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To: Sue Murphy, State Director, Washington Science Olympiad Board of Directors

Dear Ms. Murphy,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Washington Science Olympiad Board.

I first encountered Science Olympiad in 6th grade at Odle Middle School. My peers and I soaked up the breadth and depth of the material from Science Olympiad. Since then, the tournament has been an integral part of my extra-curriculars and has sparked an interest for the Natural Sciences. Learning with my friends on the team (and making new ones!) was a bonus. Later, I participated in the online version of SO during my 7th grade. I was gratified in 8th grade when SO became increasingly popular at my school, and my classmates and juniors turned to me for advice on choosing events and study material. I was happy to participate in SO this past year with Interlake High School as it was my first in-person SO competition since the pandemic.

I acknowledge the value of the content and the format of the SO as being instrumental in deepening my interest in the Sciences.

I am currently publishing a research paper regarding the effect of an added pollutant on the surface tension of water and its applications to the rest of the water cycle and weather patterns in general. My studies for Science Olympiad have greatly helped in this endeavor as I acquired the background information necessary to complete this research (by participating in events such as Dynamic Planet, Water Quality, Green Generation, Environmental Chemistry, and Remote Sensing). As demonstrated by my research project, I am keen on environmental sciences and their application to our existential crises of climate change, ocean acidification, and depletion of biodiversity. It is inspiring to see more environmental science events (such as Solar Power), and I would be excited to see the creation and implementation of similar events that encourage participants to focus on collaborative solutions to our climate crisis.

I would love to use my experiences with this enriching tournament to help others gain as much as I have. If elected, I would use my position on the Washington Science Olympiad Board of Directors to increase participation in the competition, not only from my current school, but also from schools that historically have not participated in the competition. I am grateful to all the Science Olympiad organizers and volunteers for my learning experiences at the SO. I want to pay it forward by ensuring Science Olympiad increases its reach to more students in our state.

Thank you for considering my nomination to the Washington Science Olympiad Board.

Best wishes,

Lakshmi Agarwal