April 29, 2023

Sue Murphy, State Director

Washington Science Olympiad

15112 W 3rd Addition Rd.

Cheney, WA 99004

Dear Sue Murphy,

I first became aware of the opportunity to get involved with WSO while competing at the Washington State SO competition earlier this April. I am a freshman at Interlake High School and have participated in Science Olympiad since middle school. I am eager to serve as a WSO Student Advisor and believe that I would be an ideal fit for this role because of my passion for science and dedication towards such a role.

As a student advisor, I will bring a strong work ethic, commitment to excellence, and a passion for science. I have demonstrated these qualities through my academic achievements and extracurricular activities. I have consistently maintained a high GPA while taking challenging courses, and have enthusiastically participated in several science related clubs and competitions, such as Science Olympiad and National Science Bowl (NSB).

I believe that my involvement in Science Olympiad has taught me valuable skills, such as teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking – all under time and resource constraints. These skills will be essential to come up with practical ideas to better the Science Olympiad competition experiences, and to execute such ideas. I am also a quick learner and am always eager to take on new challenges and develop new skills.

Some ideas that I have to improve the State competition experience next year include providing maps for where each event is located on the university campus, and proofreading tests more thoroughly so that they cover all the material on the event descriptions and are markedly different from regional tests (this would help provide a more level playing field for teams). If selected, I would advocate for such changes and communicate any other ideas/feedback that I come up with or receive, to the board for future improvement.

Science Olympiad’s mission is to “host exciting competitive tournaments and professional development workshops that showcase innovative STEM content to students and teachers throughout the United States.” If selected, I am committed to working diligently, and utilizing my skillset to the fullest, to help better accomplish this mission.

Thank you for considering my application. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to WSO as a student advisor.

Sincerely,

Rishabh Vakil