

Daily Times Chronicle

Daily Times Chronicle > News

Coolidge Science team wins 18th state title

Print Page

Earns right to represent the Commonwealth at the National Science Olympiad Competition

Published:

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:07 PM EDT

READING - The A.W. Coolidge Science Olympiad Team won first place in the Massachusetts Middle School Science Olympiad State Competition today at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. This is the 18th year they have earned the honor of representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the National Science Olympiad Competition, which will take place at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, on May 20 – 21.

The Massachusetts Science Olympiad offers middle school students the opportunity to compete with their peers in science and engineering events. This year, 19 middle schools participated in the competition which consisted of 23 events covering a diverse array of science and engineering content and process skills. For example, events this year included: 1) Battery Buggy – construction of a vehicle that uses electrical energy as its sole means of propulsion and quickly travels from a “start dot”, around an obstacle, and stops as closely as possible to a “finish dot” on a track 2) Meteorology – understanding of meteorological principles and interpretation and analysis of meteorological data and 3) Disease Detective – applying principles of epidemiology to a published report of a real-life health situation or problem.

This year’s team is made up of 27 dedicated students who share a love of science. Each team member has contributed to the success of the team and maintained the reputation of hard work and sportsmanship for which the team has become known. Congratulations go out to eighth graders Pierce Ballantyne, Clare Bishop, Andrew Grottkau, Colin Hetherington, Elizabeth Iacoviello, Brandon Lee, Grant Maitland, Becky Wandel and Stephen West; seventh graders Taylor Bergeron, Olivia Cronin-Golomb, Zach Forbes, Paulaine Goldsmith, Noah Hennings, Mary Beth Marcucella, Nikita Patel, Thomas Peacock, Jeffrey Qiu Natalie Rotstein, Parker Webb and Cynthia Yang ; and sixth graders Matthew Grottkau, Atticus Habel, Andrew Hutchinson, Alex Hutchinson, Ryaan Moss and Mark Porter. Collectively the regular team, made up of eighth and seventh graders, placed in 18 of the 23 events, earning 9 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze medals. The alternate team, made up of seventh and sixth graders, placed in 18 of the 23 events, earning first place ribbons in 14 events, second place ribbons in 2 events, and third place ribbons in 2 events in the alternate team competition.

This year’s team is led by Head Coach Karawan Meade, an alumna of the team. She is supported by Assistant Coach John McCarthy, a science teacher at Coolidge. They in turn are supported by the team parents, teachers, community members, and high school student team alumni, who serve as event coaches for one or more of the Olympiad’s 23 events.

Participation on the team offers students interested in science the opportunity to explore many science topics, often in greater detail than what is normally taught in middle school. In addition, the team supports the Coolidge School Science Olympiad Day and assists with the Family Math and Science Night. The Coolidge Science Olympiad Team began informally in 1992 when a group of teachers (including John Doherty, who is currently the Superintendent of Schools in Reading), students, and parents joined together to create the team and support students who competed in the Massachusetts State Science Olympiad held in Stoneham, Massachusetts. In 1993, the Coolidge program was more formally organized, and the team competed successfully to win their first state tournament. More than 50% of the students who have participated on the Science Team have gone on to pursue careers in science and engineering.

The Coolidge Science Olympiad Team relies on a variety of events throughout the year to raise funds to cover operating expenditures. Upcoming events include the annual community-wide yard sale which will be held this year on Saturday May 7, 2011 (see website for donation drop-off information @ www.coolidgescienceteam.org), and a direct mail campaign. The Coolidge Science Olympiad Team gratefully acknowledges the overwhelming support shown by the community throughout the past nineteen years.

The Coolidge Science Olympiad Team is a non-profit organization. For more information on how you can support the team and upcoming team events, check the team website @ www.coolidgescienceteam.org, or write to Coolidge Science Olympiad Team, A.W. Coolidge Middle School, 89 Birch Meadow Drive, Reading, MA 01867.

Copyright © 2011 - HomeNewsHere.com

[x] Close Window