



North Pocono's Science Olympiad team gathers in the hallway of the high school following an invitational competition at Conestoga High School in Berwyn. SUBMITTED

Science Olympiad team competes at first invitational of the season

Last month, the North Pocono High School Science Olympiad Team competed against two teams at the Battle of Valley Forge Science Olympiad Invitational at Conestoga High School in Berwyn. This was North Pocono's third trip to this elite invitational.

The North Pocono team competed against 39 other teams from about 20 schools that spread across five states. The teams present include top ranking teams in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. Some of the teams are ranked in the top five in the nation.

North Pocono was proud to return home ranking nine spots ahead of their placement the last time they attended this invitational.

The team earned medals in following events:

- Mission Possible, fifth place, Jon Jenkins and Tyler Baldauff
- Bungee Drop, third place, John Slater and Vince Wojnar
- Geologic Mapping, second place, Cierra Fantini and Marcus King
- Mission Possible, second place, Josh Winslow and Austin Flyte
- Scrambler, first place, Cody McLafferty and Matt Kuniege

Even though these were the only students that received medals, contributions from all of the team members allowed

them to be successful.

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events. The events that students compete in include a cross section of biology, physics, chemistry, earth space science, and engineering. Students engage in hands-on, interactive, inquiry-based activities that are lab-based, research-based, or pre-built.

Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of science and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on group participation.

During the course of the competition, students are required to complete a lab, research, or compete with their engineered device within a 50-minute period.

Students will typically compete in three to four events during the day. In each of the 23 events, teams are evaluated by judges on how well they complete the tasks based on the rules set forth by the national committee for each event.

Members of the team are:

- Faith Alunni
- Tyler Baldauff
- Desarae Balish

- Ashley Berlot
- Kelly Bollard
- Kyle Bowen
- Allison Caswell
- Josh Danna
- Caelin Docalovich
- Cierra Fantini
- Michael Felins
- Alexa Flood
- Austin Flyte
- Fernando Forte
- Kenneth Gaughan
- Amanda Goffredo
- Caden Hafner
- Zachary Hercher
- Symone Hinton
- Jonathan Jenkins
- Marcus King
- Matthew Kuniege
- Shawanna Lamond
- Nicholas Mackarey
- Matthew McDonough
- Mike Mcgee
- Cody McLafferty
- Josh Misiura
- Justin Morman
- Megan Morman
- Emma Nemitz
- Adam Pickarski
- Gabriel Ramos
- Zack Redmond
- John Slater
- Matthew Smith
- Sean Smith
- Zachary Silvia
- Marina Topa
- Josh Toth
- Nicholas Trinovitch
- Ricky White
- Joshua Winslow
- Sara Wojnar
- Vincent Wojnar
- Kyle Yatsonsky

The team is coached by Lindsay Croom. Assistant coaches are J. Croom and Mike Hricko.

2/11/2015

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