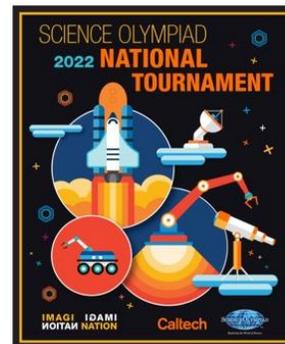




Caltech



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bob Kopach, 312-852-0132, bob@soinc.org

Deborah Williams-Hedges, 626-840-1565, debwms@caltech.edu

2,000 TOP STUDENTS COMPETE IN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL — For the second time in Science Olympiad’s 38-year history, the pandemic will take the National Tournament into the digital space. Instead of traveling to the Caltech campus in California, 120 Science Olympiad teams from 48 states and Washington, DC, will log on to an online platform and battle it out in intensely competitive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) challenges on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Among the players will be a Global Ambassador Team from Japan.

“Students participating in the Science Olympiad National Tournament represent the best of the best, often following career pathways in STEM and becoming leaders in their fields,” said Jenny Kopach, Science Olympiad CEO. “I am grateful for our partners at Caltech, Southern California Science Olympiad and the Caltech Science Olympiad Alumni Club for giving our 121 teams a platform on which to display their talents.”

One of the nation’s most prestigious STEM competitions, Science Olympiad offered an optional virtual format as the ongoing pandemic disrupted the 2021-2022 academic year. The competition is comprised of knowledge events designed by experts from government agencies, top universities, and industry covering topics in engineering, physics, epidemiology, astronomy, chemistry, meteorology and coding; lab, hands-on and building events like Gravity Vehicle, Sounds of Music and Bridges are run this year as live submissions from schools. Streamed Opening and Awards Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 18 at 7pm CT. See the full list of events, schedules and prizes [here](#).

Dr. Frances Arnold, 2018 Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry and Linus Pauling Professor of Chemical Engineering at Caltech will give the Opening Ceremony Keynote Address. In her speech, she encourages Science Olympiad participants to “put science to work for the benefit of all people” and to focus on finding equitable solutions that positively impact the economy, the environment and society.

Caltech, a global leader in innovation and discovery, will be featured during the National Tournament [STEM Expo](#), Monday, May 9 to Thursday, May 12. The week is open to everyone and will kick off with a panel discussion with Caltech students, followed each day by enriching hands-on science activities, Expo Talks by Science Olympiad alumni, and surprise giveaways.

The Opening Ceremony will honor the legacy of the three founders of the national organization by presenting five \$10,000 Founders' Scholarships to outstanding high school seniors during the Opening Ceremony on Friday, May 13. More about the scholarship and the founders, Dr. Gerard and Sharon Putz of Michigan and Jack Cairns of Delaware, can be found [here](#). Students will also hear welcome remarks from Caltech President Thomas Rosenbaum and Steven Isakowitz, CEO of The Aerospace Corporation.

As part of its Character and Citizenship in the Community (the 3C's) and Smart to Be Good initiatives, Science Olympiad teams are participating in a [national service project](#) to honor the city that would have hosted an in-person tournament; Science Olympiad has set a goal to raise at least \$10,000 for STEAM:CODERS, a California-based nonprofit that teaches logic, critical thinking and problem solving. "STEAM:CODERS is excited about collaborating with Science Olympiad and Caltech in support of the 2022 Science Olympiad National Tournament," said STEAM:CODERS Executive Director and Founder, Raymond Ealy. "We share the same mission, creating access and opportunity for young people. Together, we are going to make a difference in the lives of students who reside in the greater Los Angeles community." A benefactor will make a \$10,000 matching grant if the goal is reached.

Science Olympiad is supported nationally by Caltech, NASA's Universe of Learning Astrophysics STEM Learning & Literacy Network, Avantor Foundation, Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation, Corteva Agriscience, Combined Federal Campaign, Double Good, Google, Lockheed Martin, NBC Universal Foundation, Ward's Science, CDC Foundation, Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge, Intel, Kinder Morgan Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), National Eye Institute, Texas Instruments, ThermoFisher Scientific, University of Delaware, Hikma Pharmaceuticals, Investing in Communities, National Free Flight Society, OnShape, SkyCiv, Yale Young Global Scholars, Code.org, Japan Science and Technology Agency, mHUB, Midnight Science Club, Million Women Mentors, MxD and STEMConnector. Local supporting sponsors are Caltech, The Aerospace Corporation, the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter, Amgen, Northrop Grumman and Southern California Science Olympiad.

###

[Science Olympiad](#) is an Oakbrook Terrace-based, national non-profit organization founded in 1984 dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 STEM education, increasing interest and opportunity in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

[Caltech](#) is a world-renowned science and engineering Institute that marshals some of the world's brightest minds and most innovative tools to address fundamental scientific questions and pressing societal challenges. The contributions of Caltech's faculty and alumni have earned national and international recognition, including 44 Nobel Prizes. The mission of the California Institute of Technology is to expand human knowledge and benefit society through research integrated with education.

###

For Caltech inquiries, please contact Deborah Williams-Hedges at debwms@caltech.edu (626) 840-1565

For Science Olympiad inquiries, please contact Bob Kopach at bob@soinc.org (312) 852-0132

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SOAlumniNetwork> - #SO2022Caltech

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SOAlumniNetwork>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/scienceolympiadofficial/>

Caltech Website: <https://scienceolympiad2022.com>

National Website: <https://www.soinc.org/2022-national-tournament>