



## Dear Science & STEM Teachers,

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It is my delight to cordially invite you and your school to form a team and register to compete in our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament!

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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!

### *What is the Science Olympiad?*

The state and national tournaments are comprised of twenty-three (23) Events which span the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines. Each science category contains events where students demonstrate specialized knowledge, laboratory skills, or design & build skills. Students compete for individual medals in the events in which they participate, and each team competes for state championship which comes with automatic eligibility to compete at the national tournament!

Our program’s competition levels are divided into three divisions: Division A (Elementary; *not available in South Dakota*), Division B (Middle School to 9<sup>th</sup> grade), and Division C (High School, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>). Teams with the maximum 15 students and as small as a few students and are welcome to compete!

### *Registration Details and Dates*

The 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 28, 2026**.

Due to some occasional delays in registration by our online portal and SDSO receiving payment, you can submit registration via the online portal, allowing you to receive the Official Rules Manual for your Division. Simultaneously, you can print the registration to submit through your school to ensure payment is processed and delivered to SD Science Olympiad.

The membership fee, this year is \$115, is due at registration. This covers the National Membership (\$75) plus the State Tournament membership

*Tournament Date*

**28 March 2026**

[www.SDSO.org](http://www.SDSO.org)

*Hosted by the*

**University of  
South Dakota**

*Vermillion*

(\$40) registration. Please return the completed form along with the appropriate fees (school purchase orders are acceptable) by the registration deadline of **February 28, 2026**. Be sure to include the e-mail addresses of your school's coaches.

As soon as your membership registration and fees are received, we will send a confirmation email with instructions on how to download the rules manual(s) for your division(s).

On our website, you will find the following helpful information:

| Tournament Resources  | Additional Resources   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Online registration forms</li><li>- Media release forms</li><li>- Team qualification policies</li><li>- A list of this year's events and links to resources for each</li><li>- Current Year's Event Schedule</li><li>- References to previous years' programs</li><li>- Coaching Tips</li><li>- SDSO Logo files</li><li>- Instructional videos on Youtube</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Team qualification policies</li><li>- A list of this year's events and links to resources for each</li><li>- Donation &amp; Sponsorship information</li><li>- Safety guidelines</li><li>- Access to SDSO Social Media</li><li>- Images from previous competitions</li><li>- Link to National site</li><li>- ...and more!</li></ul> |

If you have any other questions, then feel free to contact me at [SDScienceOlympiad@usd.edu](mailto:SDScienceOlympiad@usd.edu) or (605) 658-6830.

Sincerely,



**James Tracy**

*State Director*

*South Dakota Science Olympiad*

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