

— 2025 —

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

UNIVERSITY *of* NEBRASKA—LINCOLN

May 23-24, 2025



CAMPUS MAP

For a detailed UNL campus map, please scan QR code below or visit maps.unl.edu.



f /UNLincoln

Instagram /UNLincoln

X @UNLincoln

f @SOAlumniNetwork

Instagram @scienceolympiadofficial

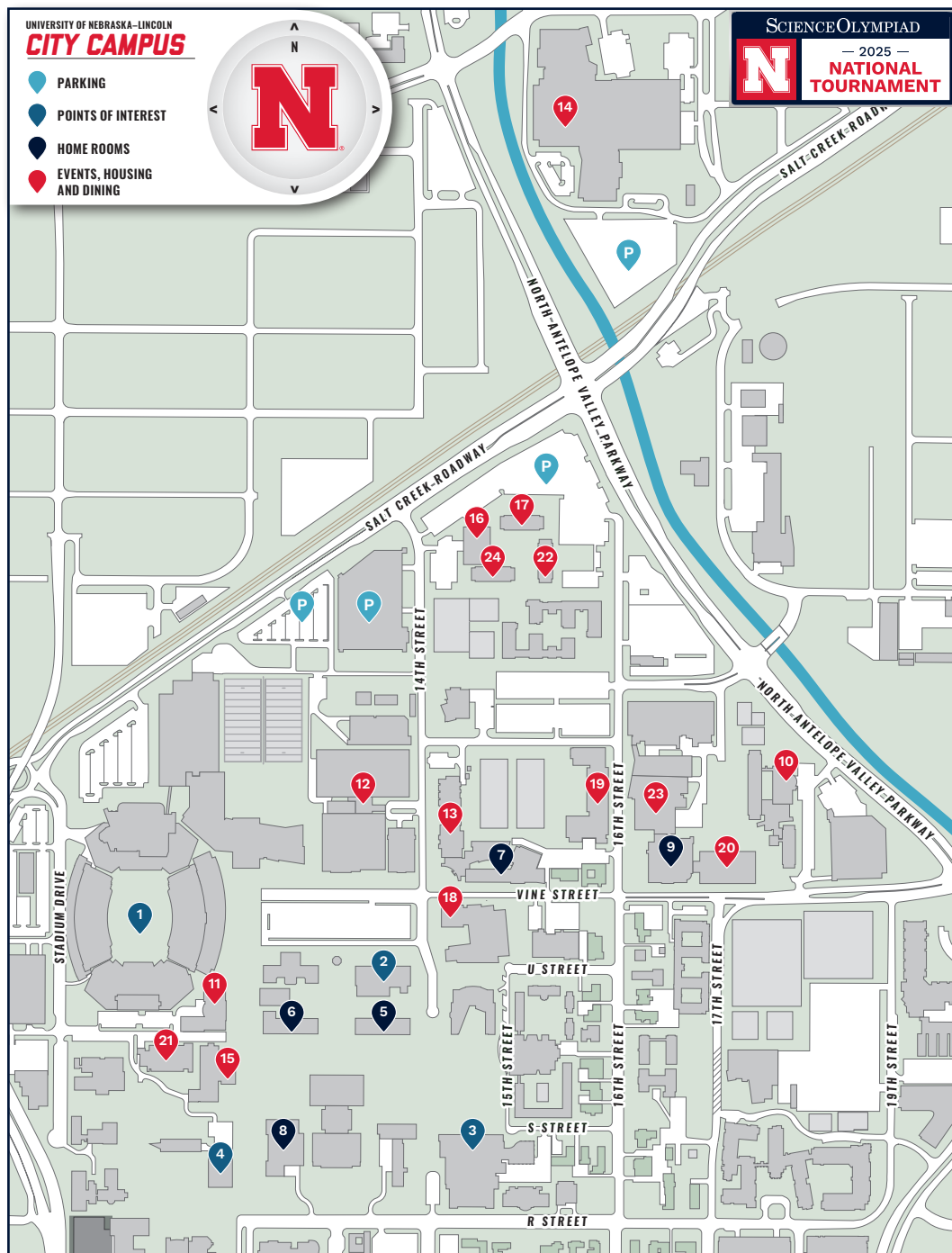
X @SOAlumniNetwork

Points of Interest

1. Memorial Stadium
2. Morrill Hall
3. Nebraska Union
4. Sheldon Museum of Art

Home Rooms

5. Andrews Hall
6. Burnett Hall
7. Henzlik Hall
8. Louise Pound Hall
9. Othmer Hall



Events, Housing and Dining

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10. Abel Dining Center | 15. Hamilton Hall | 20. Kiewit Hall |
| 11. Avery Hall | 16. Harper Dining Center | 21. Manter Hall |
| 12. Campus Recreation Center | 17. Harper Hall | 22. Schramm Hall |
| 13. Carolyn Pope Edwards Hall | 18. Hawks Hall | 23. Scott Engineering Center |
| 14. Devaney Sports Center | 19. Jorgensen Hall | 24. Smith Hall |

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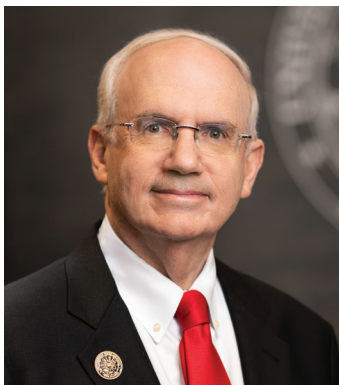
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WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT GOLD



Dear Science Olympiad Participants: Welcome to the University of Nebraska!

The Science Olympiad is more than a competition. It is a celebration of the curiosity, creativity and determination that will drive tomorrow's breakthroughs. Whether you are investigating life sciences, building a prototype, or applying mathematical models, you are not just demonstrating knowledge—you are preparing to lead.

At the University of Nebraska, we are proud to support programs like this that empower young people to take on the world's greatest challenges. From advancing rural healthcare and agricultural technology to developing innovations in national defense and artificial intelligence, our campuses are deeply engaged in research and discovery that improve lives in Nebraska and beyond. We believe in cultivating talent, investing in opportunity, and building a strong pipeline of problem-solvers—starting with students like you.

