



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Dear Head Coach,

On behalf of the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), it is my pleasure to invite your Science Olympiad Team to compete in the Inaugural UMBC Science Olympiad Invitational on Saturday January 13th at UMBC. This *fee free* invitational event will host high school teams from across the entire state to compete in all 23 of the 2024 Science Olympiad events with prizes being awarded for winners in each of the two Maryland Science Olympiad Regions (i.e., eastern and western) as well as Baltimore City Schools.

This invitational competition will provide a fun-filled and supportive environment for students to showcase their scientific knowledge and acumen, while meeting other talented peers from across the state. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in problem-solving with high quality test materials, conduct experiments in our undergraduate teaching labs, and standardize the testing of their devices at our state-of-the-art facilities. This year each event's test will be written under the supervision of chemistry, physics, biology, and mathematics faculty members. Once graded, the papers will be returned to students for review to further their learning and practice for future regional, state and national Science Olympiad events. Furthermore, student participants will also have the chance to explore the UMBC campus and meet with faculty and research students to discuss campus life and research opportunities that exist at UMBC, an Honors University in Maryland.

We are also excited to announce that in our effort to enhance equity and maximize participation, UMBC's College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences will be subsidizing the entirety of the tournament's registration costs. So, whether you have a longtime team or are trying out Science Olympiad for the first time, this tournament can afford your students a great practice opportunity to expand their learning and perhaps help inspire the scientific leaders of tomorrow.

Registrations for the tournament opened on Sept 18th, 2023. The last day for your team to register for this event is November 1st. For more details and the link to register please visit, <https://umbc.edu/scienceolympiad>.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to either Dr. Bindu Abraham at abraham@umbc.edu or myself (Dr. Brian Cullum) at cullum@umbc.edu. We look forward to your team's participation and wish you all of the best in the competition.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Cullum – Ph.D.; FSPIE
Professor & Chairperson
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of Maryland Baltimore County