

Tournament Date
25 March 2023



Location
**University of
South Dakota**
Vermillion

September 13, 2022

Dear Science Olympiad Coach/Coaches,

My name is James Tracy, State Director of the South Dakota Science Olympiad. Let me first offer you a warm welcome to the SD “Sci-Oly”! If you represent a returning team, welcome back! If this is your first time with the SD Science Olympiad, welcome aboard!

The 2023 South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament is scheduled to be held on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion on **Saturday, March 25, 2023.**

We would like to invite your school to compete at the South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament. There are 23 Events which span the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines, with various levels of competitive challenge for students!

In support of your school and team’s efforts to prepare for the various events at the SD Science Olympiad, please feel free to check out the South Dakota Science Olympiad web site (see below) for additional information about Science Olympiad, such as instructional videos, rules, and other supporting documents.

News and Key Deadlines

We also would like to announce that a new SD Science Olympiad website is being prepared, and we expect to launch in the coming weeks! We are designing it to simply and increase access to resources for teams, coaches, and others, while modernizing navigation and style. Keep an eye out for the announcement when we are ready to go live! We would like to invite any team that competed in the 2022 State Tournament to please send us any photos and videos you would like us to share on the new site! We want to show everyone how much fun our teams have when they come to the SD Science Olympiad.

Also, we are interested in establishing an SD Sci-Oly Alumni group to help us continue to promote the SD Science Olympiad. If you know any former students or team members (or retired coaches!) who would like to join this group, please let me know at the SDScienceOlympiad@usd.edu email!

If you are returning, you may have noticed a change to the SD Sci-Oly logo! We will be using this as our state Tournament logo; you are welcome to use it for anything your team needs, such as team shirts. Please let us know if you need a copy of the source file for your plans; we will be making files available for download from the new site as well!

For the first time, this year the SD Science Olympiad has brought a few University of South Dakota students on board as part of an “Executive Team”. Our goal is to further develop the SD Sci-Oly program and make it easier for us to support your team as you prepare for the State Tournament! If you have any suggestions that we can explore to make your tournament experience even better, please let us know.

A membership/registration form is posted on the current South Dakota Science Olympiad website with this invitation letter. We are pleased to announce that this year, there will be no increase in the team registration fees – the team fee remains \$100! This covers the National Membership plus the State Tournament registration. Please return the completed form along with the appropriate fees (school purchase orders are acceptable) by the registration deadline of **Friday, January 13, 2023**. Be sure to include the e-mail addresses of your school's coaches.

Most of the communication that relates to South Dakota Science Olympiad will be conducted via email. As soon as your membership information and dues are received, instructions will be emailed to you explaining where online rules manual(s) for your division(s) are available for download. I will need a preliminary list of participating students and events for your school emailed to me. The deadline for the preliminary list of students and events for your school will be **Friday, February 10, 2023**.

Team Qualification Policies

Currently, there are only two divisions in the state of South Dakota: the Junior High/Middle Schools compete under Division B while the High Schools compete under Division C. Both divisions may have up to fifteen (15) students on your team roster during the State Tournament. Students must be from the membership school, or be homeschooled in the same district. Recruiting from neighboring schools, districts, counties or states is not permitted. A school is considered to be a separate school if it has a separate administrator.

Division C may have up to a maximum of seven (7) twelfth graders on your team to participate in the state tournament. If your school offers 9th grade, these students may qualify to be on your team IF they are not also currently participating in their previous year's Div B team this year.

For Division B, you may have up to five (5) ninth graders to participate in the state tournament. Because middle schools that do not have grades 8 or 9 are at a slight disadvantage, they may invite back any combination of up to five of their last year's seventh or eighth grade students to be part of the team (See Team Eligibility requirements on the website for more details). However, please remember that any given eighth or ninth grade student can compete at only one division level.

Due to logistical concerns, offering a state-level tournament for Division A is not part of the SD Science Olympiad plans. However, we are If you know of any interested elementary schools, teachers, and students, then please refer them to the South Dakota Science Olympiad Elementary School Initiative on our current website: (<https://sites.google.com/a/usd.edu/sdscienceolympiad/home/south-dakota-science-olympiad-elementary-school-initiative>).

Safety and COVID Considerations

Though as a community we are excited about the gradual return to 'normalcy', **we will continue to watch the status of COVID-19 and make appropriate changes to the state tournament plans if necessary.** Please take a look at the various South Dakota Science Olympiad policies on the South Dakota Science Olympiad web site (<https://sites.google.com/a/usd.edu/sdscienceolympiad/>) which are updated from time to time as updated policies are announced.

National Site Resources

I encourage you to go to the National Science Olympiad web site at (www.soinc.org) for a complete listing of the 2023 Science Olympiad events, rules, clarifications, resources, etc. until we are ready to announce

the new SD Sci-Oly site. Students and/or coaches may ask questions on this site, view the questions of other people with official responses, as well as view updated clarification information. If you are having any difficulty locating anything on the National site, please feel free to reach out to me!

Alternately, the following URL can be used by you to ask questions of the national Science Olympiad office directly (<https://www.soinc.org/events/frequently-asked-questions>).

It is always our goal to increase the number of participating schools in South Dakota Science Olympiad. Your assistance in contacting any interested parties at other schools and encouraging them to participate in the South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament is appreciated. If you know of an individual or a school that is interested in participating in South Dakota Science Olympiad, then please notify me and I or my Exec Team will personally contact them.

If you happen to know of any individuals, companies or foundations who might be interested in helping to sponsor our program, then please feel free to give them my contact information. I would be happy to speak with any and all interested parties.

If you have any other questions, then feel free to contact me at SDScienceOlympiad@usd.edu or (605) 677-6141.

Sincerely,



James Tracy

State Director

South Dakota Science Olympiad

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