

GEORGE SUN

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April 30, 2024

Dear Washington Science Olympiad Board of Directors,

I am writing with the intent of running for the Washington Science Olympiad (WSO) Board of Directors for the coming board term starting July 2024.

While these past three years (2021–2024) marked my first term with the WSO Board of Directors, my journey with Science Olympiad and WSO began first as a competitor in 2011 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. In 2021 and 2022, with the ongoing pandemic we faced the immense challenge of maintaining the fidelity of a hands-on program in the setting of social distancing, ultimately making 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.

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, an online platform to help connect students with resources), 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.

Through my Science Olympiad journey, I have been extraordinarily impressed with the care Washington Science Olympiad puts into all aspects of the experience. 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.

The coming seasons continue to present important opportunities for Washington Science Olympiad, with ongoing development and the initiation of new relationships with institutions for host sites, involving our robust and growing network of alumni eager to volunteer, and continuing to find ways to engage current teams interested in expanding their programs or involvement with Science Olympiad. Alongside these missions, while I continue my involvement with the board remotely, one of my goals for the coming term is to complete a revamp of the WSO website, a project I began exploring with Sue many years ago that is an important step for enabling WSO to best interface with all its stakeholders.

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

Sincerely,

George Sun