Welcome to STS Science Olympiad!

Information for Families

**What is Science Olympiad?**Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. These goals are accomplished through classroom activities, research, and the encouragement of district, regional, state and national tournaments. Science Olympiad tournaments are rigorous interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of team events, which students prepare for during the year. These challenging and motivational events are well-balanced between the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. There is also a balance between events requiring knowledge of science concepts, process skills and science applications.

**What are the competition dates?**This year, our team will compete in at least two all-day tournaments. The first tournament is an invitational (practice) tournament. It's on **Saturday, December 9th,**and takes place at a school near Pinehurst, NC. The regional tournament is scheduled for **Saturday, February 3rd.**This will take place a Southeast Raleigh HS. All of the work we do in class is to prepare for these competitions, so if your child cannot attend we encourage them to consider signing up for a different elective class.

**What are the events my child might participate in?**The list of events is updated and revised each year. At this point, the names of the 2018 middle school (Division B) events have been posted, but updated rules and directions for those events are yet to come. Visit the NC Science Olympiad website for the most up-to-date information.

What role can I play as a parent?

* **Support your child in their event-preparation:**Students who are most successful at Science Olympiad competitions have parents or coaches who are able to assist their child with gathering data, practicing for events, purchasing supplies, building and using tools, and studying for events**.**
	+ **Apprenticeship**: Parents cannot build a device for their child, but they can teach their child how to do it or find someone who can, much like an apprenticeship program. Remember, the student will be questioned about their device and how it was made, if an event leader has reason to believe the student did not build the device they can be disqualified. The student needs to do the final work themselves!
	+ **Practice Facilitator**: Often the assistance a student needs is simply in being able to meet with their partner to practice on their event(s). Meeting one on one at someone's house can greatly increase productivity without the distraction of other students practicing other events. Ask your child if they want to invite their partner over to practice, or offer to drive them to their partner's house. Likewise, practices can be held before or after school if classroom(s) are available.
* **Attend Coaches Clinic in October:** More details to come!
* **Coach and Support Other Team Members**If you have special expertise in one or more of the event areas, we'd like to know! You could volunteer to visit our class for one or more days and provide a special "coaching session" for a small group of students. "Coaching sessions" could also be coordinated on weekends or after school with parent permission.
* **Donate Snacks:**We like to keep a good supply of tasty, healthy snacks available for students during competition.
* **Tournament Day Volunteer**: You will always need parents on tournament day to keep an eye on things, make that run to a nearby store when you realize someone forgot their safety glasses, help make sure students make it to their events on time, get lunch, or handle any other situations that may arise.
* **Donate Snacks:**We like to keep a good supply of tasty, healthy snacks available for students during competition.

When will students know their events?During the first few weeks of school, students will have an opportunity to "apply" for their top six events. We will do our best to give each child one of their top choices, keeping the following in mind:

* Each student this year will be required to have at least one building event and one testing event. Students interested in competing in more than two events will need to demonstrate a commitment to putting in time to prepare for all three.
* Returning team members will get priority, given their prior experience and commitment to the team.
* We want to ensure the events given to each child are a good fit for their particular interests and strengths.
* Because we have a "full" team this year, we will try to have a pair of students filling every event. No events left behind!
* Events assignments can be changed mid-year if a team member isn't making progress or demonstrating a commitment to prepare.

**This is an elective class, so how will my child be graded? Students will earn a grade for the class based on the following expectations:**

* **Students use in-class time productively and efficiently. This may mean planning ahead for what they will accomplish during class and bringing in any necessary supplies.**
* **S.O. “homework” this year will be 30 minutes of prep time each week. Students will submit a brief description of how they spent their 30 minutes (including which event they prepped for and what they did) through Google Classroom.**
* **Students who go above and beyond – spending more time outside of class than the required 30 minutes will earn an “E,” assuming they also spend in-class time wisely.**

***E= Excellent=Student consistently exceeds class expectations.
S= Satisfactory=Student is often meets class expectations.
P=Progressing= Student is not meeting some class expectations
N= Needs Improvement=Student is consistently not meeting class expectations.***

**How can I stay up-to-date? Our team webpage is linked through the STS Science Lab website. Check it out for links to sign-ups and important websites, pictures from class, updates, and more. 🡪 www.stssciencelab.weebly.com/sts-science-olympiad.html**

NCSO Div B 2018 Slate of Events

[approved by regional directors as of August 1]

Non-Building Events:

* Anatomy & Physiology (Respiratory, Digestive, Immune)
* Disease Detectives (Food Illness)
* Ecology Herpetology
* Microbe Mission
* Dynamic Planet (Tectonics)
* Meteorology (Climate)
* Road Scholar
* Rocks and Minerals
* Solar System

Building Events:

* Hovercraft
* Keep the Heat
* Optics
* Crime Busters
* Potions and Poisons
* Battery Buggy
* Roller Coaster
* Towers
* Wright Stuff
* Fast Facts
* Write It Do It
* Mystery Architecture (Duct Tape Challenge)
* Ping Pong Parachute
* Trial almost everywhere: Amazing Mechatronics
* Experimental Design (States only)

\*Some of the building events also include written tests; rules will provide clarification.