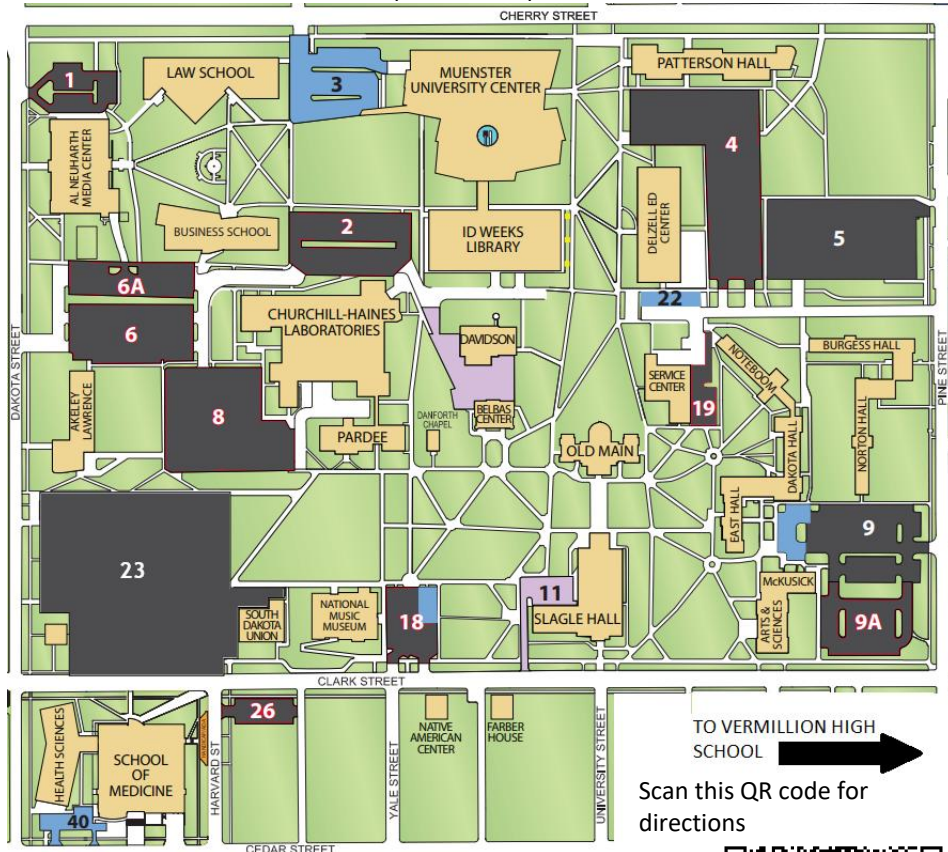




20
26
42nd Annual
Tournament
Program

Campus Map & Parking

The USD Police have suspended parking passes for today's event. Drivers attending our tournament are welcome to park on campus for convenience!



Dark Grey areas represent parking spaces.
Yellow structures are buildings. Visit SDSciOly.org/Tournament for a larger campus map.

In Case of Emergency

For Emergencies: **Dial 911**
You can dial 9-911 from any phone on campus.

Non-emergency Contact:
University Police **(605) 658-6199**



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State Director's Welcome Message

Science: Topic, Technique, Passion

As you've prepared for today's tournament over the past several weeks and months, you have learned a great deal of new things about a great deal of STEM ideas.

Specifically, you've learned about science topics, from anatomy of people and bugs to computer coding to the physics of flying to chemical reactions.

Along the way, you've also learned more about the scientific method, a technique we have used to explore the life and our world and universe for nearly three and a half centuries. It is a vital tool of eliminating misunderstanding and enhancing clarity of reproducible results.

Hopefully, part of your experience with Science Olympiad, including both the preparation and the tournament, you have begun to discover passion! To turn phrase, perhaps you have discovered a passion for discovery. It doesn't matter what your passion is, but if you have found some with Science Olympiad, you have opened up new possibilities for your future.

