



## Purdue Northwest Hosts the 2023 Regional and State Science Olympiad Competitions

Vanessa S. Quinn

### Abstract

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) welcomed 37 middle and high school Science Olympiad teams to its Hammond campus during the spring semester for STEM academic competitions on Feb. 11. The top six middle school and top seven high school teams at PNW's regional qualified for the State Science Olympiad.

**Keywords:** Science Olympiad, Competition



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Four weeks later PNW hosted 47 qualifying teams from across Indiana for the Science Olympiad state finals on March 11. Caramel High School (Caramel, Indiana) and Thomas Jefferson Middle School (Valparaiso, IN) and Raymond Park Middle School (Indianapolis, IN) advanced to the National Science Olympiad finals in Wichita, KS. Raymond Park Middle School won the Spirit Award at the National Competition.

Middle and high school teams compete in 25 different STEM events including events that test students' knowledge in many STEM areas including forestry, astronomy, code breaking, and chemistry. Other events tested apparatuses the students have been building for several months including bridges and airplanes. Faculty, staff, and student volunteers from across PNW make it possible for this competition to come off without a hitch.

As a host for annual Science Olympiad events, PNW offers a chance for event participants to preview the environments where their STEM interests can take them, as well as the people they would learn from. It allows students to navigate a college campus, eat in the cafeteria, and compete in college classrooms and labs.

PNW is also very fortunate to have STEM undergraduate and graduate students who work alongside faculty and staff during the competitions. This allows the middle and high school students the opportunity to interact with college students who were, in some cases, in high school a few years ago.

PNW looks forward to host the Regional and State Science Olympiad in 2024.

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