**2024 Science Olympiad National Tournament  
hosted by Michigan State University, May 24-25, 2024**

**Coach Communication**

**Final Coach Update - National Science Olympiad**-sent May 21 from Robert Halgren ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu))

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in a few days.  If I don’t get a chance to find you, please feel free to find me. I’d love to meet you in person.

This is my chance to give you a few last reminders.  Not all of it is new - but every teacher knows sometimes you have to do it two or three times to make it stick… 😉

1. I’ve updated (for hopefully the last time), my [team letter.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18lTErz7rVPLrT3RaDwoiyC1P_pgHtn_e/view?usp=drive_link)  It is an informal document with lots of links, but if you have a question the answer is probably in there.
2. You will find a seating chart for the ceremonies here: [Breslin Center Map](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GBkBTzwnN8EXYErIxU-CCzIalSmYFRqx/view?usp=sharing)  - and you will find some information about both ceremonies here: [Ceremony information](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MCQHamznKKeC5eWFot1CtDOzTFfqlfseBWZDPZrh8fs/edit?usp=sharing).
3. I’ve attempted to capture all requested changes to team camps.  That information here:  [Team Camps](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1za2D_cf6TSXpX2j0LxSzWJKeIBvNG5jdoobRpNsrN7I/edit?usp=sharing)
   1. Is that changeable?  Maybe…
   2. Can I still camp outside?  Yes!  Weather forecast is for AWESOME!  Within the limits of Michigan – weird stuff happens, we are surrounded by freshwater seas…
4. We are planning for a ‘movie night’ after the closing ceremony on Saturday.  In the Wilson Hall Auditorium. But having never done it, I find that we lack some necessary information.  Mostly about if anybody wants to come.  It is a long day… If you are considering taking part in the movie night, let me know.  You aren’t committing to anything, I’m just trying to get an idea of the scope of the problem.
5. A few people have asked about internet access.  We have ample bandwidth on our MSU Guest network.  You just have to agree to not abuse it.  No special credentials required.
6. Event specific questions?  Other than the information available to everybody on the website, I can’t answer them.  I love answering questions and it hurts me not to, but that is the rule.  Questions have to wait until the coaches meeting.  Everything I can give you is here:  <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/events-information>.
7. More questions? I have never seen a [tournament website](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/) as comprehensive as ours.  Everything is there.  Literally everything.  It even has search capability.  Special shout out to [CIT.](https://engage.msu.edu/about/departments/cit)

See you real soon!

**Coach Email 8**-sent May 15 from Robert Halgren ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu))

Hello friends!  Things are settling firmly into place, and there are a few important announcements. Minor changes (between 5/13 and today) on that [team letter](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18lTErz7rVPLrT3RaDwoiyC1P_pgHtn_e/view?usp=sharing) I keep linking to.  A room change (Crime Busters) some new info about parade of schools, and our merchandise is finally available.  I don’t anticipate many more letters, but if there is anything substantial that changes, I’ll notify you as soon as I can.  I do anticipate sending a final tournament update on Tuesday, May 28.

**Air Trajectory:** A letter from the supervisor and how to submit design logs are posted to the event clarification page.  Letter also [attached](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yMqQt0yJ9ZDrXBJ_zCnJul8kvCZCsfCE/view?usp=drive_link).

**Detector Building :** Detector Building National Event Supervisor is allowing the students to get started on their test before the tournament begins.   One of the questions on the test will ask the students to draw or sketch an Electronic Schematic Diagram of their ORP Probe and any circuitry between it and the input to the microprocessor.   The competitors can complete this task before the tournament and this diagram will be collected during their competition time.    See the ORP Probe Connection Diagram sheet ([attached](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R_AkaLl64yL2TZFPYoJD7TCcyZInfwep/view?usp=drive_link)) for more details.

**Engineering CAD (Trial for C) :**  This is a ‘bring your own device’ event.   Each competitor may bring writing utensils, a laptop that can run OnShape, a wired or wireless Mouse, and a charger.

**Parade of Schools:**  I’ve been informed that the maximum number of students for the parade of schools is 4.  Pick any four, but it has to stay at four.  I’d let them all do it if I could, but we have limitations on space and need to finish the ceremony at a reasonable hour.  Also, a new place to line up for parade.