As you navigate today's challenges and obstacles, don't forget to take a moment to embrace the growth, the learning, and the passion, and most importantly, the joy of science you've discovered on this journey!

Compete hard, compete fair, take the time to explore USD between events, and check out the University's many unique attractions! But most of all, we hope you have fun! We wish you the best of luck in the tournament!



Welcome to our 42nd Annual SD Science Olympiad State Tournament!

Good Luck and Happy Competing,
James Tracy
State Director,
SD Science Olympiad

Key Upcoming Dates

2026 SDSO State Tourney	28 March 2026
2026 Nat'l Tourney	22-23 May 2026
2027 Rules Release	September 2026
2027 SDSO Registration Opens	1 October 2026
2027 SDSO State Tourney	TBA

Tournament Schedule

The general itinerary of activities on Tournament Day:

Registration	Main Entrance, Old Main (across from Slagle)	7:30 — 8:00 am
Coaches Meeting	Conference Room <i>Old Main</i>	8:10 — 8:20 am
Opening Ceremony	Aalfs Auditorium <i>Slagle Hall</i>	8:30 — 8:45 am
Main Tournament	Division B & C Events <i>Across USD Campus & VHS Gym</i>	9:00 am — 3:00 pm
USD Exploration	USD Campus	3:00 — 5:00 pm
Coaches Meeting	Conference Room, <i>Old Main</i>	4:45 — 5:00 pm
Awards Ceremony*	Aalfs Auditorium <i>Slagle Hall</i>	5:00 — 6:00 pm



Remind your school and families to follow the Opening and Award Ceremonies on YouTube at the handle **@SDSciOly!**

Opening Ceremony Guest Speaker

Anna Moore is an Instructor with the Department of Sustainability & Environment, and advisor to the Environmental Club!

Anna is a leader in recycling efforts, spear-heading multiple initiatives both at USD and on campuses across South Dakota!



Anna Moore
Dept. of Sust.

Schedule of Events: DIVISION B

Events: Div B	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2pm
Anatomy & Physiology	UMS 22A					
Crime Busters	UPL 208 (tba)					
Write It Do It	UP 225/226					
Heredity		UCL 154				
Potions and Poisons		UAK 207				
Rocks and Minerals		UAK 209				
Circuit Lab			UAK 115			
Dynamic Planet			UAK 208			
Water Quality			UCL 152			
Machines				UP 119		
Meteorology				UAK 209		
Metric Mastery				UED 217		
Entomology					UCL 154	
Experimental Design					UCL 152	
Solar System					UAK 125	
Codebusters						UED 110
Disease Detectives						UMS 15
Remote Sensing						UAK 208
Boomilever		UP 222	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Helicopter		MUC*	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Hovercraft	Impound	VHS	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Mission Possible	Impound	UP 222	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Scrambler	Impound**	UP Hall	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			

*Southeast corner of MUC dining hall

**Scrambler impound in UP 117

UAK Akeley-Laurence Science Center

UAS Arts & Sciences

UCL Churchill-Haines Laboratories

UED Delzell Education center

UMS Lee Medicine Building

UPL Pardee Laboratory

UP Patterson Hall

VHS Gym Vermillion High School

Please note that all locations may be subject to change as necessary. An alphabetical-order version is available on the SD Sci-Oly website!

Schedule of Events DIVISION C

Events: Div C	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm
Designer Genes	UCL 154					
Materials Science	UPL103					
Rocks and Minerals	UAK 209					
Circuit Lab		UAK 115				
Dynamic Planet		UAK 208				
Water Quality		UCL 151				
Chemistry Lab			UAK 207			
Machines			UP 119			
Astronomy				UAK 125		
Entomology				UCL 154		
Experimental Design				UCL 151		
Codebusters					UED 110	
Disease Detectives					UMS 15	
Remote Sensing					UAK 208	
Anatomy & Physiology						UMS 22A
Engineering CAD						AK 115
Forensics						UPL-208
Boomilever		UP 222	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Bungee Drop	Impound	VHS	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Electric Vehicle	Impound	VHS	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Helicopter		MUC*	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Hovercraft	Impound	VHS	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			
Robot Tour	Impound	VHS	Self-Schedule 10a – 2p			

