



American Chemical Society  
Virginia Section  
Science Museum of Virginia  
2500 West Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23220  
<http://membership.acs.org/V/VA/>

January 5, 2009

Dear Colleague,

As chair of the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society, I am pleased to announce that we will again be participating in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). I would like to offer your students an opportunity to participate in the Chemistry Olympiad with other students in Virginia. The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers and schools.

**What is the Chemistry Olympiad?** The Chemistry Olympiad is a competition given by examination for high school chemistry students. There are three levels to the competition. The local sections of the American Chemical Society provide an opportunity for any student nominated by their teacher. The twelve highest scoring students on the Second year local examination will be nominated to take the National Examination. These twelve students will compete for a limited number of positions on the United States Chemistry Olympiad team which will compete at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Budapest, Hungary.

**Who should take the exams?** Any student that you feel is ready to take an advanced exam or is interested in participating. The local examination is separated into two levels. For the first year exam, students who are doing well in their first year of chemistry should be considered prepared. The exam is an excellent preparation for the SOL Chemistry exam. For the second year exam, students taking a second year of chemistry, AP or IB chemistry or are taking a college preparatory course should be prepared. This exam is an excellent preparation for the AP exam. The students taking the second year examination will be eligible to take the National Examination. We will accept any student nominated by a teacher. They do not have to presently be taking chemistry but they need to be enrolled in your school

This year, all testing will need to be completed at the high school in a secure location proctored by a counselor or administrator. 90 to 120 minutes should be sufficient time to take this test. The test must be completed on a single day **between March 3 and 28, 2009**. Each school will need to fill out a registration form, which includes the names of each student nominated. The forms included in this packet are also available online as a word document or as a web submission form at <http://membership.acs.org/V/VA/olympiad/>.

**Important dates to consider:**

Registration Deadline: February 24

Local Examination: Between March 2 – 28

National Examination at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond: Saturday, April 25.

US Olympiad camp at the Air Force Academy: June 7 - 21.

International Chemistry Olympiad in Cambridge, England: July 18 - 27

I encourage your school to participate by nominating any student interested in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate will be recognized and presented with a certificate; some students will receive recognition for outstanding performance. The teachers and administrators will also be recognized. After all tests are received and graded, the teachers will receive a copy of the local exam and their student's scores.

Please consider nominating your students and help me by sharing this letter with any fellow chemistry teachers at your school or in your community. Thank you for helping promote chemical education in Virginia. If this letter has reached you in error, would you please fill out the attached registration form with information about the current chemistry teacher at your school? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Sullivan, Chair of the Chemistry Olympiad Committee; Virginia Section, American Chemical Society

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