As a physician, former chancellor of a leading academic medical center, and now as president of a statewide university system, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand how science changes lives. My own journey—from the operating room as a pediatric heart surgeon to today, leading a university that educates nearly 50,000 students—has reinforced a simple truth: the future belongs to those who are willing to ask big questions, tackle tough problems, and never stop learning.

That is exactly what brings you here today.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary event. I hope your time here inspires you to keep exploring—and perhaps one day, to pursue your academic and scientific journey right here in Nebraska.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished. We are cheering you on.

With admiration and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Gold".

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

President, University of Nebraska System



WELCOME FROM CHANCELLOR BENNETT



Welcome to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln!

On behalf of Husker Nation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and congratulate you on participating in the 2025 Science Olympiad National Tournament.

Nebraska hosted its first Science Olympiad National Tournament in 2015, and I am very excited we are once again welcoming science leaders back to Lincoln. For more than 150 years, dating back to our establishment as Nebraska's land-grant university in 1869, we have been educating the next generation of leaders for communities in Nebraska and around the world. Today, we are fulfilling our teaching, research and engagement mission through our hundreds of programs of study, world-class faculty and colleagues, and presence in 93 Nebraska counties.

The University is home to many scientists and researchers, and we would love for you to one day become a Husker and return to Nebraska as a student. As one of the nation's leading research universities and a proud member of the Big Ten Conference, we offer a wide range of academic and research opportunities—and we do so with a conviction that every person and every interaction matters.

Throughout the tournament, you will spend time in many of our campus buildings, including Kiewit Hall, home to our nationally ranked College of Engineering. Opening in January 2024, Kiewit Hall is the new academic hub for engineering education, featuring state-of-the-art classrooms, teaching labs, design/build spaces for student organizations and a large outdoor quad/promenade for the university community. This facility was constructed with students in mind, encouraging the ability to engage in unique hands-on learning opportunities and to prepare those who occupy it to make a difference on campus and beyond.

We are so excited to welcome you to the University. I hope you have a fantastic tournament and explore our beautiful campus.

Go Big Red!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney D. Bennett".

Rodney D. Bennett

Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln



WELCOME FROM UNIVERSITY RELATIONS



Welcome Back, Science Olympiad!

The University of Nebraska is deeply honored and excited to host the 2025 Science Olympiad National Tournament. It has been a decade since our campus last had the privilege of welcoming this prestigious event, and we are thrilled to once again host some of the nation's brightest middle and high school Science Olympiad teams.

We are particularly thrilled to host such exceptional young minds. Representing the pinnacle of middle and high school Science Olympiad teams nationwide is an extraordinary accomplishment. Moreover, your enthusiasm for knowledge positions you as future leaders who will undoubtedly drive the next generation of advancements and discoveries.

The University of Nebraska remains committed to encouraging and supporting the expansion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. We firmly believe in the critical importance of providing opportunities for students to delve deeper into these vital disciplines. It is our sincere hope that your exposure to these subjects will ignite a lasting curiosity and establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning and future careers.

Your participation in this national tournament serves as a powerful example of the remarkable outcomes that arise when an initial spark of curiosity is nurtured. Your individual tenacity and your team's collective determination are truly commendable, and we hope you take immense pride in your achievements in reaching this level and competing for the national championship title.

E.K. Franks

Director for University Relations



WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF LINCOLN



It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln for the 2025 Science Olympiad National Tournament on May 23 & May 24, 2025. With an estimated 5,000 attendees, this two-day event will be a great opportunity for students, educators, and parents to come together on the UNL campus in the heart of Nebraska’s capitol city. It is certainly our honor.

Lincoln has a proud tradition of fostering educational excellence and scientific discovery. Our city is home to world-class research institutions, thriving tech industries, and a community that values curiosity and learning. The Science Olympiad embodies the spirit of innovation that drives progress in every field, from engineering and medicine to environmental science and technology. I commend each of you for your commitment to problem-solving, teamwork, and academic achievement—qualities that will shape the future of STEM and beyond.

You will find the City of Lincoln to be a warm host. Our citizens take great pride in our quality of life, hospitality, and friendliness. We invite you to take time to enjoy our many attractions, including the wonderful shopping and eateries throughout downtown and in the nearby Historic Haymarket and Railyard area. If you have time, there are some wonderful new exhibits in the recently expanded Lincoln Children’s Zoo near the Sunken Gardens, or you can stroll the Antelope Valley Trail and Union Plaza Park for fresh air and relaxation.

The tournament will undoubtedly be a memorable experience. I hope you enjoy your stay in Lincoln and will come back often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leirion Gaylor Baird". The script is elegant and cursive.

Leirion Gaylor Baird
Mayor

WELCOME FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



I'm thrilled to welcome you all to the 41st Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament! We're so lucky this year to be returning to one of our favorite sites, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, which hosted the big event in 2015.

What's changed over the past decade? Well, a lot! The scientific world has made exponential advancements that will lead to improvements across society. But with science speeding along at a supersonic pace, we need smart, responsible leaders at the controls... and that requires developing skills like scientific inquiry, problem solving and intellectual curiosity.

At Science Olympiad, we're committed to developing these traits among our students by providing the rules of the game, the field of play, and the referees. Our enticing mix of challenges touching every letter in STEM is intentionally designed to allow participants to find their passion and get joyfully lost in the depths of subject matter. Entomologists? Let's

talk bugs. Codebusters? Ciphers are our jam. Disease Detectives? We've got the inside scoop on outbreaks. Astronomers? Would love to reach for the stars together.

The point is, as science changes Science Olympiad changes too. We have new events coming down the pipeline in coding, engineering CAD, and protein modeling. We're anticipating the needs of our community and filling gaps—funding new Science Olympiad Alumni Research (SOAR) grants, awarding Founders' Scholarships, funding state growth and Urban Schools Initiatives, and providing tuition for science teachers through the Science Olympiad USA Foundation.

This Science Olympiad National Tournament weekend will be over in a flash, but we hope the impact will last a lifetime. And we'll be right here for all of it.

Best of luck to all our future science leaders!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Kopach".