*Southeast corner of MUC dining hall

UAK Akeley-Laurence Science Center

UAS Arts & Sciences

UCL Churchill-Haines Laboratories

UED Delzell Education center

UMS Lee Medicine Building

UPL Pardee Laboratory

UP Patterson Hall

VHS Gym Vermillion High School

Please note that all locations may be subject to change as necessary. An alphabetical-order version is available on the SD Sci-Oly website!

USD Exploration

The National Music Museum is **fully open** with NEW exhibits!

Individual admission are **FREE for students presenting your SDSO lanyard**, with free group tour at 3pm! For more details, visit <https://www.nmmusd.org/>

Open 10am – 4pm

Free Public Tour 3pm – 4pm (*Coaches can register*)



The W. H. Over Museum is a FREE local history museum, located beside the Dakota Dome!

For more details, visit <https://whovermuseum.org/>

Open 10am – 4pm



The USD Physics Club's Telescopers will be on site between Old Main and Aalfs Auditorium on Saturday with their telescopes and physics club members to share sun viewing with you!

2pm – 4pm (tentative)



Prentis Park is a local attraction with walk paths, frisbee golf course, tennis and basketball courts, and more!

Open all during daylight hours



Dining Options

The **Muenster University Center** (“MUC”) will be open throughout the day, starting at 8 am. However, food service options will not be open until 10 am at the earliest.

Within a few minutes’ walk of campus include Burger King, McDonalds, Taco Johns, Dairy Queen, Subway and Jimmy Johns.

- 10 am – **The Grind Market** (serving Starbucks)
- 11 am – **Cafeteria** (til 1 pm)
- 11:30 am – **Chick-Fil-A**

Two coffee shops, Caribou Coffee and Starbucks, are close to campus.

NOTE: This is for information purposes only; SDSO is not responsible for student activities that take place off campus

2026 Tournament Member Teams

Welcome to the 42nd SD Science Olympiad!
Let's wish ALL competitors good luck in this year's Tournament!

Division B Members



Dakota Valley Middle School



Elk Point-Jefferson
Middle School



Michelson Middle School



Yankton Middle School

Division C Members



Brookings High School



Elk Point-Jefferson
High School



Lincoln High School



Vermillion High School



Yankton High School

External Support & Affiliation

South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC), in association with NASA, provides key support for South Dakota Science Olympiad!

Funds from SDSGC help SD Sci-Oly including all print materials for the Tournament and maintaining our website!



SD Science Olympiad is excited to highlight other affiliations, and we welcome opportunities to share SD Sci-Oly through a variety of friends!

2026 National Tournament

The top overall team in Division B and Division C, respectively, are crowned State Champs and become eligible to compete in the National Tournament!

The Science Olympiad National Tournament will take place at the University of Southern California!

22-23 MAY 2026

For more details, please visit NationalScienceOlympiad2026.org



2025 State Champions

Please join us in congratulating both teams for representing South Dakota at the 2025 National Tournament!

2025 Div B Champs



Yankton Middle School



2025 Div C Champs



Yankton High School

**FUN
FACTS**

Yankton MS ranked **#12** for Helicopter at Nationals

Yankton MS ranked in the top half in 2 Trial Events!

Yankton HS kept Nationals on their toes in the Build events: **Air Trajectory** - **Robot Tour**

Event Supervisors Recognition: Div B

The South Dakota Science Olympiad relies on the contributions of a large number of our faculty and students to come together.

