



Science Olympiad Partners with Arizona State University and the St. Vincent DePaul Food Reclamation Center to Fight Hunger

Each May for the last 37 years, the Science Olympiad National Tournament has brought students, parents, teachers and volunteers to a college campus to compete in one of the largest and most prestigious Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competitions in the United States. While the COVID-19 pandemic is preventing teams from traveling to Arizona State University for the big event this year, the Science Olympiad community felt it was important to honor the city that would have hosted more than 5,000 of the best and brightest in the nation.

“Since the global pandemic began, we’ve seen our Science Olympiad teams exhibit character and citizenship in the community, which we called the 3C’s,” said Jenny Kopach, CEO of Science Olympiad. “Students were 3D printing face shields and masks for medical workers, tutoring underserved kids in science and donating the proceeds to local food banks, and writing books and guides about COVID-19 that explained the pandemic in layman’s terms. This overwhelming display of goodness reinforced one of our mottos: It’s Good to Be Smart, and Smart to be Good.”

To shine a light on the power of charitable giving and service, Science Olympiad is partnering with its [37th Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament](#) host, Arizona State University, to address the local issue of hunger and food insecurity in the greater Phoenix area. Students, parents, teachers and volunteers will be invited to donate to the St. Vincent De Paul Food Reclamation Center.

“We are thrilled to partner with Science Olympiad on this effort,” said Marcelino Quinonez, ASU Director of Educational Outreach and Partnerships and Board Member of St. Vincent de Paul, Phoenix. “Empowering students to think outside themselves and help provide solutions to those in need is tremendously important. I can’t think of a better group to help lead us to food security than the next generation of STEM leaders in Science Olympiad.”

For every \$10 received St. Vincent de Paul will be able to provide an evening of to-go meals for a family who visits the nonprofit’s pivoted Family Dining Room drive-thru meal service.

“Every dollar and every meal counts during these times,” said Danielle McMahon, St. Vincent de Paul Food Services Director. “That’s why we are beyond grateful, as are the families we serve, for the generosity of our community partners like Science Olympiad and ASU. We would not be able to continue providing food assistance and relief without partner help.”

A special landing page for the Science Olympiad giving community will be live and taking donations from May 17 to May 22, 2021. Donate at stvincentdepaul.net/ScienceOlympiad-ASU

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 male, female and minority interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers. In 2019, more than 250,000 students on nearly 8,000 teams from all 50 states competed in 450 regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments.

Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American Research University, creating an institution that is committed to access, excellence and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. As the prototype for a New American University, ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it. ASU is the co-host of the 2021 Science Olympiad National Tournament.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes, houses and heals. It is dedicated to serving people in need and providing the community with the opportunity to serve. SVdP has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. It operates a network of more than 80 neighborhood food pantries, five charity dining rooms, a transitional shelter, a resource center for the homeless, bill assistance and homelessness prevention programming, as well as a charity clinic with medical, dental and wellness care for the uninsured.

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