



# Marshall Middle School Science Olympiad 2017-2018



**\*\*Send all questions to [marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com](mailto:marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com)\*\***

Please use our official email address. Contacting teachers, administrators or Head Coaches at their personal emails or phone numbers jeopardizes your participation in Science Olympiad.

**Parent Info Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 12, 2017  
7 pm to 8 pm at MPR, Marshall Middle School**

**What is Science Olympiad?** The nation's most exciting K-12 science competition! Each school puts together a group of students who compete against other schools in 23 different science events.

To learn about these events, visit the national website at [https://www.soinc.org/2017\\_div\\_b\\_events](https://www.soinc.org/2017_div_b_events) or <https://scilympiad.com/bmms-so/Info/Events/B>. Other helpful sites are the San Diego regional website <https://sandiegoso.org/> and the unofficial <http://www.scioly.org/>.

We are in Division B (middle school). There are three kinds of events:

- **Build events:** you will create a device like a bottle rocket, wheeled vehicle or a tower and test it against other teams at the competition.
- **Lab events:** you will be given specific materials or evidence and you will conduct experiments at the competition.
- **Study events:** you will learn about a particular subject such as anatomy or meteorology and you will take a test at the competition.

**How can I participate?** If you join the program, you will be assigned to three events with one or two partners. You will be on a team of 15 students; each team will cover all 23 events. Each school can send a maximum of six teams of 15 kids to the competition, which is 90 students total.

**Who are the teachers?** Event meetings are run by volunteer coaches: parents, alumni and community experts. Each event meets once a week for 1-2 hours. Each coach prepares 12-18 kids in their event.

**What is the time commitment?** Expect a minimum of 3-5 hours per week on evenings and weekends, *plus study time*. Once coaches confirm meeting days, times and locations, we will arrange the schedule.

**[All students on the team will attend the San Diego Regional Competition on Sat February 10, 2018.](#)**

**What are the expectations of a coach?** Any parent, high schooler or community volunteer can be an event coach, co-coach or assistant coach. A background in the field is helpful, but not required. There are teaching materials for all events available online. Multiple coaches are recommended for each event as you will have 12-18 students to train. Event rules will be provided to registered students, and updates are posted at <https://sandiegoso.org>. Please email us if you are interested in coaching or administration.

**What are the expectations of students?** All school rules apply to Science Olympiad, including attendance at all weekly meetings, completion of homework, good citizenship and sportsmanship, respect to coaches and fellow students, and no use of electronics during meetings. Coaches will note attendance and citizenship, which may affect participation in the program and future competitions.

**What is the cost?** The suggested donation is \$100 which covers the cost of Marshall's registration in the competition, teaching supplies, building materials, and T-shirts and lunch for all students and coaches at the competition. Additional donations are welcome and needed, as we receive no funding from the district, school or PTSA. We operate purely through donations. Check if your company matches donations and volunteer hours. We will make accommodations in cases of financial hardship.

**How do I register?** Check back here in late September for the link to online registration. Registration will be open for 5 days. Event meetings should start in early October. For a notification on timeframes, email [marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com](mailto:marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

Before registering, we suggest the following:

- Explore the events with your parents on [https://www.soinc.org/2017\\_div\\_b\\_events](https://www.soinc.org/2017_div_b_events) or <https://scilympiad.com/bmms-so/Info/Events/B>.
- Choose 10 events that interest you and that do not conflict with your other activities.
- Consider signing up with a partner. You and your partner should select the same 10 events.
- Be open to all events and making new friends: although we try our very best to make everyone happy, we cannot give all students the events and partners that they request.
- Ask your mom, dad, older sibling or grandparents to coach or co-coach an event.
- Discuss the time commitment seriously with your family. Will you have time to arrive at a 6pm event if soccer practice, piano lessons or church ends at 5:30? Strict attendance is expected.

**Helpful hints for online registration:**

1. Use a computer to register. The system may not allow you to register on a tablet or phone.
2. The system might have some unscheduled downtime. If you can't register, wait a couple of hours and try again.
3. If the student doesn't have an email address or phone, enter parent information.
4. Remember that student T-shirts will be ordered for the competition in February, so allow for a larger size. Kids grow A LOT in middle school!
5. If you want to sign up with a partner, make sure both of you select the same 10 events in the same order.
6. Take your time and double check your information. If we get incorrect email addresses or phone numbers, we will have no way to contact you. All parents or guardians who want to receive email notifications should be entered during registration.

**How will I know if I made the team?** We will review all applications and contact you within two weeks. We appreciate your patience as we process a very large number of applications, and we do our best to place you in your favorite events with preferred partners. If the schedule doesn't work for you, you don't want to be waitlisted, or you change your mind once you receive your schedule from us, you can get a refund. Once teams are created, it is very difficult to change the schedule.

**How will I know if I'm a coach?** We will schedule a meeting with potential coaches within two weeks.

Thank you for your interest in Science Olympiad. It's going to be another fun year! If you have any questions or comments, please email [marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com](mailto:marshallmiddlescioly@gmail.com).