Jenny Kopach

CEO, Science Olympiad

President and CEO, Science Olympiad USA Foundation



WELCOME FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



Welcome to the 2025 National Science Olympiad Tournament!

On behalf of the Science Olympiad Executive Board and Advisory Committee, our staff, state directors and event supervisors, it is my great honor to welcome you to the 2025 National Science Olympiad Tournament, hosted by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. This event brings together the brightest young minds from across the nation, showcasing the passion, perseverance, and innovation that make Science Olympiad truly special.

To our competitors—your dedication to science, technology, engineering, and math has led you to this national stage, and that is an achievement in itself. The challenges you will face over the next two days are designed to test your knowledge, skills, creativity, and teamwork—qualities that will serve you well no matter where your future takes you.

We are incredibly grateful to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln for their generosity in hosting this year's tournament. Their commitment to education and scientific discovery creates the perfect setting for this celebration of STEM excellence. We also extend our deepest appreciation to the volunteers, event supervisors, sponsors, and supporters who make this tournament possible. Your efforts ensure that Science Olympiad continues to inspire and educate future generations.

As you compete, collaborate, and connect with fellow students from across the country, I encourage you to embrace the spirit of learning and discovery that defines Science Olympiad. May this weekend be filled with excitement that helps create memories that will last a lifetime.

Best of luck, and enjoy the tournament!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Nichols". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dan Nichols

Executive Director, Science Olympiad





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Curt Tomasevicz

Assistant Professor of Practice, UNL Biological Systems Engineering
Director of Sport Performance, USA Bobsled & Skeleton
Performance Research Analyst, Nebraska Athletic Performance Lab

Curt Tomasevicz grew up in Shelby, Nebraska, a small town of nearly 700 people located a few miles southwest of Columbus. While attending the University of Nebraska from 1999-2003, Curt played running back and linebacker, earning most of his playing time on special teams. During his senior year in 2003, he earned first-team academic All-Big 12 honors. Curt holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in electrical engineering with a minor in Astrophysics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. In 2017, Curt earned a Ph.D. in biological engineering.

Bobsled Beginnings:

When asked about bobsledding Curt laughs, saying that he never saw a bobsled in real life until his tryout in September of 2004. He wasn't exactly convinced that it was a legitimate, professional sport until he experienced his first competition. Fellow Cornhusker hammer thrower and friend, Amanda Moreley, then a push athlete and brakewoman on the U.S. National Bobsled Team, suggested he give it a try. Curt was instantly taken with the danger and thrill the sport provided.

Breaking the Ice:

During his first season (2004-05), Tomasevicz landed on the World Cup circuit, consistently pushing on the USA II sled. He made his Olympic debut in Torino in 2006, sliding to sixth place in the four-man competition. The entire experience was a memorable one for Tomasevicz. He compared walking in the Opening Ceremony to the excitement of going through the tunnel at Memorial Stadium during his college football years. During the next few years, Curt was promoted to USA I, and the U.S. bobsled program began to become an international force, winning numerous World Cup and World Championship medals. But his biggest achievement came in February at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, when he, Steve Holcomb, Justin Olsen, and Steve Mesler raced the "Night Train" to the first American four-man Olympic title in 62 years.

In February of 2014, Curt participated in his 3rd Olympic games in Sochi, Russia. With a more competitive field, the Night Train 2 team of Curt, Holcomb, Steve Langton, and Chris Folt battled their way to a bronze medal, making Curt one of only six American bobsledders in history to earn multiple Olympic medals. Five years later, in 2019, that bronze medal became silver when the Russian team was disqualified for involvement in a doping scandal.

Curt retired from the sport in 2014. He concluded his career with 2 Olympic medals, 8 World Championship medals, and 34 World Cup medals. He now serves as the Director of Sport Performance for USA Bobsled & Skeleton along with teaching engineering at the University of Nebraska.

Family + Leisure:

Curt and his wife, Lindie live near Lincoln, NE. His late father, Dennis, was a retired combine mechanic, while his mother, Amy, is a retired art teacher. He has a younger brother, Jon, who is a physical education teacher. Jon, and his wife, Kristin, have two boys, Curt's nephews Mason and Jake.

When he's not busy working for the University of Nebraska and USA Bobsled/Skeleton organization, Tomasevicz enjoys playing bass guitar, astronomy, reading, and playing with his nephews.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 22

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Team Check-In (coaches only) – Coaches collect tournament information for their team	Kiewit Hall (2nd Floor)
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Housing and Dining Check-In (coaches only) – Coaches collect tournament information for their team	Harper Dining Center

Friday, May 23

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Team Check-In (coaches only) – Coaches collect tournament information for their team	Kiewit Hall (2nd Floor)
9:00 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Trial Events	Kiewit Hall (1st and 2nd Floors)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	STEM Expo Events	Exhibitors: Kiewit Hall Lower Level Presentations: Multiple Locations (see page 12)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Flight Clinic (National Free Flight Society)	Campus Rec Cook Pavilion
5:30 p.m.	Parade of States Lineup (four team members)	Devaney Center, Indoor Track/Tunnel (south side of building)
5:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremony Seating Opens (guests in upper level)	Devaney Center, Arena Floor
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony	Devaney Center, Arena Floor
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Swap Meet and Runza Social	Devaney Center, South Concourse
8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Coaches Meeting	Devaney Center, Arena Floor

Division B, Trial Events Schedule

EVENT	LOCATION	ROOM	NOTES	9:00 to 10:00 AM	10:10 to 11:10 AM	11:20 AM to 12:20 PM	12:30 to 1:30 PM	1:40 to 2:40 PM
Agricultural Science B	Kiewit	A251		Impound	31-45	46-60	1-15	16-30
Engineering CAD B	Kiewit	A249	Bring your own device		1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
Hovercraft B	Kiewit	A105		Impound	Online Sign Up			
Remote Sensing B	Kiewit	A211			16-30	31-45	46-60	1-15

