

GEORGE SUN

georgemarksun@gmail.com

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Dear Washington Science Olympiad Board of Directors,

I am writing with interest in joining the Washington Science Olympiad Board of Directors.

My journey with Science Olympiad began in 2011 as a competitor at Interlake High School, where I competed in biology and build events and, during my last two years, served as our organization's president. As a competitor I had the pleasure of participating in tournaments organized by Judy Mannard, Scott McComb, Sue Murphy, and Tom Schultz. After graduating in 2015, with encouragement from Sue, I worked with Trevor Day and the guidance of Sheila Guard, Scott, Judy, and Sue to explore the prospect of hosting tournaments at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle with several Northwest regional tournament sites expected to retire in the following years. With much work navigating the organizational and financial hurdles at UW, we were successful and hosted a mix of Division B/C regional tournaments from 2017 to 2019.

Beyond Science Olympiad in Washington, my involvement extends to the national level where I lead our group of volunteer staff in running Scioly.org (the Science Olympiad Student Center), supervise events at numerous tournaments, and serve on the national Technology & Engineering Rules Committee where I have contributed to event rules, scoresheets/checklists, diagrams, and FAQ responses.

This past season has been particularly impactful with adapting the competition to a virtual format. With Scioly.org, we've used our online platform to help connect students with resources while providing a gathering place during the distanced season. At the national level, we've developed replacement events such as Digital Structures that allow virtual participation while continuing to teach important engineering skills. And in Washington, we made Science Olympiad possible as a two-day experience taking place in students' schools and homes, successfully hosting regional and state tournaments supporting large numbers of teams.

Through this process, I have been extraordinarily impressed with the care Washington Science Olympiad puts into all aspects of the experience—from policies that allow participating despite the difficulties of this season to encouraging a respectful atmosphere for all peers and volunteers to thoroughly investigating appeals and score inquiries. It has been my pleasure to work with many of the individuals who made my own Science Olympiad experiences as a competitor possible, and I look forward to continuing contributing in ways that make these opportunities possible for future generations of students in Washington state.

I appreciate you considering my interest and look forward to the possibility of joining your team. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at georgemarksun@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

George Sun