

Why I want to join the WSO board:

I became a Science Olympiad coach in 2008: the junior high my daughter was attending didn't have a Sci Oly team because there wasn't a teacher who was willing to coach. The school invited me to coach it as a volunteer parent, and I said yes. I had been a science docent for years and felt that Sci Oly was a natural extension. That first year, we struggled to get a dozen students on the team.

Three years later, after earning my master's in education, I joined the school as a math teacher, and continued growing the Sci Oly presence. All 3 of my own children joined Sci Oly as they entered 7th grade; we frequently had building sessions at the kitchen table. As word got out, more students joined, and we eventually had five Sci Oly teams.

When Canyon Park decided not to hold their annual invitational tournament, I chose to step up and host one at Northshore. Running an invite helped me appreciate how much work goes in behind the scenes, taught me valuable lessons about streamlining grading, and the importance of paying attention to details. We hosted five invitationals at what is now Northshore Middle School until the pandemic prevented in-person gatherings in 2021-22.

Now that we've again been able to attend in-person tournaments, I'm reminded of how many details are required to help a tournament run smoothly. While Northshore did not host a tournament this year, I wrote tests for other invites and helped with the organization, such as asking a custodian to lock all but one gym door for Flight or putting up signs to advise of events switching places. There are always things that go wrong, but my goal is to minimize the impact and support the students who have worked so hard. My guiding thought is "be part of the solution."

With that in mind, I feel that I can bring a helpful perspective to the WSO board of directors. There are things we can do at the state level to make Science Olympiad a success, and I'd like to help in that capacity.

Thanks for your consideration,
Edie Lie