



FALL 2008

# WSO NEWS

*Welcoming a new season of Science Olympiad*

## NEW BOARD & DIRECTOR SEATED

### HOT TOPICS

- ❖ NEW BOARD & STATE DIRECTOR
- ❖ SCIENCE EDUCATION
- ❖ COACHING CLINICS
- ❖ WSO 2008-2009 SEASON

**DISCOUNT FOR  
NEW TEAMS: \$100**

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WSO TOURNAMENT  
SCHEDULE

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD  
CLASS

NSO SUMMER  
INSTITUTE

NSO CONTACT FOR  
EVENT QUESTIONS

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD  
REGISTRATION INFO

WSO UNIFIED  
SCHEDULE



At the June 14 meeting, a new board was elected for the 2008-09 season. With three members from each of the three regions represented, directors are:

Rockie Morgan, Chair (NW)  
Gordon Patterson, Secretary (SW)  
Tom Schultz, Treasurer (NW)  
John Whitmer, Vice Chair (E)  
Judy Bauer, Member (SW)  
Sheila Guard, Member (NW)  
Heather McKean, Member (E)  
David Reeves, Member (SW)  
Glenn Voshell, Member (E)

Also approved at the annual meeting for the position of State Director vacated by Jean Cavanaugh is Sue Murphy. Having had roles in Science Olympiad since 2000 as regional

board member, event assistant, event supervisor, and co-tournament director, Sue is excited to lend her administrative skills to WSO. If you have any questions, concerns, or need information about Washington Science Olympiad, please contact Sue at:

Sue Murphy, WSO State Director  
Eastern Washington University  
15112 W Third Addition Rd.  
Cheney, WA 99004

[statedirector@washingtonscienceolympiad.com](mailto:statedirector@washingtonscienceolympiad.com)  
Ph: 509-359-6809  
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Or see our web site:

<http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com>

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEACHES SCIENCE

What do these words/phrases have in common?

- Silver Anniversary
- Pentathlon
- Teamwork
- National Science Standards
- Junkyard Challenge
- Tournament
- Outstanding Achievement

### Answer: *Science Olympiad*

2008-09 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Science Olympiad, an organization dedicated to science education. Science Olympiad events meet national standards by providing practical problem-solving situations. Students work with partners and as a team to accomplish designated tasks – sometimes knowing the specific goal (such as design a bottle rocket encapsulating an “eggonaut” in which the

egg survives landing) and sometimes not knowing specifics (as in Pentathlon where students complete 5 sets of academic and physical challenges that are only revealed at the competition). Junkyard Challenge is an event combining known and unknown parameters – students compile a box of items that can be used to construct a device that performs a specific [known] function, but they must incorporate a “mystery material” that is only announced at the competition.

Washington enters its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of involvement with Science Olympiad. Regional and state tournaments host two divisions – B (grades 6-9) and C (grades 9-12) – each including 23 events covering biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, forensics, geology, and physics.

Teams from all over Washington compete this season at *(cont. page 2)*

**IMPORTANT DATES:****REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

**MARCH 7, 2009**  
NW REGION  
EVERETT, WA

**MARCH 14, 2009**  
EASTERN REGION  
SPOKANE, WA

**MARCH 14, 2009**  
SW REGION  
LONGVIEW, WA

**MARCH 21, 2009**  
WEST CENTRAL  
SEATTLE, WA

**STATE TOURNAMENT**

**APRIL 18, 2009**  
VANCOUVER, WA

**NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

**MAY 15-16, 2009**  
AUGUSTA, GA

**WSO INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

CLICK ON LINK FOR DATES OF INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS — PRACTICE COMPETITIONS TO HELP PREPARE YOUR TEAM

**SO TEACHES SCIENCE**

*(cont. from page 1)*

four regional tournaments:

Everett Comm. College (3/7/09)  
Lower Columbia College (3/14/09)  
Spokane Comm. College (3/14/09)  
Seattle Central CC (3/21/09)

Top teams advance to the state tournament at Clark College on 4/18/09. Winners from that competition go to the national tournament 5/16/09 in Augusta, GA.

Why should schools participate in Science Olympiad and what do they need to do? Science Olympiad reinforces principles of science. Students learn not only scientific facts but also how to apply scientific inquiry and collaborative efforts.

**NSO SUMMER INSTITUTE**

National Science Olympiad hosted its annual coaching clinic in Arizona July 21-25. Five coaches representing Washington schools learned specifics of the 2008-2009 events, often competing against other participants just as students will.



Front from left: Linda LeBard-Heritage HS; Sheila Guard-Canyon Park MS & Bothell HS; Carol Hamre, Susan Britain & Frank Besancon-Stanwood HS. Back: Sue Murphy, NSO State Director.

**GET IN ON THE WSO 2008-09 SEASON**

Registration for the 2008-09 Science Olympiad season ends **January 31, 2009**. Slots in each regional tournament are limited ... early registration ensures a spot in your first choice location. **Register now!**

For information on benefits of joining Science Olympiad, go to: <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/join.html> For team registration, complete the form at: <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/regform.pdf>

How can teams ... particularly new teams ... prepare for Science Olympiad tournaments? Coaching clinics are one way (<http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/meetings.html>). Another is to include a Science Olympiad-related course in your curriculum. Many schools offer a SO course as part of regular science curriculum or as an elective.

Look to future issues of WSO News for more on SO courses and invitational tournaments. ♦

While no WSO coaching clinics are planned this Fall, see <http://www.washingtonscienceolympiad.com/meetings.html> for national coaching clinics scheduled this season.

Rules manuals (sent out with completed registration) provide specifics of each event. Coaches can ask questions of national event supervisors at [http://soinc.org/official\\_rules\\_clarif\\_2009](http://soinc.org/official_rules_clarif_2009) ... However NOTE: If it is in the rules manual, national supervisors will respond, "Read the rules!"

The WSO Board is preparing a new coach's manual. Watch for details.

If you'd like a CD of NSO Summer Institute PowerPoints (\$5 to cover costs), contact [Sue Murphy](mailto:SueMurphy@soinc.org). ♦

Coaches will want to review the [unified schedule](#), which is followed at each Washington regional and state tournament. As most students compete in multiple events, the schedule helps determine the different events students are able to work toward. ♦