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Elementary Science Olympiad News

Happy Summer!

I'm Shari Haug, the Elementary Director for Science Olympiad.

Welcome to our inaugural Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO) newsletter! This quarterly newsletter will bring you information about the program, as well as tips from folks around the country who are using the ESO program in innovative ways. **This issue, we're featuring a STEM summer camp in Texas.**

If you've got questions or are interested in being spotlighted in this newsletter, please [contact me](#) directly.

-Shari

“It was everything I needed!”

Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO) Summer Camp serves up an easy and fun way to build a STEM pipeline and get kids involved in summer enrichment.



Celeste Garza is the Secondary Science Coordinator for McAllen ISD in McAllen, TX. When she was thinking through strategies to boost her middle and high school STEM programs, Elementary Science Olympiad came to mind.

Why? Science Olympiad has been a part of McAllen ISD in the middle and high schools for around 6 years, but Garza wanted to expand it. “This was the first year we had a team in every middle school in the district, but some were really small. We’ve also got a handful of teams in our high schools. I wanted to strengthen those teams, and I knew we needed to get our rising 5th and 6th graders on board. A STEM Summer Camp was a great way to do that, in addition to providing a fun and enriching summer learning experience.”

Celeste purchased several [Elementary Science Olympiad In-A-Box kits](#) (“It was two boxes, actually!”) and spent a half-day getting instructors ready the week before the camp by going through the boxes and activity instructions. “The boxes had everything we needed!” The 4-day camp ran from 8:00am-12:30pm, and students completed 2-3 ESO activities per day. Here's their day 1 schedule:

Team Schedule: Day 1

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast | STEM Video- |
| 8:30 a.m. | Briefing & Attendance | Welcome & Rules |
| 8:45 a.m. | Team Building | Team Name & Logo |
| 9:45 a.m. | Event 1 | Aerodynamics |
| 10:45 a.m. | Event 2 | Don't Bug Me |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch in the Cafeteria | |
| 12:30 p.m. | Dismissal | |

Want to run your own ESO STEM Camp? Here are some of Celeste’s tips:

1. Partner up instructors to complement skills. Middle and high school science teachers can supply STEM content, while elementary school teachers understand young students’ learning needs.
2. Get your middle and high school SO students involved as helpers.
3. Make name tags (using the Elementary Science Olympiad logo), so you know where to send kids if they’re wandering the hallways!
4. Focus on fun. The science will come.

Watch a [video](#) of the camp!

Resources from ESO:

Our [Elementary Science Olympiad In-A-Box](#) was created with 10 of our most popular Elementary Science Olympiad events. It has everything you need (except pencils and paper) to run these events in your classroom or after-school program. Most of the items are reusable so they can be used year after year or across a grade-level.

The ESO [Professional Development](#) manual can be purchased alongside the kit. This manual takes you through, step-by-step, on how to use the materials. (The manual is listed on the same page as the kit).

Additionally, we have many new and tried & true event manuals in the [Elementary Science Olympiad Store](#). You can also head over to [Ward's](#) to see the many different kits we have available for purchase. We will be highlighting all of our materials in the coming months.



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