Elementary Head Coach Information Meeting

November 2, 2026
MISD

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Agenda

We will cover

- Available Resources
- Open House Kits
- Workshop Priorities
- 2027 Event Details
- Return to normal at MCC
- Team #s and Tournament Schedule
- Registering a Second Team
- Quick Start Kits
- Season Calendar
- Practice Tournament Results
- Volunteers
- Tournament Day Details
- Resolving Possible Tournament Concerns
- Door Prizes
- Q & A

We will not cover

- How to select team members
- How to read the tournament schedule and assign students to events
- Where to find event coaches
- How to build support & commitment

[If you missed the New Head Coach Workshop on October 6, please contact us. Also see the recording of a past workshop on the Head Coach webpage]

Season Headlines

- Ozo Orbit is now a full event; Ping Pong Propulsion is not included
- Second team registrations began today
- Quick Start Kit ordering will open soon
- MCC campus construction will not be an issue
- Final registration will be an updated version of the new system of last year
  - Improvements to self-scheduling

Available Resources

- **MSO Website Resources** www.macombso.org/elementary

  For Head Coaches

  - ***Head Coach Handbook***
    - Covers many topics, from *Roles and Responsibilities of the Head Coach* to *Season Schedule and Milestones*
  - ***Monthly Tips*** *(also an event coach version)*
    - An injection of advice on what you, your event coaches and your students should be doing at the current point in the season
  - ***Presentations and memos you might have missed or misplaced***

  For Event Coaches

  - ***Study guides, training videos, old test archive***
  - ***FAQs***
    - Answers to a question about specific events which clarify the rules.
- **Event Coach Training (Jan 9, 2027) Virtual**
  - An opportunity for your event coaches to hear from the actual event supervisor, and to ask questions
  - Recording of past sessions are already posted on the website
- **Quick Start Kits**
  - Available for 7 of the 17 events
- **Open House resources**
  - If you need help building interest in your school, we can help with hands-on displays that help make Science Olympiad more tangible

Open House Kits (Now – January)

- **What:**
  - Posterboard displays, corresponding to each event (see the example display)
    - Rules, example materials, outline of topics to coach, sample test questions, etc.
  - PowerPoint presentation
    - Can be the kickoff, or can be playing on a loop
- **How** you might use it:
  - Generate interest among students and families in your school at conference night, or for an event specifically targeted to specific grades
  - Create excitement among the students and families at the first team meeting. Get parents to commit to serve as event coaches.
- **Reservations:**
  - Experienced Coaches: sign up for a traveling kit
  - New Teams & Rookie Coaches: sign up for an Open House supported by MSO
  - There are 2 kits; contact Kathy Deckert to see if the one in your area is available esosecretary@macombso.org

Workshop Priorities

- What event workshops to run for students and event coaches?
- You were given 3 “voting aids” on your way in
  - Please raise your hand if your school didn’t get a set
- You will get to vote on your way out
  - There are cups in the back of the room with event names marked on them
- Factors that you might consider:
  - What events have changed
  - What events would help your team the most
  - What workshop videos we already have posted online
- Events which are **not** available for you to choose today

  Workshops are already planned (you can’t vote for)
  - Amazing Arthropods
  - Wildlife Safari
  - Starry, Starry Night

2026 Event Details

Major Change

- A is for Anatomy
- Mystery Architecture
- Wildlife Safari

Moderate Change

- Amazing Arthropods
- Codebusters
- Ozo Orbit
- Rock Hound
- Starry, Starry Night
- Weather or Not

Small or No Change

- Code Warriors
- Crash Car Eggspert
- Crime Busters
- Charged Up
- Reflection Relay
- Simple Machines
- Water Rockets
- Zowie Estimation

Event rules are available on the website:

- All events (on the HC page)
- Specific events: see the button on each event page

When reading the rules: **Bold text** = changed from last year

A is for Anatomy

Students will identify anatomical structures of the human cardiovascular, respiratory, and **lymphatic** systems.

