



Dear Science Olympiad Division B Coaches and Students:

Science Olympiad in partnership with Discovery Education will hold a new Virtual Trial Event for all Division B (middle school) teams advancing to the State Science Olympiad Tournament level. This is a great opportunity to showcase your outgoing personality, your presentation skills and your knowledge of science.

Attached you'll find the Young Scientist Challenge (YSC) Contest Overview and a Nomination Certificate for coaches. Participating in the competition is FREE and optional! The YSC seeks the best young science communicator in the nation – a skill valued by Science Olympiad. The ability to communicate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts in layman's terms to a wide audience – in person, not just in writing – is a valuable skill in today's world.

While the YSC is open to all students in grades 5-8 nationwide, in recognition of the partnership with Science Olympiad, Discovery is giving Science Olympiad one guaranteed spot in the Top 10 and a 10% chance of winning the Grand Prize of a \$50,000 savings bond (worth \$25K) and a free trip to Washington DC in Fall 2008 (see attached overview for all the rules, regulations and prizes).

Coaches Instructions:

Each Science Olympiad coach of a state-bound team will have the opportunity to present the attached "Nomination Certificate" to up to two (2) students on each team who will automatically bypass the first round of online judging. They will, by virtue of submitting their entry, be considered Quarterfinalists. Once nominated, students should go to <http://youngscientist.discoveryeducation.com/> and register for the competition. Students will have until June 15 to submit a one- to two-minute video entry to the YSC on any one of five space-related topics outlined in the attached overview. Teachers may have students submit applications or ideas, choose students on their merit, or use a lottery system to select the eligible nominees. Discovery Education officials will cross-reference the state tournament lists against submissions to make sure that only two students per team reach the automatic Quarterfinal round. Any additional Science Olympiad students choosing to enter this contest will go through the regular channels of judging.

For any questions about the contest, please email: YSC@discovery.com.

You may also contact the national office at:

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Contest Overview: <http://www.soinc.org/aboutso/ysc/YSCScienceOlympiadPacket.pdf>

Nomination Certificate: <http://www.soinc.org/aboutso/ysc/YSCNominationCertificate.pdf>