**New Expo events:**  I’ve added (or will soon add) two events to the Friday schedule.

* The planetarium would like to offer a show (11:00).  Maximum seating is 141 persons in the Planetarium, first come, first serve.  You may be able to get tickets at the [Abrams Planetarium](https://www.abramsplanetarium.org/) website (I’m not sure, but try it just in case).  Don’t forget that there will be virtual tours of the cyclotron (FRIB) facility in the planetarium at the other two available seatings (9:30 and 1:30).  It is the same place, so 141 persons maximum per session.  Zach will also do a FRIB/Careers presentation in the STEM building lecture hall at 2:30.
* I’ve arranged for a few tours of the Genomics Core (GTSF). 9-12am.  Ages ago (when the internet was still shiny and new) I was part of the GTSF, annotating sequence data and assembling genomes.  I’m quite sure the equipment they have now would amaze even me.  Unfortunately it is a small space.  If you have some kids who are interested in molecular biology/bioinformatics, this will be a great opportunity (and a very rare one).  Schedule with me ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu)).  GTSF can accommodate about 10 people per group, and each tour will be about 20 minutes.

We’ve submitted all housing information.  We will let you know dorm assignments as soon as we know them.

**Coach Email 7**-sent May 13 from Robert Halgren ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu))

Hello again!  I wanted to make you aware of a few things.

1. Self-Scheduling is live! – if you’ve missed it, it is here - <https://esus.socalscioly.org/login.php?tid=291>
   1. Note – we (meaning me) can’t adjust your schedule, only you can.  We can’t move somebody else to make room for your team.
2. I wanted to make you aware of an online summer course – [Joy of Coding](https://joyofcoding.eecs.umich.edu/).  Dr. Rao, the course organizer, is also a sponsor of the national tournament.  This is a great way to get some high-quality instruction from a top engineering school.  Not MSU… But my child is going there next year so I guess University of Michigan is good enough!  :)  Seriously, this is a great opportunity that can be accessed from anywhere.
3. MSU Forestry department has announced [major scholarship dollars](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/msu-forestry-scholarships).  Top three teams in each division (yes, B and C) can win up to $20k.  You’d be hard pressed to find a better forestry program than MSU.  Many thanks to the Forestry Department for this exceptionally generous offer.
4. Please check out the updated parking information – attached to the [team letter](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18lTErz7rVPLrT3RaDwoiyC1P_pgHtn_e/view?usp=drive_link) and [on the website](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/visitors/parking) (in slightly different forms).  I am happy to consult if anything is unclear.
   1. If you are arriving in a bus (or bringing a trailer) – please pay attention to the instructions and park in the designated lots.
   2. MSU Police has very firmly asked me to ask you to pay attention to this.
5. I’ve posted [team camp locations](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1za2D_cf6TSXpX2j0LxSzWJKeIBvNG5jdoobRpNsrN7I/edit?usp=sharing).  If the location does not work for you, let me know.  I have a very limited number of additional rooms available.
   1. If you want to camp outside that is also absolutely fine.  The linked document has a lot of information.
   2. Let me know if you are planning on outside.  It might free up a room for somebody else.  I have booked a few large lecture halls if the weather doesn’t cooperate.
6. If those meteorology competitors study hard enough, the 10-day forecast says sunny and low 70’s.  Perfect! It is Michigan, so you never know…

See you soon!

**Coach Email 6**-sent May 8 from Robert Halgren ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu))

Hello coach friends!

The purpose of this email is to give you a quick update and to include all the teams that have qualified for the National Tournament since the last message.  We now have a full slate, with 60 teams in each division!  I’m hoping this e-mail reaches all of you.

Today (or yesterday, depending on your time zone), all teams received two other communications (that I know of):

* One from Julie Crowgey, reminding you of some housing and meals information.  Key to note, we really need those requests by May 10 – we have to get this information to our campus housing partners ASAP.  We should have plenty of space, don’t worry about that.  If you are having challenges getting that done by May 10, please contact Julie to let her know what is going on.
* Second from Dan Nichols (or ESUS), with information about self-scheduling including login credentials.  Please consult that e-mail for the most up to date information on how and when to start self-scheduling.