- Each of the stations will have models or pictures of anatomical structures
- The teams will move around the room, one team per station, answering the multiple questions at each station as they go. Students will use a provided ZipGrade answer sheet.
- These major systems will be in scope (see the rules for more details):

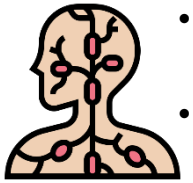
- Cardiovascular

  - **Heart chambers**
  - Heart Valves
  - Heart Tissues
  - **Arteries and veins**
  - Path of blood

- Respiratory

  - Nose, oral cavity, pharynx
  - Larynx
  - Tracheobronchial tree
  - Lungs
  - Muscles of breathing
  - Pleura

- **Lymphatic**



  - **Lymphatic organs**
  - **Lymph nodes and associated structures**

Scoring:

- The team with the highest point total will be the winner.
- There will be four multiple choice questions at each of the 21 stations, worth 1 or 2 points.
- Ties will be broken by the four questions at station #22. These questions will be open-ended (not multiple choice) and require the correct spelling of scientific names.

Mystery Architecture

Students use a set of unspecified materials to build the tallest freestanding tower to support a tennis ball at its top.

- Resources: unspecified building materials, which could include: straight pins, paper cups, drinking straws, paper clips, tape, string, paper, etc.
- Build Time: a maximum of 20 minutes.
- Students may bring scissors, a ruler, a pair of pliers, a tennis ball for testing
- Students will not be required to move their tower; they will be measured where built.
- The tower must be completely free standing.
- The height of the tower and width of base will be measured first. Students will then place on top the tennis ball provided by the Event Supervisor. The tower must remain standing long enough to be measured.

Scoring:

- The tallest tower wins. The tennis ball is considered to be the highest point of the tower.
- Towers which hold the ball are ranked above those that do not.
- Width of the base is used as a tie breaker (narrower is better).

Wildlife Safari

Students will identify Michigan **mammals** and answer questions from the ***Mammals of Michigan Field Guide***.

Teams will rotate between stations where they may view **photographs or biofacts of mammals, furs, tracks, skulls and/or photographs of habitats.**

- Questions will vary in degree of difficulty and will be assigned points accordingly. Question format will be multiple choice, and true/false.

Resources allowed:

- Each student may each bring one field guide, of either variety:
  - ***Mammals of Michigan Field Guide, 2nd Edition*** (pub. 2025)
  - A student-created field guide
- Students may write or highlight in the field guide. No loose paper.

Scoring:

- Each correct answer will be worth between 1 and 4 points.
- The tie breaker will be based on the total number of questions answered correctly.

Moderate Change Events

Amazing Arthropods

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major arthropod groups and assemble a collection of arthropod specimens or photographs. Some of the named species focus on the orders **Diptera (flies and mosquitos) and Hymenoptera (bees and wasps).**

Codebusters

- Students decode encrypted messages using cryptanalysis techniques. **Pig Pen and Tap Code cyphers replace Knights Templar.**

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I/J	K
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

Ozo Orbit

- Students will direct an Ozobot robot to navigate a field toward specific objectives, either through sequential logic or conditional logic programming.
- **Color code stickers will not be used in competition, and will not be included in the Quick Start Kit this year**

Rock Hound

- Students will identify and answer questions about various rock and mineral specimens. The emphasis is on **Metamorphic** rocks and minerals.

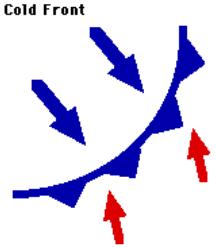
Moderate Change Events (cont.)

Starry, Starry Night

- Tests students' knowledge of astronomical facts and concepts relating to the earth, moon, solar system, celestial sphere, stars and constellations. This year, they will also be tested on **galaxies, nebulae, and telescopes**.