Division C, Trial Events Schedule

EVENT	LOCATION	ROOM	NOTES	9:00 to 10:00 AM	10:10 to 11:10 AM	11:20 AM to 12:20 PM	12:30 to 1:30 PM	1:40 to 2:40 PM
Botany C	Kiewit	A253			1-15	16-30	31-45	46-60
Engineering CAD C	Kiewit	A249	Bring your own device		16-30	31-45	46-60	1-15
Hovercraft C	Kiewit	A105		Impound	Online Sign Up			
Protein Modeling C	Kiewit	A235	Bring your own device	Impound	31-45	46-60	1-15	16-30

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 24

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Home Rooms	Assorted Halls
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Tournament Events (see schedules below)	Multiple Locations
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Banquet (doors open at 4:30 p.m.)	Harper and Abel Dining Centers – Cafeteria designations will be indicated on your meal tag
7:00 p.m.	Awards and Closing Ceremony Seating Opens (guests in upper level)	Devaney Center, Arena Floor
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Awards and Closing Ceremony	Devaney Center, Arena Floor

Division B, Tournament Schedule

EVENT	LOCATION	7:00 to 8:00 AM	8:00 to 9:00 AM	9:10 to 10:10 AM	10:20 to 11:20 AM	12:00 to 1:00 PM	1:10 to 2:10 PM	2:20 to 3:20 PM
Air Trajectory	Campus Rec, Coliseum	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Anatomy & Physiology	Hawks Hall, 120		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Codebusters	Hawks Hall, 111		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Crime Busters	Hamilton, 317/319		51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50
Disease Detectives	Jorgensen, 149		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Dynamic Planet	Edwards, 313		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Ecology	Edwards, 125		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Entomology	Hawks Hall, 223		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20
Experimental Design	Hawks Hall, 202		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Fossils	Jorgensen, 137		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Helicopter	Edwards, 227 Commons		Self-Schedule					
Meteorology	Edwards, 213		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Metric Mastery	Jorgensen, 131		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Microbe Mission	Manter, 136		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Mission Possible	Kiewit, A249	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Optics	Jorgensen, 110		51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50
Potions and Poisons	Hamilton, TBD		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20
Reach for the Stars	Hawks Hall, 104		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Road Scholar	Hawks Hall, 231		51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50
Scrambler	Kiewit, 17	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Tower	Edwards, Auditorium		Self-Schedule					
Wind Power	Hawks Hall, Auditorium A		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Write It, Do It	Hawks Hall, 10, 18, 40, 32		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Division C, Tournament Schedule

EVENT	LOCATION	7:00 to 8:00 AM	8:00 to 9:00 AM	9:10 to 10:10 AM	10:20 to 11:20 AM	12:00 to 1:00 PM	1:10 to 2:10 PM	2:20 to 3:20 PM
Air Trajectory	Campus Rec, Coliseum	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Anatomy & Physiology	Hawks Hall, 112		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Astronomy	Hawks Hall, Computer Lab (036)		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Bungee Drop	Edwards, Living Room (Ground Floor Atrium)	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Chemistry Lab	Hamilton, 318/320		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20
Codebusters	Hawks Hall, 204		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20
Disease Detectives	Hawks Hall, Auditorium B (020)		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Dynamic Planet	Edwards, 313		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Ecology	Edwards, 115		51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50
Electric Vehicle	Kiewit, 105B	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Entomology	Hawks Hall, 229		21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20
Experimental Design	Hawks Hall, 138		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Forensics	Hamilton, TBD		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40
Fossils	Jorgensen, 141		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Geologic Mapping	Edwards, 321		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Helicopter	Edwards, 227 Commons		Self-Schedule					
Materials Science	Scott Engineering, C181		51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50
Microbe Mission	Manter, 128		1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60
Optics	Jorgensen, 110		11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10
Robot Tour	Kiewit, 105	Impound	Self-Schedule					
Tower	Edwards, Auditorium		Self-Schedule					
Wind Power	Hawks Hall, Auditorium A (002)		31-40	41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30
Write It, Do It	Hawks Hall, 211, 215, 219, 241, 245		41-50	51-60	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40



**Schedule is subject to change.
For the most up-to-date
listing of events, scan QR code.**

CITY CAMPUS TOURS

(60-minute tours leaving from green space North of Kiewit Hall)

- ♦ Thursday, May 22, 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- ♦ Friday, May 23, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

EAST CAMPUS TOURS

- ♦ Contact Aaron Henry at ahenry3@unl.edu to sign up
- ♦ Visit the UNL Dairy Store while on East Campus

The STEM Expo will feature hands-on activities, career exploration, and college opportunities. The STEM Expo will be open to the Science Olympiad community, including participants and their guests.

INDUSTRY SERIES

- ♦ **AI Business Tools** | Friday, May 23 | 10 a.m. | Hawks Hall 002

Join team members from KPMG, a Big Four accounting firm, as they showcase the various in-house technology tools that have been developed in an effort to create efficiencies. Learn how these tools have improved processes, and also why KPMG and other accounting firms are hesitant to allow AI to play too much of a role in tax and audit.

- ♦ **Workshop: Startup Culture and Tech Tools** | Friday, May 23 | 11 a.m. | Hawks Hall 002

Founded in Omaha, Nebraska by Workshop powers employee communications at over 150+ of the best brands and most prestigious organizations in the world. Learn more about this start up organization and why they strive to create more happy Mondays!

- ♦ **Energy and Engineering** | Friday, May 23 | 1 p.m. | Hawks Hall 002

Nebraska Public Power District is the largest electric utility in the state of Nebraska, serving 84 of the 93 counties. In order to ensure that their hundreds of thousands of customers have access to power, the company must employ dozens of engineers and technicians. Join the Nebraska Public Power District team to explore these career fields and understand their impact on the energy industry.

