

# 2021 Founders' Scholarship Recipients

Established in 2019 to honor the founders of Science Olympiad, Dr. Gerard and Sharon Putz and Jack Cairns, the **Founders' Scholarship** awards five outstanding high school seniors with \$10,000 college scholarships. Meet the 2021 awardees!



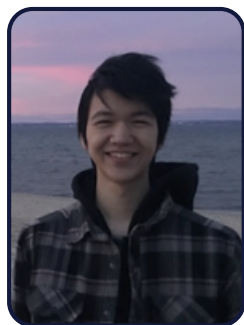
**Olivia Ma** (Vienna, VA) is a state and national Science Olympiad champion who has won 60 lifetime medals, 22 of them gold. A member of the Science Olympiad team at **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology**, Olivia co-founded the first student network for her state Science Olympiad chapter, and gives back by mentoring younger team members. This fall she'll pursue her dreams of becoming a mechanical engineer at the **University of Michigan**. "I love Science Olympiad so much because it gives me the opportunity to study a wide variety of subjects with my teammates...Besides the medals, my proudest achievements are the friends I've made and how much I've learned from participating in Science Olympiad."



**North Brubaker** (Wasilla, AK) has been competing in Science Olympiad since he was in third grade, and specifically chose his middle and high school, **Mat-Su Career and Technical High School** based on their Science Olympiad programs. This national champion builder coaches his elementary school team and plans to continue his engineering journey this fall at **Montana State University**. "Throughout my years competing in Science Olympiad I learned that it is impossible to have success without community mentoring and support. I have met amazing engineers, pilots and community members who were all generous in supporting my goals. I try to give back the support I have received."



**Shourya Jasti** (Alpharetta, GA) has a passion for the environment and is a state champion from **Fulton Science Academy** in Water Quality. She led a recycling awareness program and developed kits as a fundraiser for the Atlanta Food Bank that provided more than 4,000 meals to families in need. At **NYU** next year, she'll study business, sustainability and product design. "I joined Science Olympiad in fifth grade, and it is a decision that I have never regretted...My desire to solve environmental issues has only grown, and over the years, Science Olympiad has given me the resources and community to do so."



**Andrew Zhang** (Syosset, NY) has competed in 29 tournaments, earning 65 career medals and a hard-won first in Fermi Questions on the **Syosset High School** Science Olympiad team. He helped run one of the largest invitationals of the 2021 season and contributed tech expertise to the Scilympiad platform, which will come in handy when he goes to **Stony Brook University** next year. "The passion of learning from Science Olympiad motivated me further my knowledge in those subject by taking classes in Columbia Science Honors program...The combination of my Science Olympiad experience with my collegiate classes in those subjects has convinced me to aim towards becoming a doctor in infectious diseases."



**Sneha Mohan** (Lincolnshire, IL) has led her team to seven state championships and two national tournaments, where she took home gold in engineering and flight events. As president of the **Adlai E. Stevenson High School** Aerospace and Aviation Club, she has used her position to empower other young girls and women in STEM. She will certainly continue this mission as she pursues her degree at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** this fall. "Science Olympiad has allowed me to show my worth. Every time we place, I get a boost of confidence knowing that my gender empowers me to be great. I want to instill that same tenacity in more girls, inspiring them to take on STEM and thrive."