

# 2023 Founders' Scholarship Recipients



**Anu Iyer** (Little Rock, AR) took her experience competing in Anatomy & Physiology and Disease Detectives beyond the hallways of **Little Rock Central High School** to become the youngest research team member at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She says that "Science Olympiad has provided me with a community where I can grow individually and collectively with others." Anu has developed accurate diagnostic tools that have been published in three peer-reviewed journals and has received funding from organizations such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health. She will continue Bioinformatics research endeavors alongside majoring in Biology on the pre-med track at **Georgia Institute of Technology** this fall.

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**Ken Husty Tungpalan** (Waipahu, HI) has left a legacy at **Waipahu High School**, leading his Science Olympiad team to its highest ever regional placement. Along the way, he explored many disciplines of the Earth Science Events, from Dynamic Planet to Rocks & Minerals, to his favorite event, Fossils. Ken will be continuing his earth science studies this fall at the **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology, where he will be studying geology. "Science Olympiad has given me so many opportunities and the best way to give back is to use my knowledge and experience to train the next generation of STEM students."

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**Nina Kini** (Yorba Linda, CA) has seen all sides of Science Olympiad in her eight years in the program, serving as a student, captain of her team at **Valencia High School**, coach, and event proctor. During this time she noticed the disparities in funding of Science Olympiad programs by school districts, and made this the topic of a research project. After studying epidemiology for the Disease Detectives event and interning at the CDC, Nina found her passion and will be majoring in Science Management and Public Health at **Claremont McKenna College** next year. "I'm excited to start a new Science Olympiad chapter at my university...after calling my own Science Olympiad community home for so long, it would be impossible for me to ever truly leave it behind."

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**Nosakhare Iyoha** (Spring, TX) grew up in Science Olympiad - first helping his sisters practice for Picture This. Through events like Boomilever, Nosakhare found his passion for science, which he will take from the halls of **Spring Early College Academy** to **Columbia University**, where he plans to study Biomedical Engineering as a Davis Scholar and member of the Science Olympiad Alumni Chapter. After STEM funding was cut during the pandemic, Nosakhare secured new resources for K-12 Science Olympiad programs in his district, and started a team TikTok. "I aspire to continue to work for every student, regardless of their background, to find their love for science just as I had. In college, I promise to continue bridging the inequality gap in STEM."

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**Sani Deshmukh** (Eden Prairie, MN) found a home in Science Olympiad after moving to the United States from India. Through competing in Astronomy at **Eden Prairie High School**, she was exposed to the burgeoning field of space technology, which she plans to further her studies in next year as a Computer Science & Aerospace major at **Caltech**. As a volunteer at the Science Museum of Minnesota and science camp coordinator, Sani says "My biggest takeaway from four years in SciOly was the importance of collaboration in science, and I have been working to spread this lesson in my community."