OPEN HOUSES

- ♦ **College of Journalism and Mass Communications** | Friday, May 23 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Andersen Hall
- ♦ **Raikes School of Computer Science and Management** | Friday, May 23 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Kauffman Hall
- ♦ **University Honors Program** | Friday, May 23 | 1 – 3 p.m. | Knoll Residence Hall

EXHIBITORS AT KIEWIT HALL

- ♦ **Ward's Science** - Science Olympiad Kits & Classroom Science Activities & Supplies
- ♦ **InGenius Prep** - College Admissions Counseling for High-Achieving Students
- ♦ **Prequel** - Programs to Help Students Find Their Passions
- ♦ **CodeHS** - Computer Science Information and Activities
- ♦ **Various University of Nebraska–Lincoln Academic Departments**

PRESENTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

- ♦ **Flight Clinic with the National Free Flight Society (NFFS)** | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Cook Pavilion
- ♦ **Midnight Science Club “Search for the Next Star”** | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Kiewit Hall
- ♦ **Introduction to Code Craze & the Pink Van’s 100 School Journey** | 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Kiewit Hall

OPENING CEREMONY AGENDA

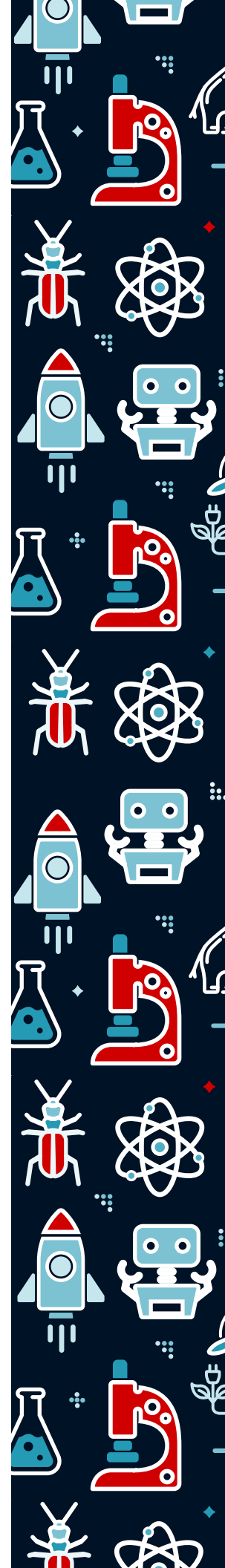
Friday, May 23 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Devaney Center, Arena Floor

- ◆ **Welcome Remarks**
Rodney D. Bennett, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Chancellor
- ◆ **Parade of States**
DeWayne Taylor, Master of Ceremonies
- ◆ **National Anthem**
Elise Anderson, Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance
- ◆ **Welcome Remarks**
Dan Nichols, Executive Director, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Keynote Introduction**
Jenny Kopach, CEO, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Keynote Address**
Curt Tomasevicz, Performance Research Analyst, Nebraska Athletic Performance Laboratory
- ◆ **Student, Coaches, Parent and Supervisor Pledges**
- ◆ **Closing Remarks**

AWARDS AND CLOSING CEREMONY AGENDA

Saturday, May 24 | 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Devaney Center, Arena Floor

- ◆ **Highlight Video**
- ◆ **National Anthem**
Elise Anderson, Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance
- ◆ **Introduction of Medal Presenters**
John Loehr, Vice President of STEM education, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Presentation of Trial Event, Division B, Division C and Special Prizes**
Dr. Tim Hodges, Executive Director of the Clifton Strengths Institute, UNL College of Business
John Loehr, Vice President of STEM education, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Global Ambassador Team from Japan**
Jenny Kopach, CEO, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Science Olympiad Spirit Awards**
Sharon Putz, Co-Founder and Senior Advisor, Science Olympiad
Jenny Kopach, CEO, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Corteva Team Enterprise Awards**
Jenny Kopach, CEO, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **Team Awards**
Dan Nichols, Executive Director, Science Olympiad
- ◆ **2026 Host Welcome & Handoff**
Corrie Svehla and E.K. Franks, University of Nebraska Representatives
Noe Mora, Brian Lam and Kevin Giang, University of Southern California Representatives
- ◆ **Closing Remarks**



SCIENCE OLYMPIAD PLEDGES

◆ Student's Pledge

I pledge to put forth my best effort in the Science Olympiad tournament and to uphold the principles of honest competition. In my events, I will compete with integrity, respect, and sportsmanship towards my fellow competitors. I will display courtesy toward event supervisors and tournament personnel. My actions will exemplify the proud spirit of my school, team, and state.

◆ Coach's Pledge

On behalf of the coaches and assistants at this tournament, I pledge to encourage honesty and respect for tournament personnel, our fellow coaches, and other team members. We want our efforts to bring honor to our community and school.

◆ Parent's Pledge

On behalf of the parents and spectators I pledge to be an example for our children by:

- ◆ Respecting the rules of Science Olympiad,
- ◆ Encouraging excellence in preparation and investigation,
- ◆ Supporting independence in design and production of all competition devices,
- ◆ Respecting the decisions of event supervisors and judges.

Our examples will promote the spirit of cooperation within and among all our participating teams.

◆ Event Supervisor's Pledge

On behalf of my fellow supervisors and tournament personnel, I pledge to run my event with fairness and respect for the participants and their coaches. Our actions will reflect the principles of the Science Olympiad program and display the pride we feel as representatives of our colleges, universities, companies, states, or organizations.



GLOBAL AMBASSADOR TEAM FROM JAPAN



In 2009, Board Members Dr. Gerard Putz and Jim Woodland traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to share Science Olympiad concepts with officials from the Ministry of Education (MEXT) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) at the “Science Agora” event. This initial exchange led to the formation of a lasting partnership between Science Olympiad and JST, rooted in a shared mission to make science competitions dynamic and accessible for all students.

In April 2025, JST held its 14th Annual Japan High School Science Championships (JHSSC), a competition modeled after the Science Olympiad. Each year, the JHSSC Grand Prize is a trip to the United States to attend the Science Olympiad National Tournament. We are thrilled to announce that the 2025 JHSSC champions from Tokyo Metropolitan Koishikawa Secondary School will serve as Japan’s Global Ambassador Team. As in previous years (2012–2024), the Japanese students will join their American counterparts in tournament activities, march in the Parade of States, and take part as honored guests in selected test, lab, and engineering events.

