



Science Olympiad Partners with Wichita State University and Arts Partners' Generation STEAM to Increase Youth Access and Opportunity

Each May since 1985, Science Olympiad brings the best and brightest students to a college campus for its National Tournament – this year, Wichita State University (WSU) will host the event on May 19-20, 2023. To shine a light on the power of charitable giving and service, more than 5,000 students, parents, teachers and volunteers in attendance at the [Science Olympiad National Tournament](#) will be invited to [donate](#) to Arts Partners' Generation STEAM, a nonprofit organization that increases access to science, technology, engineering, arts and math through design, hands-on learning and mentorship.

“Science Olympiad teams are known for exhibiting Character and Citizenship in the Community, which we call the 3C’s,” said Jenny Kopach, CEO of Science Olympiad. “From organizing food drives to founding mentoring programs to doing community service projects, this overwhelming display of thoughtfulness reinforces one of our core values: It’s Good to Be Smart, and Smart to be Good.”

[Arts Partners'](#) Generation STEAM program empowers students to be creative problem solvers by identifying a community problem, learning technical, artistic, social and emotional skills to develop creative solutions, and pitching their solution in a design competition. The students' community-based project is supported by the advice of mentors including college students, professional artists, engineers, and scientists. The best student driven designs are implemented in the community through the support of donors.

“We are so excited about collaborating with Science Olympiad and Wichita State University in support of the 2023 Science Olympiad National Tournament,” said Arts Partners Executive Director Ellamonique Baccus. “To prepare young people to solve the problems of the future, we must cultivate creativity. This support will help us capture the vision of our youth, set them on a course as future leaders and innovators, and strengthen our community today and for generations to come.”

For every \$10 received, Arts Partners' Generation STEAM will be able to buy art supplies for a community mural project; \$25 supports a youth designed community service project; \$50 pays for a STEAM summer camp workshop with a local artist. Higher donations will renovate a shipping container into a creative workspace for Wichita youth.

National Tournament Co-Directors Jill Fisher and Jill Maroo added, “Inspiring underrepresented students through STEAM continues to be a need in our society today. We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering with Wichita State University to support Generation STEAM in this effort.”

A special landing page for the Science Olympiad giving community is live and taking [donations](#). A goal of \$15,000 has been set, and a generous matching donation has been secured.

Direct URL: <https://donorbox.org/generation-steam-23>

[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 opportunity and diversity in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. In 2023, more than 180,000 students on nearly 6,000 teams from all 50 states competed in 425 invitational, regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments.

[Arts Partners](#), affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network, is a comprehensive educational program that integrates visual and performing arts into all areas of the curriculum. Arts Partners inspires creativity and learning by using the arts to enhance learning for PreK-12 students in collaboration with teaching artists and community cultural organizations. This is accomplished through professional development for artists and teachers, and student participation in arts-in-education activities provided by Arts Partners teaching artists and more than two dozen partnering cultural organizations.

[Wichita State University](#) is Kansas' only urban public research university, enrolling almost 22,000 students between its main campus and WSU Tech, including students from every state in the U.S. and more than 100 countries. Wichita State and WSU Tech are recognized for being student centered and innovation driven. Located in the largest city in the state with one of the highest concentrations in the United States of jobs involving STEM, Wichita State University provides uniquely distinctive and innovative pathways of applied learning, applied research and career opportunities for all students. The [Innovation Campus](#), which is a physical extension of the Wichita State University main campus, is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing research/innovation parks, encompassing over 120 acres and is home to a number of global companies and organizations.

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