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TOP U.S. STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN THE 2013 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

DAYTON, Ohio — Wright State University will host more than 3,000 students, educators and parents from all 50 states during the 29th Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament on May 17–18, 2013.

One of the nation’s most prestigious science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions, Science Olympiad brings together 120 winning middle school and high school teams advancing from state-level competitions this spring. Rigorous hands-on and lab events led by experts from government agencies, top universities and Science Olympiad state chapters cover topics in physics, robotics, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, biology and engineering.

“We are so proud to host this prestigious event. Science Olympiad is the pinnacle of science-related competitions for our sharpest middle and high school students,” said Wright State President David R. Hopkins. “The students competing in the National Tournament are some of our nation’s brightest young minds. These talented young people embody the same pioneering spirit of innovation and ingenuity that helped the Wright brothers, for whom our university is named, soar into the skies. We are honored to welcome them to our campus and hope their dreams will take flight.”

Each gold medal winner in an individual event and each member of the first-place teams in both middle and high school will win a renewable scholarship to Wright State University.

As in 2010 and 2012, earlier this month champion teams from the Science Olympiad National Tournament (both from Solon, Ohio) were invited to Washington, D.C., for President Obama’s White House Science Fair on April 22, 2013.

This year, Science Olympiad welcomes another Global Ambassador Team from Japan to the
National Tournament. Since 2009, Science Olympiad has worked with the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Ministry for Education (MEXT) to share best practices and science content. In 2013, JST hosted its second annual Japan High School Science Championships (JHSSC), crowning winners from the Aichi Prefectural Okazaki High School. The Grand Prize for the competition is a trip to visit the National Tournament, where Japanese students will meet their American peers and participate as guests in selected Science Olympiad events.

Wright State facilities will be home to a full day of spectator events (free and open to the public) on Saturday, May 18.

Teams will compete in challenges such as Robot Arm, where student-controlled devices perform precision tasks; Elastic Launch Glider, a flight endurance contest powered by rubber-band engines; Mission Possible, a Rube Goldberg device using energy transfers to complete a task; and Gravity Vehicle, a test of a car’s speed, estimation and accuracy.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the U.S. Army ROTC Adventure Semi and the U.S. Air Force Rapid Strike Simulator will be on campus. These interactive exhibits showcase the science behind each branch of the military, complete with flight simulators, technology displays and digital downloads. Check out the lineup of events and other activities at:
http://www.wright.edu/scienceolympiad/tournament.html
http://www.wright.edu/scienceolympiad/activities.html

Representing Ohio Science Olympiad are Solon Middle School, Mentor Memorial Middle School, Solon High School and Centerville High School.

Local sponsors of the 2013 Science Olympiad National Tournament are the Wright State Research Institute, Anthem, PNC, Teradata, and Jayna, Inc. Science Olympiad is supported nationally by Lockheed Martin, Texas Instruments, U.S. Air Force, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Army ROTC, Discovery Education, DuPont, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Ward’s Science, Academy of Model Aeronautics, MAKE magazine, Society for Neuroscience and the VWR Foundation.

Science Olympiad is a Chicago-area-based national nonprofit organization founded in 1984. It is dedicated to improving the quality of K–12 STEM education, increasing student interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. Nearly 200,000 students on 6,800 teams from all 50
states competed in 350 regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments last year.

Wright State is a Carnegie-classified research university. Its main campus is 12 miles northeast of downtown Dayton, Ohio, near the historic landmarks where the Wright brothers taught the world to fly. Wright State serves nearly 18,000 students, has awarded about 100,000 degrees and offers 192 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional degree programs through eight colleges and three schools.

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