Events Div B	Event Supervisor	Dept.
Anatomy & Physiology	Barb Goodman	<i>Med School</i>
Crime Busters	TBA	<i>Chemistry</i>
Write It Do It	John Williams	<i>Education</i>
Heredity	Laura Dixon	<i>Biology</i>
Potions and Poisons	David Hawkinson	<i>Chemistry</i>
Rocks and Minerals	Brennan Jordan	<i>Sustainability</i>
Circuit Lab	Joel Sander	<i>Physics</i>
Dynamic Planet	Mark Sweeney	<i>Sustainability</i>
Water Quality	Laura Dixon	<i>Biology</i>
Machines	Dongming Mei	<i>Physics</i>
Meteorology	Brennan Jordan	<i>Sustainability</i>
Metric Mastery	John Williams	<i>Education</i>
Entomology	Laura Dixon	<i>Biology</i>
Experimental Design	Laura Dixon	<i>Biology</i>
Solar System	Doojin Kim	<i>Physics</i>
Codebusters	Rod Rizk	<i>Computer Science</i>
Disease Detectives	Taylor Soderling	<i>Med School</i>
Remote Sensing	Ranjeet John	<i>Biology</i>
Booilever	Catalin Georgescu	<i>Mathematics</i>
Helicopter	Yuhlong Lio & Nan Jiang	<i>Mathematics</i>
Hovercraft	Varun Vaidya	<i>Physics</i>
Mission Possible	Soumodeep Mitra	<i>Physics</i>
Scrambler	Dan Van Perseum	<i>Mathematics</i>

Each department within USD's College of Arts and Sciences is represented at the SD Science Olympiad state tournament.

Please take a moment to thank them for their time and effort!

Event Supervisors Recognition: Div C

The South Dakota Science Olympiad relies on the contributions of a large number of our faculty and students to come together.

Events Div C	Event Supervisor	Dept.
Anatomy & Physiology	<i>Barb Goodman</i>	Med School
Astronomy	<i>Doojin Kim</i>	Physics
Boomilever	<i>Catalin Georgescu</i>	Mathematics
Bungee Drop	<i>Yonchen Sun</i>	Physics
Chemistry Lab	<i>James Hoeffelmeyer</i>	Chemistry
Circuit Lab	<i>Joel Sander</i>	Physics
Codebusters	<i>Rod Rizk</i>	Computer Science
Designer Genes	<i>Laura Dixon</i>	Biology
Disease Detectives	<i>Taylor Soderling</i>	Med School
Dynamic Planet	<i>Mark Sweeney</i>	Sustainability
Electric Vehicle	<i>Ramiro Lafuente Rodriguez</i>	Mathematics
Engineering CAD	<i>Jing Liu</i>	Physics
Entomology	<i>Laura Dixon</i>	Biology
Experimental Design	<i>Laura Dixon</i>	Biology
Forensics	<i>Rick Wang</i>	Chemistry
Helicopter	<i>Yuhlong Lio & Nan Jiang</i>	Mathematics
Hovercraft	<i>Varun Vaidya</i>	Physics
Machines	<i>Dongming Mei</i>	Physics
Materials Science	<i>Kadal Mariappan</i>	Chemistry
Remote Sensing	<i>Ranjeet John</i>	Sustainability
Robot Tour	<i>Carrie Minette</i>	Computer Science
Rocks and Minerals	<i>Brennan Jordan</i>	Sustainability
Water Quality	<i>Laura Dixon</i>	Biology

Each department within USD's College of Arts and Sciences is represented at the SD Science Olympiad state tournament.

Please take a moment to thank them for their time and effort!

USD Contributors Recognition

2026 Executive Team

James Tracy	State Director Physics Department
Parjanya Rathod	Media & Executive Manager (Student) Physics Department
John Williams	Faculty Consultant School of Education
Clark Bennett	Podium Manager Mathematics Department
Avery Lloyd	Undergrad Div A Consultant (Student) School of Education

Departmental Coordinators

Volunteers

USD Physics Club
& the
"Telescopers"

SD Greek Letter
Societies

USD Graduate
Students (multiple
departments)

USD
Undergraduate
Students

Laura Dixon
Biology

Doug Goodman
Computer Science

Clark Bennet
Mathematics

Barbara Goodman
**Sanford School of
Medicine**

David Hawkinson
Chemistry

John Williams
School of Education

Yongchen Sun
Physics

Brennan Jordan
**Sustainability &
Environment**

The Departmental Coordinators are critical to the success of hosting SDSO; they help the State Director identify Event Supervisors for all the various events every year!
Thank you all for your service!

