



Exploring the World of Science



Dear Science Olympiad Division B Coaches and Students:

For the third consecutive year, Science Olympiad in partnership with Discovery Education and 3M will hold a 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 \$50,000 in U.S. savings bonds (worth \$25K) and an expenses-paid trip to New York City in Fall 2010 (see attached overview for all the rules, regulations and prizes). Each year, Science Olympiad has represented a sizable percentage of the 51 state semifinalists and the 10 national finalists (three in 2008 and four in 2009), so the odds are good!

Coaches Instructions:

Each Science Olympiad coach of a state-bound Division B 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 www.youngscientistchallenge.com and register for the competition. Students will have from December 30, 2009 until May 27, 2010 to submit a one- to two-minute video entry to the YSC on any one of the four official science-related topics (preventing the spread of disease, food safety, sun protection and wind resistant structures) 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 Jenny Kopach at the national office for more information:

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