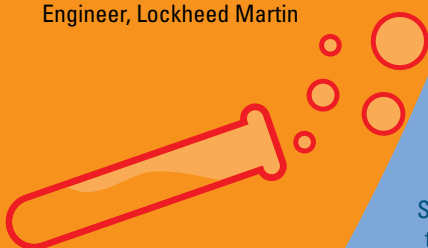
The prestige of winning a medal at a Science Olympiad national tournament is often a springboard to success. Individual medals as well as championship trophies for each division are awarded at tournaments. In addition, cash and tuition scholarships have been given in amounts exceeding \$1.5 million.

Divisions:

- Division A1 (Grades K-3)
- Division A2 (Grades 3-6)
- Division B (Grades 6-9)
- Division C (Grades 9-12)



Students attending the **National Tournament** wear their best at the Saturday night awards ceremony.





Accept the Challenge!

National Tournament Sites

- 1985 Michigan State University
- 1986 Michigan State University
- 1987 Ohio State University
- 1988 Delaware State University
- 1989 University of Colorado, Boulder
- 1990 Clarion University
- 1991 Penn Valley Community College
- 1992 Auburn University
- 1993 University of Southern Colorado
- 1994 University of Arizona
- 1995 Indiana University
- 1996 Georgia Institute of Technology
- 1997 North Carolina State University
- 1998 Grand Valley State University
- 1999 University of Chicago
- 2000 Eastern Washington University
- 2001 University of Colorado,
Colorado Springs
- 2002 University of Delaware
- 2003 Ohio State University
- 2004 Juniata College *(pictured right)*
- 2005 University of Illinois
- 2006 Indiana University
- 2007 Wichita State College
- 2008 George Washington University,
Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Augusta State University



Science Olympiad 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 or contact us at:

www.soinc.org



Science Olympiad

Two Trans Am Plaza Drive, Suite 415
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181

(630) 792-1251



In **Mission Possible**, teams build a device that incorporates energy transfers from up to five energy sources to perform a specific task; in this case, to ring a mechanical bell.

Past and Present Contributors

American Honda Foundation, Bank One, Boeing, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Delta, DuPont Corporation, Earth Force, Ford Motor, General Motors, IBM, Lockheed-Martin, McGraw Hill Companies, Midwest Products, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), PITSCO, Prentice Hall, Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), Texaco, The U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USARC).



Students show their Texas pride during the 2004 National Tournament **Parade of States**.