USD Department Contributors

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biology
Department of Chemistry
Department of Computer Science
Department of Mathematical Sciences
Department of Physics
Department of Sustainability

School of Education
Sanford School of Medicine

Special Thanks to:
Campus Police Department
USD Admissions Office
Facilities Management

SDSO Ethics & Pledges

Student participants are expected to compete in tournament events with honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of the competition. Team members are expected to be the builders of all the devices used in the events.



The goal of competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Students, coaches, parents, and guests are expected to display courtesy and respect toward Science Olympiad officials, other teams, and guests of the Science Olympiad.

Failure to show honesty and/or courtesy by a participant, coach, or guest of the team may result in the disqualification of the team from that event, the entire tournament or future tournaments.

Student Competitor Pledge

I pledge to put forth my best effort in the Science Olympiad tournament and to *uphold* the principles of honest competition. In my events, I will *compete* with integrity, respect, and sportsmanship towards my fellow competitors. I will *display courtesy* towards Event Supervisors and Tournament Personnel. My actions will exemplify the proud spirit of my school, team, and state.

Event Supervisor's Pledge

On behalf of my fellow supervisors and tournament personnel, I pledge to run my event with *fairness* and *respect* for the participants and their coaches. Our actions will reflect the *principles* of the Science Olympiad program and display the *pride* we feel as representatives of our colleges, universities, companies, states or organizations.

Coach's Pledge

On behalf of the coaches and assistants at this tournament, I pledge to encourage *honesty* and *respect* for tournament personnel, our fellow coaches, and other team members. We want our efforts to bring honor to our community and school.

Parent's Pledge

On behalf of the parents and spectators I pledge to be an example for our children by:

respecting the rules of the Science Olympiad, *encouraging* excellence in preparation and investigation, *supporting* independence in design and production of all competition devices, and *respecting* the decisions of event supervisors and judges.

Our examples will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all our participating teams.

Integrity

(Famous Albert Einstein Quote)

"The most important human endeavor is striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depends on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to our lives."

Building Up SD Science Olympiad

South Dakota Science Teachers Assn

The South Dakota Science Teachers Association works to help with coordination, improvement, and advancement of science education throughout the state of South Dakota.



The participation of science teachers in SD Science Olympiad is of key to success in promoting science interest and excitement in middle and high school students.

We are grateful for the SDSTA's role in bringing science teachers together in the hopes to help promote SD Science Olympiad in schools across the state!

Supporting SD Sci-Oly

Interesting in contributing to SD Science Olympiad?

We are able to support our program based off state fees alone, but there is always opportunities to build on the basics for our annual state tournament or to help support teams during their preparation season!

Donations to SDSO can be made through our USD Foundation:

<https://www.usdalumni.com/>

SD Sci-Oly Alumni

SD Science Olympiad has been holding competitions since the beginning of national competition in 1984. There are by now generations of SDSO Alumni who we'd love to connect with.

We want to develop an Alumni program to help bring alumni back to SD Sci-Oly, and potentially build on those connections to help current and future generations of Science Olympians!

If you are interested in joining as an alumnus of SD Science Olympiad, please visit our page at www.sdscioly.org/alumni !

Division A: Elementary SD Sci-Oly!

SD Science Olympiad seems focused exclusively on middle- and high-schoolers. However, We are working to develop a Div-A program focused on Elementary schools!

If you are interested in bringing SD Sci-Oly to your local Elementary school for 2027, contact the director for more information!

www.sdscioly.org

March 28, 2026

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Science Olympiad



Hosted by
**The University of
South Dakota**