

How to Prepare for Science Olympiad Events

www.idahoscioly.org

The events of Science Olympiad can be divided into three major categories:

Lab Events Conduct simple experiments and document.

Examples: Chemistry Lab C
Crime Busters B
Circuit Lab B/C
Experimental Design B/C
Rocks and Minerals B/C
Water Quality B/C

Build-It Events Build a device prior and run it in competition.

Examples: Boomilever B/C
Bungee Drop C
Helicopters B/C
Mission Possible B
Electric Vehicle C
Machines B/C
Scrambler B

Written Events Observe, calculate, interpret and document.

Examples: Anatomy and Physiology B/C
Disease Detectives B/C
Dynamic Planet B/C
Meteorology B
Ecology B/C
Entomology B/C
Write-It-Do-It B

A competitor and their coach can determine the main requirements of each event by carefully reading the rules of the event. Note that the rules for each event will specify what the competitor CAN and CANNOT bring into the event. For example, some events require safety equipment such as goggles and clothing. Some events restrict the number of notes and calculator types. Competitors should bring a supply of writing implements unless the rules restrict them.

In all cases, the competitor and coach should read the 2025 rules several times. Check the website <https://www.soinc.org/events/rules-corrections> The Idaho Science Olympiad will also answer questions on interpretation of rules.

The Idaho Science Olympiad schedule for May 2nd, 2026 at BSU has six 45 minute time slots each starting on the hour from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Each lab or written event has two back-to-back slots. A competitor only needs to sign up for one time slot for a particular event. The build-it events run all day. This arrangement allows a competitor to compete in at least two Lab/Written events and a number of Build-It events.

The rules for each Lab/Written event list the topics that the competitor can expect to encounter. Note each topic and make a study outline. Several resources are available for event preparation.

- School text books (Science Olympiad parallels school curriculums)
- School faculty members (May have additional texts or supplies)
- School, library, internet books (For example Audubon field guides)
- Friends, Family knowledgeable in the event subject.
- Supplies (SO's Ward Science may be more expensive than others)
- YouTube Videos (Older videos may use previous years' rules, be careful)
- Internet searches for practice quizzes and study materials.

The rules for the Build-It events vary from year to year. Thus it is very important to follow the rules for 2026. Dimensions, mass, and timing may change from year to year. Competitors that do not meet the rules will be ranked below other who do. Do not forget the safety equipment required by your event.

As a general rule, try a web search with the search criteria stating:

“Science Olympiad **Event Name** “

For example “Science Olympiad **Boomilever** “

will give several hits on construction, tips and videos of the competition.

In any case, be sure that the material you find relates to the current 2026 rules. The rules may be changed from year to year and the rules downloaded from the www.soinc.org are the standard.