DIVISION B TEAMS

TEAM #	SCHOOL/STATE	COACH
B1	Sierra Vista Middle School, CA	Shaun Evola
B2	Kennedy Middle School, CA	Gwendolyn DeWees
B3	Piedmont IB Middle School, NC	Jeff Gates
B4	Fred J. Carnage Middle School, NC	Venisha Murphy
B5	The Bay Academy for the Arts and Sciences (I.S. 98), NY	Christopher Caputo
B6	Seven Bridges Middle School, NY	Danielle Denmead
B7	Slauson Middle School, MI	Mangesh Bhide
B8	Clague Middle School, MI	Smitha Karur-Mohan
B9	Daniel Wright Junior High School, IL	Lisa Solesky
B10	Marie Murphy School, IL	Darren Persino
B11	Solon Middle School, OH	Wei Huang
B12	Hudson Middle School, OH	Jordan Renna
B13	Beckendorff Junior High, TX	William LeCompte
B14	BASIS Cedar Park, TX	Vijay Jonnala
B15	Fulton Science Academy, GA	Pam Walsh
B16	Piney Grove Middle School, GA	Jennifer Fisher
B17	Springhouse Middle School, PA	Vivek Borkar
B18	Harlan Rowe Middle School, PA	John Slocum
B19	Longfellow Middle School, VA	Julie Cox
B20	Cooper Middle School, VA	Juli Kim
B21	Ladue Middle School, MO	Michael Clay
B22	Pembroke Hill School, MO	Brandon Gillette
B23	Skyridge Middle School, WA	Matthew Chase
B24	Evergreen Middle School, WA	Jyothi Srinivasan
B25	Orlando Science School, FL	Mehmet Moroglu
B26	Wilbur Wright Middle School, IN	Erika Glombicki
B27	Mount View Middle School, MD	Stephen Vance
B28	Lakewood Middle School, KS	Mithun Sebastian
B29	Velma Hamilton Middle School, WI	Katie Venturini
B30	Tenakill Middle School, NJ	Shireen Moidu

TEAM #	SCHOOL/STATE	COACH
B31	Homeschool Science Colorado, CO	Cindy Puhek
B32	Corvallis Middle School, MT	Darci Herbstritt
B33	Cedar Springs Homeschool, TN	Meryl van der Merwe
B34	Wachter Middle School, ND	Jeanne Metzger
B35	H.B. duPont Middle School, DE	Lucio Costantini
B36	Liberty Middle School, AL	Karen Price
B37	William Diamond Middle School, MA	Elena Blatus
B38	Albuquerque Academy, NM	Kiran Manne
B39	Meyzeek Middle, KY	William Lewis
B40	Brownell Talbot College Preparatory School, NE	Kari Newman
B41	Iolani School, HI	Sheri Kobata
B42	Casady School, OK	Shannon Semet
B43	Chippewa Middle School, MN	Sarah Wachter
B44	St Joseph's Catholic School, ID	Mary McClure
B45	Fairfield County Homeschoolers, CT	Nadezhda Anikeev
B46	Discovery Peak Charter School, AK	Maynard Maglaya
B47	Kickemuit Middle School, RI	Kerri Krawczyk
B48	Stoller Middle School, OR	Sathish Punuganti
B49	BASIS Chandler, AZ	Anna Mae Almeida
B50	Ames Middle School, IA	Kerri Marsh
B51	Archimedean Middle Conservatory, FL	Jana Caban-Klepacova
B52	Founders Classical Academy, AR	Autumn Anderson
B53	CY Middle School, WY	Sarah Burger
B54	Davidson Academy, NV	Carol Smith-Nichols
B55	BASIS DC, DC	Micha Lemen
B56	Glasgow Middle School, LA	Kelly McFatter
B57	Connors Emerson, ME	Mary Mackay
B58	Clinton Middle School, SC	Terri O'Shields
B59	Yankton Middle School, SD	Nicole Mehlhaff
B60	West High (ELP), UT	Crystal King

DIVISION C TEAMS

TEAM #	SCHOOL/STATE	COACH
C1	Troy High School, CA	Justin Kim
C2	Monta Vista High School, CA	Soo Young Choi
C3	Syosset High School, NY	Mildred Castaneda
C4	Stuyvesant High School, NY	Scott Thomas
C5	North Carolina School of Science and Math - Durham, NC	Jacob Brown
C6	Enloe Magnet High School, NC	Lisa Volaric
C7	New Trier High School, IL	Alexander Howe
C8	Adlai E. Stevenson High School, IL	Ryan Korah
C9	Novi High School, MI	James Di Dio
C10	Ann Arbor Pioneer High School, MI	Jonathan Hanson
C11	Harriton High School, PA	Brian Gauvin
C12	Cumberland Valley High School, PA	Christopher Irvin
C13	Archimedean Upper Conservatory, FL	Jana Caban-Klepacova
C14	Boca Raton Community High School, FL	Jon Benskin
C15	Walton High School, GA	Doug Wolfe
C16	Fulton Science Academy, GA	Pam Walsh
C17	Liberal Arts & Science Academy, TX	Monica Cong
C18	Seven Lakes High School, TX	Julie Irving
C19	Mason High School, OH	Steven Seiler
C20	Solon High School, OH	Cherese Fiorina
C21	Marquette University High School, WI	Nicole Williams
C22	Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology, VA	Aubrie Holman
C23	Ladue Horton Watkins High School, MO	Mark Biernbaum
C24	Centennial High School, MD	Jay Boring
C25	Montgomery High School, NJ	Jason Sullivan
C26	Lexington High School, MA	Anna Raboin
C27	Bothell High School, WA	Sheila Guard
C28	Carmel High School, IN	Cyndy Henry
C29	Eagan High School, MN	Carrie Williams
C30	White Station High School, TN	George Richardson
C31	Homeschool Science Colorado, CO	Cindy Puhek

