

Exploring the World of Science

# **IDAHO SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**





Competitive, Team Oriented, Hands-On, Making Science Fun!

An extracurricular activity for Jr. and Sr. High schools

May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Boise State University, ISU Pocatello TBD

#### What is it?

The Science Olympiad is an extracurricular national science competition for junior and senior high school students. Students, in teams of up to fifteen, compete in as many events as possible. Some schools field multiple teams. This year's state competition is May 2nd, at Boise State University. The 2026 Science Olympiad Coaches Manual and Rules contains all the details. Students in the 6th through 9th grades are eligible to compete at the junior high level. Students in the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades compete at the senior high level.

#### **Excitement and Fun!**

The Science Olympiad puts science in the context of team-oriented competition. The thrills, excitement, and suspense all combined into a festival atmosphere make science fun! Students prepare for one or more of the possible twenty-three events in small groups under the guidance of a teacher or parent volunteer. The small group allows friends and buddies to prepare together while working in the context of a larger team of up to fifteen students.

## **Three Event Formats, Something for everyone**



**Build Something** 

Hands-On Laboratory Reading, Interpretation & Writing

### **Parent Participation**

Although some schools in other states have made the Science Olympiad part of their curriculum, it is an extracurricular activity here in Idaho. Just as you can't expect the school's PE teacher to coach your student's soccer team, don't expect the science teacher to coach your school's Science Olympiad team. Our teachers, however, can be a great source of information and inspiration. Parents are the main organizers and coaches. The library, school, Internet, and last year's coaches are all good sources of information. A parent does not need to be an expert in a particular field to help a student prepare for an event. A trip to the library, internet search, or a conversation with one of last year's coaches is usually enough to get started.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze Individuals and teams are recognized.





# **Very Flexible Scheduling**

Unlike sports competitions, the Idaho Science Olympiad has only one fixed State competition. This allows tremendous flexibility for parent-coaches. Compared to athletic sports like soccer or football, the Science Olympiad is the easiest activity to schedule in your busy life. Parent-coach volunteers can help students prepare for individual events at a time that is agreeable to the small group of two or three students. These small gettogethers are much easier to arrange than the practices required for an entire sports team. The parent-coach simply takes one of the events and helps a small group of students prepare for that event. The expected coach time commitment is about eight hours a month (or less with more volunteers). Last year's coaches are also available to offer advice.

Come and join the thousands of teams across the nation in this thrilling competition.



