

March 12, 2016 1:59PM

Print Page

Reading Science Olympiad team places first

Reading's A.W. Coolidge Science Olympiad Team earned first place in the Massachusetts Science Olympiad State Competition on March 5 at Assumption College. The win is the team's 23rd state title, and they now have the honor of representing Massachusetts at the National Science Olympiad Competition, May 20-21 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

The Massachusetts Science Olympiad offers middle school students the opportunity to compete with their peers in science and engineering events. This year, 28 middle schools competed in 23 events covering a diverse array of science and engineering topics. Sample events this year included Scrambler, in which students build cars that aim to reach a target as quickly as possible without breaking the egg on the front of the car; Dynamic Planet, in which students take a written test on oceanography; and Anatomy and Physiology, which focused this year on the muscular, skeletal and integument systems of the body.

This year's team is made up of 29 dedicated students, who each contributed to the success of the team: eighth-graders Nick Brown, Youngwon Choi, Tyler Gonick, Alex Gornovoi, Nick Luikey, Amogh Morje, Sarah Murphy, Jeffrey Pan, Jeremy Rosh, Ben Rotstein, Somil Singh and Matt Smith; seventh-graders Andrew Benassi, Henry Bresnahan, Katherine Gowney, Jason Kapodistrias, Emma Lloyd, Matthew Mejail, Will Merry, Gavin Pu, Michael Rogers, Ava Serrano, Kevin Upton and Brendan Wilcox; and sixth-graders Elliott Choi, Vivian Hing, Pete Koster, Sam Lonks and Chloe Mathieu.

Collectively, the regular team earned 11 gold medals, four silver medals, two bronze medals, one fifth-place ribbon and two sixth-place ribbons, beating the second-place team by 70 points. The alternate team earned first-place ribbons in nine events, second-place ribbons in eight events and a third-place ribbon in one event.

The Coolidge alternate team also earned first place among the competing schools. This year's team is led by Karawan Meade, an alumna of the team herself. She is supported by Jerald Coyne, a science teacher at Coolidge, and Mark Beckley, a coach and parent of former team members. The coaching staff is, in turn, supported by parents, teachers, community members and high school student team alumni who serve as event coaches for the 23 events.

The Coolidge Science Team dedicated their victory to the memory of John McCarthy, a Coolidge science teacher and one of the founders of the team, who passed away earlier in the school year.

The Coolidge School Science Olympiad Team is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible. For information about the team, visit coolidgescienceteam.org.

<http://reading.wickedlocal.com/article/20160312/NEWS/160319516>

Print Page