TEAM #	SCHOOL/STATE	COACH
C32	Blue Valley West High School, KS	Heather Hall
C33	Alabama School of Fine Arts, AL	Dreama White
C34	Century High School, ND	Tim Fletcher
C35	Lincoln Science Focus Program, NE	Brian O'Neal
C36	The Charter School of Wilmington, DE	Shawn Clark
C37	South Windsor High School, CT	Joshua Kraus
C38	Hamilton High School, MT	Vanessa Haflich
C39	BASIS Chandler, AZ	Alex Harmatuck
C40	La Cueva High School, NM	John Frey
C41	duPont Manual High School, KY	Aileen O'Brien
C42	Jesuit High School, OR	Darrell Feebeck
C43	Iolani School, HI	Narayan Raja
C44	Ames High School, IA	Paul Barnard
C45	Clinton High School, SC	Terri O'Shields
C46	Phillips Exeter Academy, NH	Jeanette Lovett
C47	Casady School, OK	Julieta Zesiger
C48	Barrington High School, RI	Sabrina Cancel
C49	Parklane Academy, MS	Carol Reeves
C50	Ed W. Clark High School, NV	James Miller
C51	Bentonville West High School, AR	Elizabeth Phillips
C52	Morgantown High School, WV	William Gibson
C53	BASIS DC, DC	Nathaniel Green
C54	Baton Rouge Magnet High School, LA	Jonathan Wilson
C55	Waterford School, UT	Alisa Poppen
C56	Falmouth High School, ME	Ethan Whited
C57	Kelly Walsh High School, WY	Paul Kasza
C58	CG Woodson High School, VA	Ellen Babcock
C59	Madison West High School, WI	Katie Venturini
C60	Yankton High School, SD	Lindsay Kortan
C61	Tokyo Metropolitan Koishikawa Secondary School, Japan	Yuuta Ebihara

NATIONAL EVENT SUPERVISORS

Division B Supervisors

SUPERVISOR	EVENT
Bryan Blaschke	Air Trajectory B
Ashwin Ghadiyaram	Anatomy and Physiology B
Randy Labaza	Codebusters B
EmJ Rennich	Crime Busters B
Matthew Kramer	Disease Detectives B
Kavi Gollamudi	Dynamic Planet B
Katie Mika	Ecology B
Kristi Liu	Entomology B
Andy Hamm	Experimental Design B
Stephanie Sang	Fossils B
Jeff Anderson	Helicopter B
Mark Kramer	Meteorology B
Russell Riehbrandt	Metric Mastery B
Sara Riehbrandt	Metric Mastery B
Ryan Wong	Microbe Mission B
Robert Diamond	Mission Possible B
Benjamin Brophy	Optics B
Susan McCoy	Potions and Poisons B
Aditya Shah	Reach for the Stars B
Connor Todd	Reach for the Stars B
Dan Haggarty	Road Scholar B
Brendan Herlihy	Road Scholar B
Bro. Nigel Pratt	Scrambler B
Chuck Stachovic	Tower B
Karen Emmons	Wind Power B
Ian Emmons	Wind Power B
Shelly Fitzgerald	Write It Do It B

Trial Events

Russel Riehbrandt	Agricultural Science B
Sara Riehbrandt	Agricultural Science B
Domenico DiMare	Engineering CAD B
Ian Emmons	Hovercraft B
Karen Emmons	Hovercraft B
Emily Miaou	Remote Sensing B

Division C Supervisors

SUPERVISOR	EVENT
Jeremy Gerber	Air Trajectory C
Phillip Liu	Anatomy and Physiology C
Thaddeus Komacek	Astronomy C
Donna Young	Astronomy C
Tony Pelikan	Bungee Drop C
Allen Leung	Chemistry Lab C
John Toebe	Codebusters C
Ralph Cordell	Disease Detectives C
Brian Amaro	Dynamic Planet C
David Wedin	Ecology C
Pete Rado	Electric Vehicle C
John Ruberson	Entomology C
Jeremy Long	Experimental Design C
Linda (Lin) Wozniowski	Forensics C
Gary Vorwald	Fossils C
Araneesh Pratap	Geologic Mapping C
Julie Newman	Helicopter C
Thomas Sanders, Jr.	Helicopter C
Caroline Barrick	Materials Science C
Erin Barrick	Materials Science C
Annika Gomez	Microbe Mission C
Dave Moyer	Optics C
Brian Hoffman	Robot Tour C
Greg Marconnet	Tower C
Kira Emmons	Wind Power C
Reina Gomez	Write It Do It C
Maha Hrbac	Write It Do It C

Trial Events

Matthew Kramer	Botany C
Drew Bennett	Engineering CAD C
Dave Moyer	Hovercraft C
Heather Ryan	Protein Modeling C

DIVISION B DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Air Trajectory: Prior to the competition, teams will design, construct, and calibrate a single device capable of launching projectiles onto a target and collect data regarding device parameters and performance.

Anatomy And Physiology: Participants will be assessed on their understanding of the anatomy and physiology for the human integumentary, muscular, and skeletal systems.

Codebusters: Teams will cryptanalyze and decode encrypted messages using cryptanalysis techniques for historical and modern advanced ciphers.

Crime Busters: Given a scenario, a collection of evidence, and possible suspects, students will perform a series of tests. Test results along with other evidence will be used to solve a crime and answer questions.

Disease Detectives: Participants will use investigative skills in the scientific study of disease, injury, health and disability in populations or groups of people.

Dynamic Planet: Participants will demonstrate an understanding of the processes involving the cryosphere of the Earth including glaciers and other ice formations and processes.

Ecology: Participants will answer questions involving content knowledge and process skills in the area of ecology and adaptations in featured North American biomes.

Entomology: Students will be asked to identify insects and selected immature insects by order and family, answer questions about insects, and use or construct a dichotomous key.

Experimental Design: This event will determine a participant's ability to design, conduct and report the findings of an experiment entirely on-site.

Fossils: Teams identify and classify fossils and demonstrate their knowledge of ancient life. Tasks will be related to interpretation of past environments and ecosystems, adaptations, evolutionary relationships, and the use of fossils in dating and correlating rock units.

Helicopter: Prior to the tournament, teams will construct, collect data on test flights, analyze and optimize a free flight rubber-powered helicopter to achieve maximum time aloft.

Meteorology: Participants will use scientific process skills involving qualitative and quantitative analyses to demonstrate an understanding of the factors that influence world climate and climate change through the interpretation of climatological data, graphs, charts and images.

Metric Mastery: Teams will estimate and then measure properties of identical objects including mass, area, volume, density, force, distance, time, and temperature. Teams will also perform metric unit conversions.

