



May 24, 2007

To All Science Faculty,

This is your invitation to join America's most exciting academic competition and begin a journey that has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of students, teachers and schools across the USA since it began in 1983. Science Olympiad students compete as a team of 15 students representing their school- much like athletic teams do.

There are events, in which students identify different families of insects, build rockets launched by air and water, identify chemical powders, construct vehicles powered by the energy released by a mousetrap and plot coordinates on topographic maps among other things. Science Olympiad teaches students not only valuable science process skills, but also character skills such as leadership, thinking under pressure, teamwork, planning and organization. Teachers and schools participating in Science Olympiad are given access to a vast nationwide network of people and resources that encourage excellence in scholarship and professional development. Citizens and communities with Science Olympiad teams are brought together with a positive energy that matches or surpasses that of most athletic teams.

Most Science Olympiad Coaches will also be happy to tell you how Science Olympiad made a positive difference in the lives of their students and in their choice of careers. Some of my former Science Olympiad students are now physicians, engineers, software programmers, educators and others who are benefiting our communities, our nation and our world with their education and character.

Enclosed with this letter is our registration form for 2008. Please feel free to copy the membership form and distribute it to other schools in your district that might be interested in forming a team. This fall mailing is being sent to all Michigan middle schools and high schools. Once we receive your paid registration, you will receive your copy of the 2008 Science Olympiad Coach's Manual for your Division. Middle school students (grades 6-9) compete in Division B events. High school students (grades 9-12) compete in Division C events. The 2008 Rule Book contains all the specifications you need to prepare for each of the 23 events in your competition.

Be sure to visit our website at www.michiganso.org for the latest information about upcoming events and opportunities for you and your team. There are several invitational tournaments planned for this winter and at least two coaches' workshops that will be held in the fall.

Be sure to check the website at www.michiganso.org for Regional Tournament information and to contact your Regional Director if you are interested in joining. I have included a map of Michigan Science Olympiad regions in this mailing.

Again, on behalf of the Michigan Science Olympiad Executive Board, please accept our invitation to join the Michigan Science Olympiad family. We hope to hear from you and your school soon.

Sincerely yours in Science Education,

Mark A. Van Hecke
MSO State Director
(810)-765-4268
mvanhecke@comcast.net