



STEAMCODERS

Caltech



Science Olympiad Partners with Caltech and STEAM:CODERS to Increase Computer Science Access and Opportunity

Each May since 1985, 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 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is preventing qualifying teams from traveling to Caltech for the big event this year, Science Olympiad is honoring the city that would have hosted more than 5,000 of the best and brightest in the nation.

“When the global pandemic began, our Science Olympiad teams stepped up to exhibit character and citizenship in the community, which we call the 3C’s,” said Jenny Kopach, CEO of Science Olympiad. “From organizing food drives to 3D printing face shields for medical workers to tutoring underserved kids, this overwhelming display of thoughtfulness reinforced one of our values: 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 38th Annual National Tournament host, Caltech, to address STEM opportunity gaps in the region. Students, parents, teachers and volunteers will be invited to donate to [STEAM:CODERS](#), a nonprofit that teaches logic, critical thinking and problem solving.

“STEAM:CODERS is excited about collaborating with Science Olympiad and Caltech, in support of the 2022 Science Olympiad National Tournament,” said STEAM:CODERS Executive Director and Founder, Raymond Ealy. “We share the same mission, creating access and opportunity for young people. Together, we are going to make a difference in the lives of students who reside in the greater Los Angeles community. Our motto is: *Opportunity + Imagination = Innovation.*”

For every \$10 received, STEAM:CODERS will be able to provide one hour of math tutoring; \$25 covers field trip transportation; \$50 pays for a five-week computer science class. Higher donations provide access to science and robotics summer camps. Many coding volunteers come from the Caltech Y service program, such as Albert Kyi, a Caltech student and Co-Director of the National Tournament, who said, “We are so proud to have STEAM:CODERS as our Smart to be Good partner and are united in our goal of bringing STEM to students from all walks of life. We hope this partnership allows us to take steps towards making STEM education more equitable and accessible.”

National Tournament Co-Director and Caltech alum Dr. Peter Hung added, “Inspiring underrepresented and underserved students through STEM continues to be a need in our society today. We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering with Caltech to support STEAM:CODERS in this effort so that our society can be more diverse, robust, and resilient.”

A special landing page for the Science Olympiad giving community is live and taking [donations](#). A goal of \$10,000 has been set, and a generous \$10,000 matching donation has been secured. **As of July 30, \$44,344 has been raised!**

The [donation link](#) can be found on the STEAM:CODERS website:

<https://steam-coders.networkforgood.com/projects/155119-science-olympiad-caltech>

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 2022, more than 165,000 students on 5,500 teams from all 50 states competed in 400 invitational, regional, state and national Science Olympiad tournaments.

STEAM:CODERS is a Pasadena-based nonprofit that inspires underrepresented and underserved K-12 students and their families through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM), in preparation for academic and career opportunities. Coding, robotics, cybersecurity and design thinking classes provided by STEAM:CODERS increase knowledge, skills, experience and confidence.

Caltech is a world-renowned science and engineering Institute that marshals some of the world's brightest minds and most innovative tools to address fundamental scientific questions and pressing societal challenges. The contributions of Caltech's faculty and alumni have earned national and international recognition, including 44 Nobel Prizes. The mission of the California Institute of Technology is to expand human knowledge and benefit society through research integrated with education. We investigate the most challenging, fundamental problems in science and technology in a singularly collegial, interdisciplinary atmosphere, while educating outstanding students to become creative members of society.

###

For more information, please contact Jenny Kopach, CEO, Science Olympiad at jrkopach@soinc.org or Raymond Ealy, Executive Director, STEAM:CODERS at realy@steamcoders.org