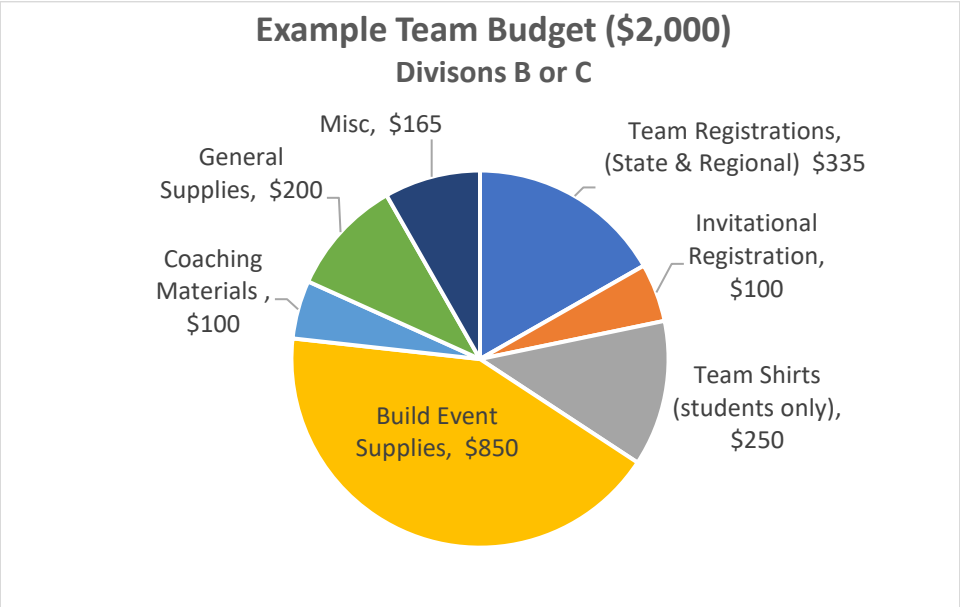
# Get Funding for your Science Olympiad Team

One of the challenges of coaching a Science Olympiad team is organizing the financial resources to cover team expenses. Registration fees are not insignificant. Build events require supplies which add up. And every team member needs a shirt to show off their team spirit. And more. What should you expect your team budget to add up to?

Every situation will be unique, but here is a guess on the expenses a full team might incur:




The next important question is, “what sources are available to cover those expenses?”.

**Here are a couple community organizations who are sponsors of our program and which are reliable sources of funding for a team:** (click on the name to link to the application)

## National Defense Industrial Association

NDIA offers a STEM Sponsorship Program, which in the past has been a reliable source of **about $250** per team. The amount that is awarded is likely a function of how many teams apply, but the application form is pretty simple. The most difficult question might be how you intend to spend the money. The deadline to apply is typically before the end of the calendar year, maybe earlier.

## Four County Community Foundation

This source requires a more sophisticated application process, but could be a **source of $500** for your team. Your application will need to be approved by your Principal, and you will be expected to submit a **Final Report** at the end of the season. You will need to attach a **proposed budget** for your team, which lists major categories of expenses (see above) and **expected revenue,** of which the totals should match. This will take some work on your part. The deadline to apply is on a quarterly schedule. You want to get it in before the January 1 deadline.

Other details of the application:

**Organization Classification** - we suggest: Other (Academic team at a high school – or middle school)

**Official Contact:** your school Principal, not the district Superintendent as requested. Their contact info is also entered later on in the application to request their approval.

**Program Title:** {school name} Science Olympiad 2024-25 Season

**Collaborators** – could include other supporters of your team, financial or otherwise

**Evaluation of Success:** could include: # of students participating, % of seniors expected to attend college and pursue a STEM degree, retention of students from previous year

**Other possible funding ideas:**

- Ask your school for funding (your Principal, PTO, etc.) They often will cover the cost of registrations and maybe team shirts for students.
- Solicit local businesses to sponsor your team; offer to put its name on the back of your team shirt ($200?) – one of your families might have a good connection – ask them for suggestions
- Conduct a team fundraiser (be careful that it doesn't require too much time, or have too low of a payout for the work)
- Pay to play (divide up the remaining budget among the families)