

## PSE Science Olympiad Club Information – 2012-2013



### 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](http://www.sciencenc.org))

For more information and to review the events for this year, please visit [www.sciencenc.org](http://www.sciencenc.org) and select Division A – Grades 3-6.

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

Steve Houser and Wendy Ikoku are the head coaches. This is PSE's 5<sup>th</sup> 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 18 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 4<sup>th</sup>. The competition is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 8:00 am – 2:00 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 **\$30 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 should have an even 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 Tuesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to Mr. Houser.** Students will be informed by **Monday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** if they have been selected to participate in the club. There will be a mandatory informational meeting on **Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. for parents and students. The fee will be due at that time.

### Questions?

Contact: Aileen Westover [amwestover@carolina.rr.com](mailto:amwestover@carolina.rr.com) 704-287-5940  
Steve Houser [s.houser@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:s.houser@cms.k12.nc.us)  
Wendy Ikoku [wendy.ikoku@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:wendy.ikoku@cms.k12.nc.us)

**Science Olympiad Application Form – 2012-2013**

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I also understand that I will need to practice on my own.
- 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 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 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 deal with that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Science Olympiad Application 2012-2013  
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

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Student works well on a team	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 is responsible	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 Steve Houser's mailbox. This does not go back to the student – it comes directly to Steve Houser. Please complete before Tuesday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!**