

Science Olympiad Team Thurston

2018-19
Informational Session

Thurston Head Coaching Team



What is Science Olympiad?

- A science tournament
- A fun way to enhance STEM knowledge
- A grade-specific, academic, team competition



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Team work and collaboration
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Gain science knowledge
- “good” competition
- Receive academic recognition

Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO)



- The Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad (WESO) is a branch of Science Olympiad, which includes students from all over Washtenaw County.
- WESO is one of the largest elementary Science Olympiads in the country – 2000+ students/year in Washtenaw County.
- WESO competition is open to students in 2nd – 5th grades
- WESO is not part of AAPS and is a 100% volunteer organization. It is solely run and operated by parents and community volunteers.

How does it work?

- Kids compete as teams of 1-3 students
- Teams are sorted by event (topic) and grade-level

For Example:

	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th & 5 th Grade
Aerodynamics	1-2 kids	1-2 kids	N/A
Estimania	1-3 kids	1-3 kids	1-3 kids
GENE-ius	N/A	N/A	1-3 kids

What does my kid get to do?

- Join team for one (or more) events
- Attend team practices (Jan - May)
 - Time commitment is event and team specific
 - Time/location of meetings determined by team
 - Review, study, prep work varies by event and by team
- Learn to love (like?) science and make friends



Team competes at WESO Tournament in May

WESO Tournament



- **MAY 11, 2019**
- **Pioneer High School**
- Events have been designed to recognize the wide variety of student skills, interests, and testing styles.
- Some events require knowledge of scientific facts and concepts, others rely on scientific processes, skills, or applications.
- Thurston must send parent volunteers.



OK - What do I get to do?

1. Register your child for event(s) – ASAP!
2. Coach Your Kid's Event(s)
 - All volunteer – we need you!
3. Volunteer (Tournament Day, Team Thurston)
 - Help run events, help kids navigate building, set up/clean up, etc.
 - Fundraising basket (help create)
 - Thurston Tournament Table

REGISTER

<http://www.thurstonweso.org/register.html>

1. Download WESO Required Forms on Team Thurston site
2. Submit WESO Required Forms on Team Thurston site

Teams/Events assigned
beginning Jan 16th



WESO 2019 Registration

Registration form for Thurston Elementary School students

* Required

Email address *

Your email

Student's name *

Your answer

3. Complete Team Thurston registration online at our Team Thurston website.

Wait – How can I coach Science Olympiad? I don't know science!

1. It's elementary (that's a chemistry joke).
2. You can use Google.
3. You will have support.
 - Team Thurston All-Event Coach Training Session (Jan. 23)
 - WESO Event-Specific Coach Training Session (Jan. 30)

Who can be an Event Coach?

- Parents
- WESO Alumni
- Family Members
- Community Members
- High School or College Students



**All adult coaches are required to submit an AAPS criminal background check form, part of the required WESO forms*

What do Event Coaches do?

Your Job

- **Help kids learn to love science!**
- Work individually, or in teams
- Plan lessons
- Create assignments/quizzes
- Organize activities based on curriculum
- Coordinate meetings
- Communicate with parents
- Attend WESO Tournament

Your WESO Resources

- Mandatory Jan. 30th Event Coach meeting
- WESO Curriculum
- Coaching Workshops
- WESO Coach Blog
- Thurston Head Coach Team



What do Volunteers do?

WESO Tournament runs thanks to 500+ volunteers on Tournament Day

Team Thurston Volunteers

- Head Coaching Team
- Event Coaches
- Thurston Tournament Table Volunteer
- Concession donations
- Basket Raffle
- Kid wrangler



WESO Tournament Day Volunteers

- 4 Hours Shift
- Venue setup, event support, clean up, etc.
- Event testing (training provided)
- Help kids navigate to events and back to their team tables
- Thurston must send volunteers to contribute to this effort if we are fielding teams

Sounds Great! Now What?

1. Pick event(s)

<http://www.thurstonweso.org/events.html>

2. Register your child

<http://www.thurstonweso.org/register.html>

3. Volunteer: Event Coach, Tournament, Team

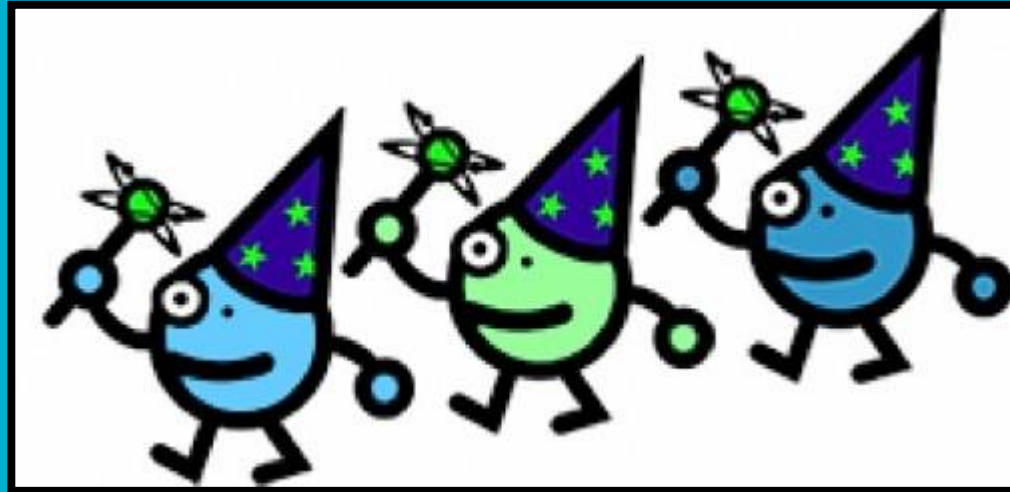
4. We will begin team/event assignments in mid January, so relax and have a Happy New Year.

Next Team Thurston Meeting

- Information for Event Coaches
- Information for Volunteers
- Meet other Team Thurston families, coaches, and Head Coaching Team

January 23 (Wed. 7pm)

Questions & Discussion



Contact Us (Thurston Head Coach Team):

wesoteamthurston@gmail.com

www.thurstonweso.org

Important Dates

Today	Team Thurston Registration Opens
Jan 16	Events Assigned
Jan 23	Team Thurston Meeting (Event Coach & Volunteer Info)
Jan 30	Mandatory WESO Event Coach Training
Mid-March	Team Thurston T-Shirts
May 11	WESO TOURNAMENT!

Important Resources

- Thurston WESO Webpage <http://www.thurstonweso.org/>
 - Registration Forms
 - Event Coaching Resources
 - Volunteer Information
 - Tournament Day Logistics / Info
- Thurston WESO Email: wesoteamthurston@gmail.com
 - checked regularly by the Thurston Head Coach Team
- WESO Webpage <https://wesoscience.org/>
 - Description of 2019 Events
 - Coach Training Event Notices
 - Tournament Updates, Rules, Changes

Terminology

- **Event Coach** – You! The volunteer who agrees to learn enough about a given science topic to teach a few elementary school kids to love science and compete on behalf of their school
- **Head Coach** (Head Coach Team) – The group of Thurston parents who are responsible for coordinating our school's participation in the WESO Tournament
- **Team Thurston** – Us! The collective name of all of individual teams across grades 2-5 and across all of the events in which our students have chosen to participate AND all of the coaches and volunteers that make this possible