

PSE Science Olympiad Club Information – 2015-2016



What is Science Olympiad?

North Carolina Science Olympiad (NCSO) is a nonprofit organization with the mission to attract and retain the pool of K-12 students entering science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers in North Carolina. Every year NCSO hosts tournaments on university, community college, and public school campuses across the state. **These tournaments are rigorous academic interscholastic competitions that consist of a series of different hands-on, interactive, challenging and inquiry-based events that are well balanced between the various disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology.** The challenging and self-motivating events of the NCSO align with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study as well as the National Science Education Standards. The events are designed to enhance and strengthen both science content and process skills. (Adapted from www.sciencenc.org)

For more information and to review the events for this year, please visit www.sciencenc.org and select Division A – Grades 3-6.

Who is running it and when? What costs are involved?

Wendy Ikoku is the head coach and Aileen Westover is the parent facilitator. This is PSE's 7th year participating in NC Science Olympiad and we have been blessed with some wonderful PSE teachers who have volunteered to coach, but....we will need parent coaches as well. **There will be 19 different events this year requiring coaches. Please consider coaching – it is fun and VERY rewarding.**

We will meet every Friday from 3:00-4:15 p.m., starting January 8th. The competition is scheduled for May 21, 2016 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm at UNCC. This club takes a lot of hard work, dedication and time commitment. We need students to be at every meeting and stay the whole day at the competition at UNCC in May. You will also need to practice on your own at home by studying and perfecting your event!

This year, there is a membership fee of **\$35 per student**. This fee will cover the cost of team registration, team t-shirts, and materials needed for the various practice events.

Who can join and where can I sign up?

Any student can apply to be part of the team if they are in **grades 3-5**. We are limited to 3 teams of 12 students per team. The teams will have a distribution of members from grades 3-5. Due to these restrictive numbers, we are asking students to provide the following: **answers to a series of questions describing why they would be a good Science Olympiad team member, a teacher recommendation, and current science grades (forms attached).** The short answer questions, essays and teacher recommendations are due by Friday, November 20th to Mrs. Ikoku. Students will be informed on **Friday, December 4th** if they have been selected to participate in the club. There will be an informational meeting on **Wednesday, December 9th** for parents and students. The fee will be due at that time.

Questions?

Contact: Aileen Westover amwestover@carolina.rr.com 704-287-5940

Science Olympiad Application Form – 2015-2016

Student: _____ Grade: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent name: _____

Parent email: _____

- I understand that I will need to be available to practice for competition **every** Friday from 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. starting January 8th, 2016. I also understand that I will need to practice **on my own**.
- I agree to be prepared for **every** practice session. This may mean spending time at home building items that will be tested during the practice sessions on Friday.
- I understand that I need someone to pick me up at 4:15 p.m. in front of the school **ON TIME**.
- I understand that I need to be at the competition as my teammates are counting on me.
- I understand that I need to attend the entire day of competition, as my teammates are counting on me, on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at UNCC. I must provide my own transportation to and from UNCC.
- I have attached my short answer questions. I have also given my teacher a teacher recommendation form to complete.
- I understand that I may be assigned as an alternate for an event. I agree to be prepared and attend practices so that if my alternate status changes I am prepared to compete.
- I understand that we have one Varsity team and two JV teams. Therefore, since there are more slots on the JV teams, there is a higher likelihood that I will be on a JV team rather than on the Varsity team. Because someone was on the Varsity team last year is not a reason for anyone to think you will be on the Varsity team this year. If you are not selected to the Varsity team, how will you feel about that? _____

Parents:

I am interested in coaching the following event(s): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Science Olympiad Application 2015-2016
Applicant Short Answer Questions

1. What areas of science are of interest to you? Be specific in order to show your depth of knowledge regarding these topics.
2. What scientific topics would you like to know more about? (Explain)
3. Science Olympiad involves being a "team player". What attributes do you have that would show how you would be a cooperative member of the team? (You may include examples of your ability to work within a group, in or out of the school setting.)
4. What past experiences have you had that would identify you as an "amateur scientist"?
5. What attributes of an "amateur scientist" do you possess that would benefit the PSE Science Olympiad team?

Dear Parent(s),

If you are interested in joining our Science Olympiad coaching team, please sign below and you will be contacted. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our program.

Signature: _____

Teacher Recommendation Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Science/Homeroom Teacher: _____

Quarter 1 Science grade: _____ Current science grade: _____

Would you recommend this student for Science Olympiad? Yes/No

Please explain if applicable _____

Please rate the following for this student (please circle one response per statement):

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Student works well in a group	0	1	2	3	4
Student demonstrates a clear knowledge of scientific concepts	0	1	2	3	4
Student enjoys scientific experiments	0	1	2	3	4
Student is able to follow directions	0	1	2	3	4
Student completes assignments	0	1	2	3	4
Student turns in assignments in a timely manner	0	1	2	3	4
Student is responsible	0	1	2	3	4
Student works well independently	0	1	2	3	4
Student is self-motivated	0	1	2	3	4

Additional comments: _____

To the best of my knowledge, the information I provided above is true and accurate.

Teacher Signature

Date

Teachers, please place in a sealed envelope and sign across the seal, then place in Wendy Ikoku's mailbox. This does not go back to the student – it comes directly to Mrs. Ikoku. Please complete before Friday, November 20th. Thank you!