If you didn’t get one or more of the above communications, please let me know (just reply to this message, I will sort it out).  You may wish to check your spam folders, and white-list any communications from myself ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu)), Julie Crowgey ([crowgeyj@msu.edu](mailto:crowgeyj@msu.edu)), or Dan Nichols ([dnichols@soinc.org](mailto:dnichols@soinc.org)).

Some of you had issues today with our payment system (Eventbrite).  That was a campus-wide issue and took several hours to sort out.  I’m sorry for that inconvenience.  It should be resolved now, please try again.  Let me know if you are still having issues.

Forms – the way to submit forms is by e-mail, here: [UOE.SON2024@msu.edu](mailto:UOE.SON2024@msu.edu?subject=Science%20Olympiad%20Question)  If you can’t make that work, send documents to me and I’ll get them to the right place.

For the new coaches, I have an informational letter posted on the tournament website.  You can easily access it here : <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/information-for-coaches>  I haven’t had a chance to update it since the last communication, but I hope to do a second version by the end of day Friday (May 10).  It will be in the same place.

As always, I am happy to answer any question I’m allowed to answer.  Please note that questions about event rules will be addressed at the coaches meeting following the opening ceremony.  That is so everybody has equal access to the information. There may be useful information here:  <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/events-information>

**Coach Email 5-** sent May 8 from Julie Crowgey ([crowgeyj@msu.edu](mailto:crowgeyj@msu.edu))

Good evening, Coaches,

You are receiving this email because according to our records, you have not purchased housing or meal tickets for the National Tournament.

This email is a reminder that on-campus housing and meal tickets to the Friday night dinner, Ice Cream Social and Saturday Team Dinner close this **Friday, May 10th**! Earlier today the Eventbrite system was down, but now things seem to be up and running. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Please reach out with any questions.

1. **On campus housing**
   * Packages and pricing can be found here - <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/accommodations-and-meals>
   * Register for on-campus housing - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157>
   * If you are not planning to stay on campus, it would be helpful to us to know where you are planning on staying. Please send us a note with the hotel or other accommodations you have selected in the area.
2. **Friday night “cook-in”**- prior to the opening ceremony there will be a “cook-in” picnic style dinner for the teams in the Case Hall Cafeteria. Tickets to the dinner are included in the on-campus housing packages. However, if you are not staying on campus, you can purchase tickets to the dinner here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> under “add ons.”
3. **Ice Cream Social**-During the Friday night Swap Meet, we will have an Ice-Cream Social. Science Olympiad is partnering with the MSU Dairy Store to bring you a special cherry and chocolate flavored ice cream to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National Tournament. The cups of ice cream are free, but we would like to have a count; please indicate the number of individuals participating in the ice cream social. Please make sure to visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> and get tickets to the ice cream social under “add ons.” \*purchasing the free tickets is required for all teams staying on campus or not. \*
4. **Saturday Team dinner**-Prior to the closing awards ceremony, there will be a team dinner on the concourse of the Breslin Center. The dinner is for team participants, coaches, and chaperones. You can purchase tickets to the dinner here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> under “add ons.”

**Coach Email 4**-sent May 1 from Robert Halgren ([halgren@msu.edu](mailto:halgren@msu.edu))

Hello valued coach! Congratulations on qualifying! I look forward to meeting you and your team at the National Tournament this year. We are very focused on making this the best national ever, please feel free to help me do that. You’ve already been contacted by Julie Crowgey about housing and I’m sure you’ve all seen the tournament website. If this is the first thing you’ve received about the tournament, please let me know ASAP, we have some catching up to do.

Since most of you haven’t met me, a quick introduction. I’m the lead for MSU side of the national tournament. It was my idea, so if something goes wrong, I’ll take 100% of the blame. If something goes right, give all the credit to Julie and the rest of the team, they are doing the hard part. I have fun (at least to me) stories about my history with SO, but those can wait. I am very approachable. Ask me questions. As many as you’d like. I want you to be confident in every detail of the tournament. If you could read some of the attached materials before asking it could save us both a lot of time… If I don’t know the answer I’ll find somebody that does. Or, equally likely, it could be really important and I’ve forgotten to think about it – those questions are particularly valuable to me.

