

August 24, 2009

Dear Potential and Returning Science Olympiad Coach/Coaches,

My name is Clark Bennett and I am the State Director of South Dakota Science Olympiad. The 2010 South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament will be held on the campus of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion on **Saturday, March 27, 2010**. Please make sure to take a look at the South Dakota Science Olympiad policies on home school teams, small school teams, all-star teams, and constructed devices on the South Dakota Science Olympiad web site (<http://orgs.usd.edu/~sdscioly/>). Also, please feel free to look at the South Dakota Science Olympiad web site for additional information about Science Olympiad, and the South Dakota Science Olympiad Elementary School Initiative. We would like to have your school compete at the South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament.

A membership form is also posted on the South Dakota Science Olympiad website with this invitation letter. Please return the completed form along with the appropriate fees (school purchase orders are acceptable) by the registration deadline of **Friday, February 5, 2010**. Be sure to include the e-mail addresses of your school's coaches. Most of the communication that relates to South Dakota Science Olympiad will be done via email. As soon as your membership dues are received, the rules manual(s) for the coaches and any other pertinent information will be mailed to you. I will need a preliminary list of your school's participating students and a list of events that each student will be participating emailed to me. The deadline for the preliminary list of students and their events is **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**.

There are only two divisions in the state of South Dakota, a Junior High/Middle School (Division B) and a High School (Division C). For Division B, up to five (5) ninth graders are allowed to participate in the state tournament. For Division C, up to seven (7) twelfth graders are allowed to participate in the state tournament. Students must be from the membership school. Recruiting from neighboring schools, districts, counties or states is not permitted. A school is considered to be a separate school if it has a separate administrator. Because middle schools that do not have grades 8 or 9 are at a slight disadvantage, they may invite back any combination of up to five of their last year's seventh or eighth grade students to be part of the team (e.g., a school with grades X-9 can have only 5 students from grade 9; a school with grades X-8 can invite only 5 students back from grade 9 (their last year's 8th grade students); a school with grades X-7 can invite only 5 students back from grade 8 or 9 (their last year's 7th or 8th grade students). However, any given eighth or ninth grade student can compete at only one division level.

If you know of any interested elementary schools, teachers, and students, then please refer them to the South Dakota Science Olympiad Elementary School Initiative on the website (<http://orgs.usd.edu/~sdscioly/elementary.htm>).

I encourage you to go to the National Science Olympiad web site at ([www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org)) for a complete listing of the 2010 Science Olympiad events, rules, clarifications, resources, etc. Students and/or coaches may ask questions on this site, view the questions of other people with official responses, as well as view updated clarification information. The following URL can be used by you to ask questions of the national Science Olympiad office ([http://soinc.org/frequently asked questions](http://soinc.org/frequently_asked_questions)).

It is always our goal to increase the number of participating schools in South Dakota Science Olympiad. Your assistance in contacting any interested parties at other schools and encouraging them to participate in the South Dakota Science Olympiad State Tournament is greatly appreciated. If you know of an individual or a school that is interested in participating in South Dakota Science Olympiad, then please notify me and I will personally contact them.

If you have any questions, then feel free to contact me at [Clark.Bennett@usd.edu](mailto:Clark.Bennett@usd.edu) or (605) 677-5248.

Sincerely,



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