Weather or Not

- Students will be tested on their knowledge of meteorology. The scope will include an emphasis on **air masses, fronts, and winds.**



Small Change or No Change Events

Small Change

Water Rockets

- Pressure vessel = **clear** plastic

No Change

Charged Up

Code Warriors

Crash Car Eggspert

Crime Busters

Reflection Relay

Simple Machines

Zowie Estimation

Return to Normal after MCC Construction

- The Sports and Expo Center (SEC) will NOT be under construction. Yay!
- Many activities will move back:
  - Team HQ
  - Some events
  - Many open events
  - The total team capacity is back to 88
  - There will be an Opening Ceremony (8:15 – 8:40am)
  - There will be a common Awards Ceremony for all teams (~4:00 – 6:15 pm)

Team #s and Tournament Schedule

- Many team numbers are assigned already
- All teams have virtually the same event conflicts among 12 events
  - Also pay attention to conflicts from the Crash Car Eggspert build sessions!
- Five events will be scheduled in April, and are guaranteed to not conflict
  - Crash Car Eggspert, Mystery Architecture, Ozo Orbit, Reflection Relay, Water Rockets
- Ozo Orbit time slots are 45 min long
  - Consider this when assigning events

Conflicts to Avoid	
Stars	Codebusters
Anatomy	Crime Busters
Machines	Wildlife
Charged Up	Code Warriors
Weather	Zowie
Rocks	Arthropods

May 15, 2027 Schedule

EVENTS	ROOM	Parent Rm	9:00-9:30	9:40-10:10	10:20-10:50	11:00-11:30	11:40-12:10	12:20-12:50	1:00-1:30	1:40-2:10
A is for Anatomy			45-66	67-88	1-22	23-44				
Amazing Arthropods			*Collection Impound as scheduled by the Head Coach*			71-88	1-18	49-66	31-48	19-30 67-70
Charged Up			33-44	1-12	49-60	13-20 45-48	75-88	21-32	61-74	
Codebusters			1-30	31-60	61-88					
Code Warriors			33-44	1-12	49-60	13-20 45-48	75-88	21-32	61-74	
Crash Car Eggspert			*Build time: 9:00 or 9:45 as scheduled by the Head Coach*		*Compete at a predetermined time, as scheduled by the Head Coach.*					
Crime Busters			45-66	67-88	1-22	23-44				

Registering a Second Team

- We allow schools to register a Second team, as capacity allows (88 teams) on a first-come basis
  - We may run close to capacity this season
- Registration opened today, **November 2**
- The registration fee is $75
- Awards*
  - They receive participation medals
  - They compete for medals in the Second Team division; no trophies
  - They are eligible to win an **Einstein Award**, in either the K5 or K6 division
    - Second teams will not be its own category for Einstein Awards; they will compete with their Primary team division.

*Awards policies may be changed depending on the number of Second teams and Rookie teams registered, by division.

If you have changed your mind, contact me so that I may assign your team number

Quick Start Kits & Supplies

Available Kits

- Rock Hound
- Crime Busters kits (complete and replenishment)
- Reflection Relay Deluxe (2D challenge)
- Reflection Relay mirrors (3D challenge)
- Reflection Relay protractor
- Reflection Relay paper
- Crash Car Eggspert kit (single or double)
- Pinewood cars
- Charged Up
- Bridging the Gap assorted materials kit
- Pins for insect specimens
- Glass vials for insect specimens
- Ozo Orbit Full Kit
- Ozo Orbit replenishment kits

Quick Start Kits & Supplies (cont.)

