



## Allen Elementary Science Olympiad 2019

**Please sign up by February 8th**  
**Student Sign-up now active at the following site:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/allen-weso-2019/home>

Science Olympiad is a fun, challenging, team-based competition for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The Olympiad is designed to teach science through active, hands-on, group participation. Events use a wide variety of skills so you have a chance to learn about science in ways that meet your interests. Practices involve teamwork, group planning, and cooperation. Practices are about one hour per week. Events are coached by parent and community volunteers. Practices are held either at Allen (weekdays after school or in the evening) or at Mallets Creek Library. Students are welcome to practice in more than one event.

WESO (Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad) is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. Each school team is comprised of up to 80-100 students (20 –25 from each grade) participating in many events. Please visit <https://wesoscience.org/> for more information about WESO.

This year the WESO competition will be **on Saturday May 11th at Pioneer High School**. The event will run all day, progressing from 2nd grade in the morning to 5th grade in the afternoon/early evening. We strive to enter as many students who attend practices as we can in the competition; however, please know that not all students will necessarily be able compete in all the events in which they practice because of restrictions that WESO places on the number of participants.

Allen teams will be formed by the week of February 11<sup>th</sup> and practices will begin as early as the week of February 25<sup>th</sup>. (Coaches will contact parents to confirm when practices begin) Practices will continue weekly until the Science Olympiad Competition. Expected weekly practice times and competition times can be found at the Allen Science Olympiad website.

Your child's participation in the Science Olympiad competition is contingent on the availability of a parent or guardian to volunteer on the day of the event; Allen cannot field a team without providing WESO with a sufficient number of volunteers. The competing student must also be accompanied by a parent/guardian on the day of the competition. On the web sign up form, a parent/guardian needs to offer two possibilities to volunteer. Most of the WESO mandated volunteer slots are four hours in length, but some are two hours. Please indicate your availability to volunteer when completing the web form, and we will confirm your time to volunteer approximately four weeks before the event. Thanks for your willingness to help out!

On the web sign up, you may list your preferences for up to four events, as well as the maximum number of events in which your child would like to participate.



## Allen Science Olympiad Events 2019

**Aerodynamics (2nd & 3rd grades):** Participants will build and fly paper airplanes for distance, time and accuracy.

**Back to Nature: Geology Rocks! (4th and 5th grades):** Participants will be tested on their knowledge of basic geologic processes and mineral properties through hands-on activities and short questions.

**Circuit Wizardry (4th and 5th grades):** Participants will be tested on basic electrical circuit concepts, components, schematic reading and understanding, and ability to design and build a simple circuit from a functional description

**Estimania (2nd-5th grades):** Teams will be asked to estimate answers to questions of measurement or numerical approximation and use their estimation skills to solve a mystery.

**Feathered Friends (2nd & 3rd grades):** Participants will be tested on bird identification by sight and sound, anatomy (structure and function), life history and habitat characteristics of birds.

**GENE-ius (4th and 5th grades):** Explore the world of genetics! What are DNA and genes, and how do they affect you? Teams will use their basic understanding of heredity, genes, DNA, and chromosomes to complete genetic puzzles like pedigrees, simple crosses, and gene/codon reading.

**Gravity Racer (2nd and 3rd grades):** Each team will build a four-wheeled vehicle and use gravity to reach a target.

**iCompute (4th and 5th grades):** Participants will be tested on their knowledge of basic computing concepts, including hardware and software, and author computer programs.

**Mystery Architecture (2nd-5th grades):** Each team will be given a bag of materials to build a structure that can support a tennis ball. The tallest structure wins.

**On Target (2nd-5th grades):** Each team will build missiles, utilizing a precision straw as the missile body

**Pasta Bridges (2nd-5th grades):** Participants will build a bridge using the materials supplied to support a cup (in the middle of the bridge) with as many small weights as possible.

**Write it Build it (4th and 5th grades):** One or two team members will be shown a “picture” and will write a description of it. In a separate room, one or two other team members will be given the pieces of the “picture” and the written description and attempt to rebuild it. The team with the most pieces placed correctly wins. This event tests a team’s ability to clearly communicate in writing and follow written directions.

**To Infinity and Beyond (4th and 5th grades):** Using a planetarium, charts, and a written test, students will demonstrate an understanding and basic knowledge of the solar system and its elements (including apparent motion of the sky, planets and moons, constellations and stars, asteroids, and comets).

**Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah (4th and 5th grades):** The team constructs a cable car to carry a ping-pong ball down a zip line with the objective to achieve a target run time.

Allen Science Olympiad Head Coaches

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