Microbe Mission: Teams will answer questions, solve problems and analyze data pertaining to microbes.

Mission Possible: Prior to the competition, participants design, build, test, and document a Rube Goldberg®-like Device that completes required start and final actions through a series of specific actions.

Optics: Teams must participate in an activity involving positioning mirrors to direct a laser beam towards a target and are tested on their knowledge of geometric and physical optics.

Potions And Poisons: This event is about chemical properties and effects of specified toxic and therapeutic chemical substances, with a focus on household and environmental toxins or poisons.

Reach For The Stars: Participants will demonstrate an understanding of late-stage stellar evolution and stellar remnants, and their observation across the electromagnetic spectrum.

Road Scholar: Participants will answer interpretive questions that may use one or more state highway maps, USGS topographic maps, Internet-generated maps, a road atlas or satellite/aerial images.

Scrambler: Teams design, build, and test a mechanical device, which uses the energy from a falling mass to transport an egg along a track as quickly as possible and stop as close to the center of a Terminal Barrier without breaking the egg.

Tower: Teams will design and build a Tower (Structure) meeting requirements specified in these rules to achieve the highest structural efficiency.

Wind Power: Teams construct a blade assembly device prior to the tournament that is designed to capture wind power and complete a written test on the principles of alternative energy.

Write It Do It: One student will write a description of an object and how to build it, and then the other student will attempt to construct the object from this description.

DIVISION B DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

TRIAL EVENTS:

Agricultural Science: Participants will solve problems and answer questions about agricultural sciences using their knowledge of ecology, animal and plant biology, and environmental chemistry.

Engineering CAD: Teams will read a set of engineering drawings and collaboratively create CAD parts and assemblies that match the drawing while incorporating provided components and be able to answer questions about the drawing and generated model.

Hovercraft: Prior to the competition, participants will design, construct, and calibrate a self-propelled air-levitated vehicle that moves down a track.

Remote Sensing B: Participants will demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of remote sensing and use imagery, data, and maps to complete tasks related to earth systems processes. An understanding of mapping principles is a component of this event.

DIVISION C DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Air Trajectory: Prior to the competition, teams will design, construct, and calibrate a single device capable of launching projectiles onto a target and collect data regarding device parameters and performance.

Anatomy And Physiology: Participants will be assessed on their understanding of the anatomy and physiology for the human Integumentary, Muscular, and Skeletal systems.

Astronomy: Teams will demonstrate an understanding of Stellar Evolution: Star Formation & Exoplanets.

Bungee Drop: Each team will design one elastic cord to conduct two separate drops at a given height(s) and attempt to get a drop mass, placed in a bottle, as close as possible to, but without touching, a landing surface.

Chemistry Lab: Teams will complete one or more tasks and answer a series of questions involving the scientific processes of chemistry focused in the areas of equilibrium and chemical reactions/stoichiometry.

Codebusters: Teams will cryptanalyze and decode encrypted messages using cryptanalysis techniques for historical and modern advanced ciphers.

Disease Detectives: Students will use investigative skills in the scientific study of disease, injury, health and disability in populations or groups of people.

Dynamic Planet: Participants will demonstrate an understanding of the processes involving the cryosphere of the Earth including glaciers and other ice formations and processes.

Ecology: Students will answer questions involving content knowledge and process skills in the area of ecology and adaptations in featured North American biomes.

Electric Vehicle: Teams must design, build and test one vehicle that uses electrical energy as its sole means of propulsion to travel as quickly as possible and stop close to a target point.

Entomology: Students will be asked to identify insects and selected immature insects by order and family, answer questions about insects, and use or construct a dichotomous key.

Experimental Design: This event will determine a participant's ability to design, conduct and report the findings of an experiment entirely on-site.

Forensics: Given a scenario and some possible suspects, students will perform a series of tests. These tests, along with other evidence or test results, will be used to solve a crime.

DIVISION C DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Fossils: Teams identify and classify fossils and demonstrate their knowledge of ancient life. Tasks will be related to interpretation of past environments and ecosystems, adaptations, evolutionary relationships, and the use of fossils in dating and correlating rock units.

Geologic Mapping: Teams will demonstrate understanding in the construction and use of topographic maps, geologic maps, and cross sections, and their use in forming interpretations regarding subsurface structures and past depositional environments on Earth and other planetary bodies.

Helicopter: Prior to the tournament, teams will construct, collect data on test flights, analyze and optimize a free flight rubber-powered helicopter to achieve maximum time aloft.

Materials Science: Teams will complete lab activities and answer a series of questions related to the materials science of ceramics with an emphasis on chemical and crystalline structure, and behavior.

Microbe Mission: Teams will answer questions, solve problems and analyze data pertaining to microbes.

Optics: Teams must participate in an activity involving positioning mirrors to direct a laser beam towards a target and are tested on their knowledge of geometric and physical optics.

Robot Tour: Teams design, build, program and test one Robotic Vehicle to navigate a track to reach a target at a set amount of time as accurately and efficiently as possible.

Tower: Teams will design and build a Tower (Structure) meeting requirements specified in these rules to achieve the highest structural efficiency.

Wind Power: Teams construct a blade assembly device prior to the tournament that is designed to capture wind power and complete a written test on the principles of alternative energy.

Write It Do It: One student will write a description of an object and how to build it, and then the other student will attempt to construct the object from the description.

TRIAL EVENTS:

Botany: Participants will demonstrate their knowledge of plant life and general botany principles.

Engineering CAD: Teams will read a set of engineering drawings and collaboratively create CAD parts and assemblies that match the drawing while incorporating provided components and be able to answer questions about the drawing and generated model.

Hovercraft: Prior to the competition, participants will design, construct, and calibrate a self-propelled air-levitated vehicle that moves down a track.

Protein Modeling: Participants will use computer visualization and online resources to construct a physical model of a zinc finger DNA-binding protein. This year's event will focus on this small, repeating motif that recognizes a specific DNA sequence and regulates gene expression.



2025 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

We are very grateful to the following University of Nebraska–Lincoln departments for their support of the 2025 Science Olympiad National Tournament.

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- ♦ Annette Wetzel | Executive Director, Special Events and Protocol, Office of the Chancellor
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