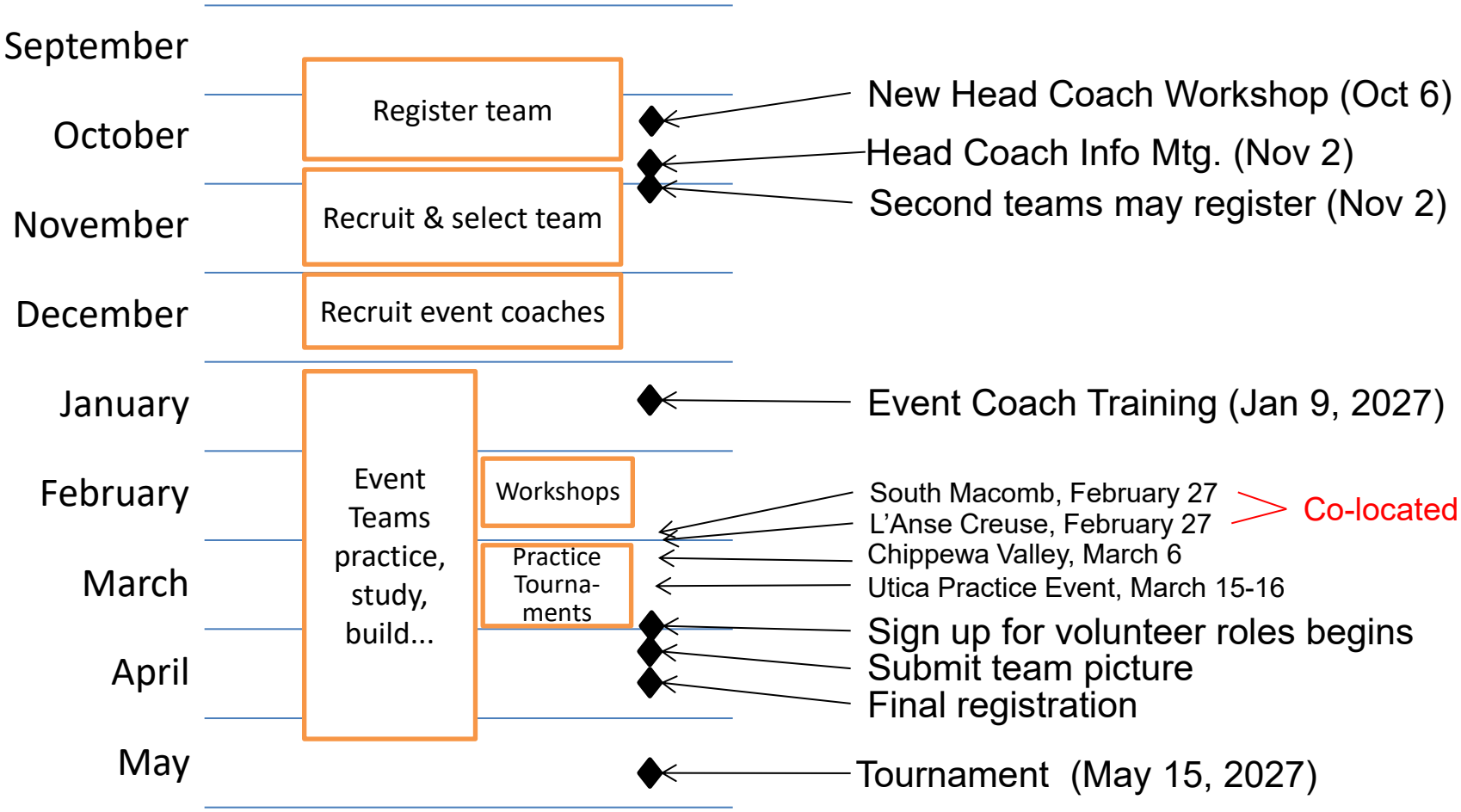
Ozo Orbit Kits

- Teams which did not order an Ozo kit last year may order a fully-discounted one this year ($100). But if you order after November 25, the price will go up. Please decide soon if you are going to participate.
  - The ordering form will be released soon (you didn't miss it)

All Other Kits

- We will send detailed ordering instructions to all Head Coaches; share this info with your families if they are also ordering supplies, to take advantage of available discounts.
  - That ordering form will also be released soon

Season Calendar



Practice Tournament Results (in March)

