

Coolidge Science Olympiad team captures 19th state title

Posted: Monday, March 19, 2012 6:00 pm

READING - The A.W. Coolidge Science Olympiad Team earned 1st place in the Massachusetts Science Olympiad State Competition Saturday at Assumption College in Worcester.

This is the team's 19th state title, and they now have the honor of representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the National Science Olympiad Competition which will take place at the University of Central Florida, Orlando on May 18-19, 2012.

This year, 26 middle schools competed in 23 events covering a diverse array of science and engineering topics. Sample events included Bottle Rockets, in which participants had to design, build and launch rockets made from plastic drink bottles with the goal of remaining aloft for a maximum amount of time; Crime Busters, in which students had to solve a crime by identifying unknown powders, liquids, and metals, analyzing shoe prints, tire treads, paper chromatography, and fingerprints, and answer questions about who committed the crime and how the evidence supported their arguments; Optics, in which students demonstrated knowledge of geometric and physical optics, such as reflection, refraction, critical angle, electromagnetic and visible spectrum, lenses, and mirrors.

This year's team is made up of 29 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 Paulaine Goldsmith, Jeffrey Qiu, Natalie Rotstein, Daniel Sullivan, Parker Webb and Cynthia Yang; seventh graders Matthew Baynes, Jacob Beckley, Alex Gousie, Matthew Grottkau, Atticus Habel, Alex Hutchinson, Andrew Hutchinson, Kevin Luikey, Ryaan Moss, David Oliver and Mark Porter; and sixth graders, Will Bresnahan, Gabe Cronin-Golomb, Connor Ehl, Harrison Fiscus, Daniel Gadre, Nicholas Gaudreault, Roberto Jarrin, Fred Pan, Cullen Pu, Dustin Rosh, Nathaniel Smith and Kevin Spear.

The team is led by Head Coach Karawan Meade, a former member, with the support of Coolidge science teachers John McCarthy and Paul Guidetti, and a team of volunteer event coaches comprised of parents, teachers, community members and team alumni.

As an extra-curricular activity, the Coolidge Science Olympiad Team relies on fundraising throughout the year to cover operating expenses. Initiatives include the annual community-wide yard sale, a direct mail campaign, student-led canning and requests for corporate grants. The team would like to express its sincere appreciation for the overwhelming support shown by the community throughout the past nineteen years.

The Coolidge Science Olympiad Team is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all contributions are tax deductible. For more information about the team and upcoming team events, please visit www.coolidgescienceteam.org.