

Dear Science Olympiad Coaches,

Hi there! This is the 2024-2025 UMD Science Olympiad Leadership team, and we are hoping that the school semester has been going smoothly for you!

We are excited to invite you to the 2025 UMD Invitationals Science Olympiad tournament. This coming year, the UMD Science Olympiad tournament invitationals will be held on Saturday February 1st, 2025. This will be before both Maryland Division C regionals tournaments and we hope that this invitational tournament can serve as a form of practice for your teams before the official tournament. In addition, in the time between the end of events and the awards ceremony, we plan on hosting several pre-professional workshops and college panels. That way, we hope that while everyone is waiting for their results, they are able to partake in fun and insightful activities to help give students an idea of what life in college is like.

We acknowledge that last year, there were several shortfalls in our tournament that may have led to some hesitation in participating in another UMD Invitational. We would like to fully own up to our mistakes and grow this year by being fully transparent about how we are improving on our past inadequacies. Namely, we have already committed to the following changes:

- **This year, our tournament will be free and will have no registration fee.** We would like as many students to participate as possible and we hope that this change will allow for more participation.
- We have committed to returning to the fully paper and pencil model for test based events. The hybrid model we employed last year led to significant challenges during competition day, especially with wifi and connectivity issues. We hope that returning to the pencil and paper model will make the experience more exciting for all of the competing students!
- All 2025 test events will be published online and available for review following competition day (our goal is to publish them by Monday after the tournament). Previous leadership was unwilling to publish old exams so they could be reused for future invitational tournaments, but we believe that this model goes against our mission of offering a resource for students.

These are just some of the changes we are implementing this year, and we hope that we are able to regain your confidence in the UMD Science Olympiad invitationals.

Registrations for the tournament are now open and the form is linked [here](#). The last day for your team to register is January 1st. We hope to see you there!

Best,
UMD Science Olympiad E-Board