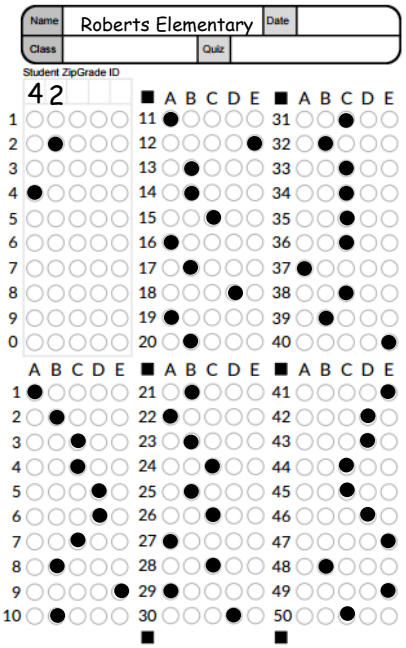
- We will continue our policy of releasing the "category index" for select events after the last practice tournament.
  - We do not release test materials.
  - You should expect to receive the actual score sheets at the practice tournament (or soon after) + the Stars score breakdown.
  - Head Coaches will receive an email with the remaining category indexes after the last practice tournament

Starry, Starry Night Practice Test

Score Breakdown

Category	Your Score	Possible Score
General Solar System	4	8
Mechanics	5	6
Seasons	2	7
Moon Phases	2	6
Eclipse	8	8
Celestial Sphere	4	5
Galaxy/Nebula	8	15
Life-cycle of stars	0	8
Planets	16	19
Constellations	6	23
Images	10	15
Total	83	**120**

Or



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#	Answer	Points	Category
1	B	2	Taxonomy
2	C	3	Species Specific
3	B	3	Anatomy
4	A	2	Anatomy
5	B	3	Anatomy
6	B	2	Anatomy
7	A	2	Anatomy
8	B	2	Anatomy
9	C	3	Species Specific
10	D	3	Species Specific
11	A	2	Species Specific
12	B	3	Species Specific
13	D	3	Metamorphosis
14	D	3	Myriapoda
15	D	3	Myriapoda
16	A	2	Myriapoda
17	A	2	Myriapoda
18	B	3	Arachnida
19	A	3	Arachnida
20	C	3	Arachnida
21	D	3	Arachnida
22	C	3	Taxonomy
23	D	3	Insecta
24	B	3	Coleoptera
25	B	3	Insecta

Volunteers

- We continue to recruit volunteers from the community to help run the May tournament.
- If adults on your team wish to volunteer, please contact us in April
  - We were successful last year in not requiring volunteers from teams; a few were recruited
- Most roles may be related to event support
- Online signup will be in April

Do you have any concerns at this point?

Tournament Day (May 15)

- Team Camps
  - Teams may set up a tent on the grass behind the K-building (not elsewhere)
- No food pre-order
  - Concessions will be offered by MCC in the SEC on tournament day
  - We will not be offering food pre-orders
- Team tables
  - Depending on what rooms are available in the K building, we may be asking for some teams to give them up
- Disc Jockey
  - Likely to be in the SEC gym
- Awards ceremony
  - Joint awards ceremony in the SEC Fieldhouse
  - Sportsmanship (leaving early is still a problem)

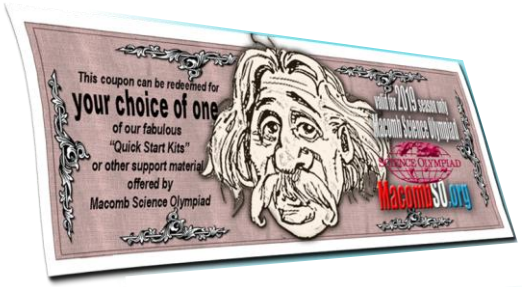
What feedback do you have?
What can be improved?

Door Prizes

- We will draw 20 ticket numbers; winners will receive a credit for a free Quick Start Kit.
  - Today we will record your name. No paper vouchers. Can be used for any kit except an Ozo Orbit kit.

When you are ready to order:

- Order the free kit separately from your other items. Choose "pay by voucher" for that item (or 2 if you have 2 credits).
  - We will mark your order as paid.
- Place your order for all other kits separately.



Questions & Answers

- What questions do you have?

- Might any coach want to share a good idea for team building?
  - *Hamilton Parsons shared that they have students from the team give short presentations in grade 3rd – 5th grade classes to recruit, on the expectation students listen to their peers. There is a standard, short pitch deck that they all work from.*

- You may quietly leave if all of your questions have been answered

Thank you for coming!

Don't forget to vote for workshops!