

Science and fun combine at Kansas Science Olympiad

What:	Kansas Science Olympiad competition
When:	9 a.m. Saturday, April 5; award ceremonies begin at 4:45 p.m.
Where:	Various venues, WSU campus (information on the day of the event will be available in 233 Rhatigan Student Center)
Phone:	316-978-3854 (Greg Novacek, coordinator)
Cost:	Free

More than 1,100 Kansas students will put their creative and scientific skills to the test in the 27th annual Kansas Science Olympiad tournament, hosted by Wichita State University. Science Olympiad promotes STEM education in a fun and competitive way for students in middle and high school. STEM programs work to inspire young people to engage in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Science Olympiad's ever-changing events in STEM disciplines encourage young people to explore a variety of career choices and a chance to work with working scientists and mentors.

Events will take place in various venues throughout the campus, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 5. The locations and times of events that are open to the public can be found at:

http://webs.wichita.edu/scienceolympiad/State_Tournament/Spectator_Information/Spectator_Information_Home.htm

Some events include: launching a rubber band powered helicopter, devising a helicopter type rotor to slow a dropped egg so that it lands safely, design and build a robot capable of performing tasks, and to build a vehicle that uses a non-metallic, elastic material as its sole means of travel as quickly and as accurately as possible. These and other events make science fun and competitive.

Fifty-eight teams of middle and high school students will challenge each other in 46 events. Also invited are sixteen Regional Event Winners for a total representation of seventy-four schools. (Regional Event Winners are students that won their event at a regional tournament, but their school did not qualify for the state tournament.) The team with the best score in both the middle and high school divisions will qualify for the National Science Olympiad Tournament to be held on the campus of University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL on May 16 and 17. Kansas teams have a tradition of doing well at the national tournament.

The Kansas Science Olympiad is supported by Wichita State University along with Spirit AeroSystems Inc.

WSU's Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education coordinates the competition and provides training to coaches each fall.

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