For our state tournament I’ve gotten into the habit of preparing a ‘team letter’ that is meant to be a quick reference. The information is continuously updated. For your sanity and mine it is mostly in the form of links to other documents I’ve created. It isn’t particularly formal – Science Olympiad is supposed to be fun, not formal. If the information you need isn’t in or attached to the document, check the website. There is a vast amount of information on the website. If you can’t find something you need to know, please ask!

Some things aren’t final yet (self-scheduling is the one everybody is asking about – it is coming). I’m still working on a few things, as you might imagine.

Attached- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18lTErz7rVPLrT3RaDwoiyC1P_pgHtn_e/view>

**Coach Email 3-** sent April 29 from Julie Crowgey ([crowgeyj@msu.edu](mailto:crowgeyj@msu.edu))

As we approach May, we wanted to send out some reminders.

1. **On campus housing** **(register by May 10)**
   * Packages and pricing can be found here - <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/accommodations-and-meals>
   * Register for on-campus housing - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157>
   * If you are not planning to stay on campus, it would be helpful to us to know where you are planning on staying. Please send us a note with the hotel or other accommodations you have selected in the area.

  \*\*Please disregard this section if you have already purchased on campus housing\*\*

1. **Friday night “cook-in”**- prior to the opening ceremony there will be a “cook-in” picnic style dinner for the teams in the Case Hall Cafeteria. Tickets to the dinner are included in the on campus housing packages. However, if you are not staying on campus, you can purchase tickets to the dinner here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> under “add ons.”
2. **Ice Cream Social**-During the Friday night Swap Meet, we will have an Ice-Cream Social. Science Olympiad is partnering with the MSU Dairy Store to bring you a special cherry and chocolate flavored ice cream to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National Tournament. The cups of ice cream are free, but we would like to have a count; please indicate the number of individuals participating in the ice cream social. Please make sure to visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> and get tickets to the ice cream social under “add ons.” \*purchasing the free tickets is required for all teams staying on campus or not.\*
3. **Saturday Team dinner**-Prior to the closing awards ceremony, there will be a team dinner on the concourse of the Breslin Center. This event is open to all team members and coaches. You can purchase tickets to the dinner here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157> under “add ons.”
4. [**Forms, Guidelines, and Safety**](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/forms-guidelines-and-safety) **–**

* [Medical Release Form](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/upload/Medical_Release_Form_SONT.pdf): One per student, signed by parent/guardian, and kept in the possession of team coach; form must accompany the student to any medical intervention. At check-in, coaches must certify that they possess the forms for all students.
* [A Consolidated Form](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/upload/2024_Parent_Permission_Form_SONT.pdf) (covers parental permission, acknowledgement of medical forms, and media release): One per student, signed by parent/guardian, and submitted electronically by May 10.
* [Final Team Roster](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/upload/documents/Final_Team_Registration_Form_NatTourn_2024.pdf): The final list of students who will compete in the national tournament, in addition to alternates.
* [Conduct Rules for National Science Olympiad Personnel](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/upload/documents/Staff%20and%20Volunteer%20Rules.docx): All adults/chaperones in attendance must read and sign this form.
* [Rules for Participation](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/upload/documents/Rules%20for%20Participation%20NSO%20Tournament.docx): All adults/chaperones in attendance must read this form.

Additional things to note:

1. **Saturday lunch is on your own.** This includes teams that purchased campus housing. The cafeteria near the residence hall where teams will be staying will not be open for Saturday lunch. Other cafeteria options open on Saturday for lunch include (Accepting credit or debit cards only—no cash):

* [Brody Square Cafeteria](https://eatatstate.msu.edu/menu/Brody%20Square): 241 W. Brody Road
* [The Vista at Shaw Cafeteria](https://eatatstate.msu.edu/menu/The%20Vista%20at%20Shaw): 591 N. Shaw Lane

Other on-campus food options:

