

2018 EVENT SUPERVISOR GUIDE - HERPETOLOGY (B/C)

EVENT INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION –HERPETOLOGY (B/C) will test knowledge of North American amphibians and Reptiles

RULES –

- Rules are available from your Tournament Director who has an electronic copy of the rules.
- **2018** should appear at the bottom by the page number.
- BE SURE TO CHECK THE RULES for Event Parameters and suggested topics.
- **The Official National Herpetology List** is available under event information on the National Science Olympiad website at www.soinc.org. **under B/C Events-Herpetology**
- The taxonomic scheme is based upon the Science Olympiad – National Herpetology List
- States may have a **State Herpetology List** for their competitions – see your State Web Site for these lists - http://www.soinc.org/state_websites
- At www.soinc.org see the **B/C Events** and **Who Are You - Event Supervisor** sections for resources and links made available to students and event supervisors
- Students may use a published field guide or they may prepare their own identification binder. See the **2018 Herpetology Binder Handout** for ideas about station topics
- Rules clarifications are also available at www.soinc.org under event information.
- For additional information on Herpetology taxonomy, see <http://www.cnah.org/> and note the North American Herpetology Web Sites for many links on each group.

ROTATION – Invasive Species is in for 2 years of a 10-year rotation- other events in 2-yr. taxonomy rotation are Trees, Herpetology, Ornithology, and Entomology

FORMAT – Herpetology can be run as timed stations with at least enough stations to accommodate the number of teams competing per session or it may be run as a power point competition with timed PowerPoint slides.

EVENT NEEDS

ROOM TYPE – a room with tables for stations

HELPERS – 2 or 3 helpers are needed to time stations, rotate students and proctor

EQUIPMENT – specimens, photos, or computer and projector for PowerPoint.

TIME NEEDED FOR SETUP – Be sure you have at least an hour before your competition with no event in your room so you can set up the stations.

PREPARATION FOR COMPETITION

TIME-LINE FOR PLANNING - You will need to know the number of teams competing.

Teams consist of two students so plan accordingly. Be sure you have enough time to prepare the questions, answer keys, answer sheets, and assemble needed equipment

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WRITING QUESTIONS

- The philosophy of Science Olympiad is that the competition be inquiry- based to emphasize process skills and mental challenges using suggested content.
- Care should be taken to design each station to require about the same amount of time.
- If there are a large number of teams per session, consider using 2 complete station setups.
- Balance the station content so that it reflects the content described in the rules.
- Students are expecting to see all of the topics listed in the rules to be reflected in the competition.
- Develop questions which are easy to grade.
- Develop appropriate questions so that **all** ties can be broken.
- Be sure that all teams experience the same testing conditions.

VARIING DIFFICULTY FOR SUCCESS OF MANY - To allow most students to be successful, it may be a good idea to vary the difficulty of questions at each station!

ANSWER SHEET ORGANIZATION – Set up the answer sheet so it is easy for students to use and easy for your team to grade. Include team name, team number, student names, as well as a place to record raw score, rank, and points. Be sure you have enough answer sheets for each team. It may be a good idea to put team names and numbers on the answer sheets ahead of time.

ANSWER KEY AND SCORING RUBRICS

- Questions will be assigned point values.
- Students will be ranked from highest to lowest score.
- Ties will be broken by pre-determined tie-breaker questions.
- Have extra answer keys so your helpers can help you grade the competition.
- Be sure each section is graded by the same person.

RUNNING THE EVENT

SET UP TIPS for Station Competition.

Items needed: test questions, specimens or pictures for each station, answer sheets, answer key, stop watches, extra pencils, tape

- It may help to have questions laminated or put in sheet protectors. This procedure eliminates damage or tampering during competition.
- Be certain that equipment and questions are placed at the station for easy access of the students.
- Taping questions to the table helps to keep stations organized and undisturbed.
- Using arrows may help students move from station to station.
- Bring extra items needed at stations as rulers. If one is needed, put three there.

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CHECK IN TIPS – if possible allow all teams to compete even if one or both members are late. They may need to miss some stations but they can do part of the competition.

- Check each team member for wrist bands or approved ID before giving teams their answer sheet. Have extra pencils and direct students print their names on sheet.
- Direct student to turn off all non-permitted electronic devices. You may wish to have them put in a designated spot, given to someone outside the room, or placed in the student back packs and stored at a designated spot in the room.
- Allow each team to have only what is permitted in the Event Parameters.
- Keep students away from the stations until you are ready to begin the competition.
- Give all directions and safety information to all teams before beginning.
- Explain the station setup scheme and rotation pattern to the students.

ROTATION OF STUDENTS FOR STATIONS – Using arrows taped to the table helps students. Proctors can also be stations around the room to help with rotation.

TIMING – stop watches or timers are best for timing the stations. Have a person responsible for timing the event.

PROCTORING – Two or three people are adequate to help with rotation, check equipment at stations, and proctor the competition. If you train them during the first session, you can grade papers during successive sessions.

DEALING WITH PROBLEM SITUATIONS – have the cell phone numbers of officials

- DISQUALIFICATIONS OF A TEAM SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SAFETY ISSUES, CHEATING, OR ABUSIVE AND UNSPORTSMAN-LIKE BEHAVIOR.
- Be sure that tournament officials and coaches are notified of any disciplinary action.

CHECK OUT TIPS

- Be sure to get an answer sheet from each team before you allow them to leave the competition.
- Be sure the team number, team names and member names are present and legible.
- Remind students to take all their backpacks and other possessions as cell phones.

I hope these suggestions are helpful in organizing your tournament. Comments or new ideas are always welcome. Please send them to me at the following address.

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