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TOP U.S. STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE 2015 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

LINCOLN — The University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) will host more than 5,000 students, educators and parents from all 50 states during the 31st Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament on May 15-16, 2015. Recognized as 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, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, meteorology and engineering.

“It is a great pleasure to welcome Science Olympiad to Nebraska and one of the nation’s top public universities,” said Harvey Perlman, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. “I invite all Science Olympiad participants to enjoy our beautiful campus and city as they get a glimpse of life at a Big Ten university.”

The University of Nebraska’s Academic Services and Enrollment Management division will award up to 47 scholarships to Science Olympiad National Tournament gold medal winners in the high school Division C. Out-of-state students will receive the George Beadle Scholarship, currently valued at $13,500 a year for four years. Resident students will receive a tuition scholarship for up to 120 credit hours or the completion of a bachelor’s degree. Winners awarded these scholarships will be subject to the same annual renewal requirements the University has in place for other UNL students receiving the Regents and Beadle scholarships.

UNL facilities will be home to a full day of spectator events (free and open to the public) on Saturday, May 16. Teams will compete in challenges such as Wright Stuff, a flight endurance contest powered by rubber-band engines; Robo-Cross, a precision robotics event; Mission Possible, a Rube Goldberg device using energy transfers to complete a task; and Wheeled Vehicle, a test of a car’s speed, estimation and accuracy. On Friday,
May 15, from 9am to 2pm, the STEM Expo in the Physics Atrium will feature a variety of hands-on corporate and UNL department exhibits, including a “Search for the Next ACE Hardware Science Star” video booth, a Ward’s Science Kit display and a student-focused charitable giving booth hosted by DuPont Pioneer, The Food Bank for the Heartland and Science Olympiad. [http://www.scienceolympiad2015.com/schedule_master.html](http://www.scienceolympiad2015.com/schedule_master.html)

On March 23, 2015, champions from the 2014 Science Olympiad National Tournament were invited to Washington, DC, for President Obama’s White House Science Fair, the fifth DC honor for our winners. For the fourth consecutive year, Science Olympiad welcomes a 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 2015, JST hosted its 4th Annual Japan High School Science Championships (JHSSC), crowning eight winners from Shibuya Kyoiku Gakuen Makuhari Junior and Senior 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.

Local sponsors of the 2015 Science Olympiad National Tournament include the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Cooper Foundation, Peter Kiewit Institute, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lozier, UNL College of Arts and Sciences, UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, UNL College of Education and Human Sciences, UNL Housing and Dining, Awards Unlimited, J.C. and Jessie Seacrest Family Foundation, Nebraska Environmental Trust Public Information and Education Grants and University of NE State Museum. Science Olympiad is supported nationally by University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Combined Federal Campaign, FOX Broadcasting, Lockheed Martin, NBC Universal Foundation, ACE Hardware, ArcelorMittal, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Discovery Education 3M Young Scientists Challenge, DuPont and the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research and Education, DuPont Pioneer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Texas Instruments, University of Texas Institute for Geophysics (UTIG), US Army ROTC, VWR Foundation, Ward's Science, Academy of Model Aeronautics, Chandra X-Ray Center and NASA, Investing in Communities, MAKE Magazine, National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC), Society for Neuroscience (SfN), Yale Young Global Scholars, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Hardware Science, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Maker Education Initiative and Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

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. More than 220,000 students on 7,300 teams from all 50 states competed in 390 regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments last year.
The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is an educational institution of international stature, known for its research in key areas of water, food, robotics, concussions and digital humanities. Over 25,000 students from 100 countries study here and benefit from a strong focus on undergraduate education, intensive honors programs and research opportunities with top faculty. A member of the Big Ten Conference, Nebraska ranks among the top 50 public universities by U.S. News & World Report.

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