* [Sparty's](https://eatatstate.msu.edu/campus-dining/spartys): Mini-market stores offer a variety of grab-and-go options and convenience items. Locations open May 24 and 25:
  + STEM Teaching and Learning Facility: 642 Red Cedar Rd
  + Delia Koo International Academic Center: 427 N Shaw Ln
  + Case Hall: 842 Chestnut Road
  + Wonders Hall: 891 Birch Road
* [Crossroads Food Court](https://eatatstate.msu.edu/campus-dining/crossroads): Restaurants include Subway, Panda Express, Woody's Oasis Mediterranean Deli, The Roost
* [Delia Koo International Academic Center](https://www.google.com/maps/place/MSU+International+Center/@42.7262552,-84.4809176,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m6!3m5!1s0x8822c28759b8e357:0x3a6abb85535f5b1d!8m2!3d42.7262552!4d-84.4809176!16s%2Fg%2F11c3tzldd2?hl=en-US&entry=ttu): 427 N Shaw Ln

1. **Saturday dinner is on your own.** This includes teams that purchased campus housing. The cafeteria near the residence hall where teams will be staying will not be open for Saturday dinner. Teams can purchase tickets to the Saturday night team dinner by following the instructions above.

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A list of Frenquently Asked Questions can be found here - <https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/faq>.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Coach Email 2-** sent only to coaches that purchased on-campus housing from Science Olympiad National Tournament [UOE.SON2024@msu.edu](mailto:UOE.SON2024@msu.edu) or Julie Crowgey [crowgeyj@msu.edu](mailto:crowgeyj@msu.edu)

Thank you for purchasing on-campus housing.

Please fill out and return the attached excel spreadsheet with each team member’s name, age, competitor/chaperone, preferred gender, preferred roommate, ADA accommodations, major food allergies, and if the chaperone is a parent of one of the competitors. Please also indicate if the parent would like to room with their child.

It is important that we receive the Excel file no later than May 10, 2024.

As a reminder, attached is a consolidated form that covers parental permission, acknowledgement of medical forms, and media release. In addition, all coaches and chaperones must sign the attached media release form. Please respond to this email with the forms by the May 10th deadline.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Coach Email 1**- Sent between March 13-May 6 from Science Olympiad National Tournament [UOE.SON2024@msu.edu](mailto:UOE.SON2024@msu.edu) or Julie Crowgey [crowgeyj@msu.edu](mailto:crowgeyj@msu.edu)

Dear Coach,

Congratulations on qualifying for the Science Olympiad National Tournament! We look forward to welcoming you to Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, May 24-25, 2024.

To prepare for your arrival, please read below and complete the following steps.

1. **On-campus housing and meals (register by May 10):**   
   Accommodation and meal pricing can be found [here](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/accommodations-and-meals).

We anticipate that we can accommodate all teams in the residence halls. If you plan on staying in the residence halls, select one of 3 packages (packages include several meals). Please note, the packages do not include Saturday dinner.

If your team will participate in the Saturday evening dinner prior to the Awards Ceremony, select the number of meal tickets that you would like to purchase under “add-on.”   
   
You will be contacted after you register for your housing to confirm the names of the students and chaperones who will stay in the residence halls, ages, roommate preferences, gender identities, and allergy information.

[Register for on-campus housing and purchase additional meals](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157).   

1. **Off-campus housing and meals**:    
   If your team is not planning on staying on campus in the residence halls, you can find a [list of area hotels](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/visitors/accommodations) that are offering special rates for Science Olympiad. You can still purchase individual meal tickets for on-campus dining for Friday lunch, Friday night “cook-in,” and Saturday night pre-awards ceremony dinner.    
   [Purchase tickets for meals](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157). Click “get tickets,” go scroll down to “add-ons.”
2. **Ice-Cream Social**:   
   During the Friday night Swap Meet, we will have an Ice-Cream Social. Science Olympiad is partnering with the MSU Dairy Store to bring you a special cherry and chocolate flavored ice cream to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National Tournament. The cups of ice cream are free, but we would like to have a count; please indicate the number of individuals.

[Ice-Cream Social](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-science-olympiad-national-tournament-tickets-796028662157). Click “get tickets,” go scroll down to “add-ons.” 

1. [**Forms**](https://nationalscienceolympiad2024.org/teams/forms-guidelines-and-safety) **(complete and submit electronically by May 10)**:   
   A consolidated form that covers parental permission, acknowledgement of medical forms, and media release is attached. Please respond to this email with the forms from all students by the deadline. **You will be contacted later to confirm your team roster**.