# STUDENT PREPARATION – ACADEMIC EVENTS

## LEARNING THE RULES

- Be sure you have the latest version of the event rules.
- The year will appear at the bottom of the page with page.
- Check the event parameters to see what you are allowed to bring.
- Be sure you know the format for the event as stations, power point, tasks, problems.
- Check the rules for the content to be covered at each level – regional, state, national.

## OBTAINING RESOURCES

### INTERNET RESOURCES

- Internet Resource File – see Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the event
- Search Engines for event topics
- Search for On-line text books and lab manuals about topic
- Search for College Course Lecture Notes and Labs about topic

### SO TRAINING MATERIALS ON THE SO WEBSITE

- Internet Resources and Power Points for Events
- See Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the event

### SO TRAINING GUIDES and MANUALS

- See Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the Store
- Organized by events

### SO TRAINING CD'S OR DVD'S

- See Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the Store
- Organized by Sciences and some events have a CD or DVD for the Event

### SO TEST PACKETS

- See Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the Store
- Available by Division.

### FIELD GUIDE – TAXONOMY EVENTS

- See Science Olympiad website www.soinc.org under the Store
- Also available from local books stores, schools, or libraries

### REFERENCE BOOKS and TEXTBOOKS

- Available from local books stores, schools, libraries, friends, family
- May be able to get freebies from local school or community colleges in earlier editions

### MODELS

- Available from local schools or community colleges – ask to borrow
- May be able to get freebies from doctors, dentists, local professional organizations

### MAPS

- Available from local schools, libraries, or on the web
- Road maps are available from most state or AAA of someone is a member
- Topographic maps can be downloaded online

# ORGANIZING RESOURCES FOR STUDY – STUDENT BINDER

**The most effective resources are the ones produced by the students.**

- The process of producing the resources is a major learning tool.
- Have a copy of the rules in your binder
- Have a copy of the lists (birds, fossils if applicable) in your binder
- Prepare and organize materials by major topic divisions.
- Place materials from many different sources into your topic divisions
- Reduce the size of pictures where possible to get more information on a page.
- Color code information to help you locate or emphasize key items.
- Put pages in sheet protectors – two per protector to save space.
- Use tabs to separate sections.
- Label tabs so items can be located with ease.

# PREPARING FOR THE EVENT

**Learning the material**

- Practice for the competition using ALL of your resources.
- Practice with sample questions and use your resources to answer them.
- Remember that the events are timed and learn to use time effectively
- Use a timer when attempting to locate information and answer questions.
- Modify the information as you use it to make it more efficient.
- Learn as much of the information as possible and only depend upon a few key items for the resource page to be taken into the competition

**Team work skills**

- Use time effectively! Assign tasks and trust your partner's skills.
- Identify and utilize the strengths of each team member.
- Practice working as a team.

**Time limits**

- Practice under competition conditions.
- Practice effective methods of using the strength of each team member to maximize the use of allotted time.
- Make up sample questions and stations to practice completing tasks within an assigned time limit.

# PREPARING COMPETITION RESOURCES

- Check the event parameter so you know what is allowed in the competition.
- Since the events are timed, organization of materials is essential for the most effective use of the materials during the competition.
- Organize materials on each page to maximize available space
- Cut and paste items to organize materials more effectively on a page.
- Write notes in margins or with pictures.
- Color code information to help you locate or emphasize key items.
- Use front and back of the page.
- Place the page in a protective sleeve or laminate it so it won't get wet or damaged.

# THE COMPETITION

**General questions**

- Ask the event supervisor if the test can be separated for packet-type tests.
- Be respectful of the event supervisors. Remember that they have volunteered their time to provide a competition for you.
- If there is a question about the rules, show the supervisor that section of rules to make your point.

**Answer Sheet**

- Be sure to put your team name, team number, and individual team member names.
- Print information so it can be easily read and understood.
- Place answers in the appropriate place on the answer sheet.
- Be sure to put units after any measurements or calculations.
- Be sure answers to essay questions are organized and easy to read.

**Team work skills**

- Use time effectively! Assign tasks and trust your partner's skills.
- Keep on task and be sure to finish each part of the assigned question.

**Answering questions**

- Carefully read all questions to determine exactly what is being asked.
- Take a moment to determine if your answer makes sense.
- Be certain that you have completely answered each question.
- Pay attention to details in the questions and in your answers.

**Measurements and Calculations**

- Be sure to analyze the instrument to determine its capacity (range) and increment values to ensure the proper use of the instrument.
- Make measurements to the accuracy of the instrument.
- Select the most appropriate type of instrument for the type of measurement requested.
- Read the increment carefully.
- Be sure to remember any special considerations such as a meniscus.
- Use the same instrument for multiple measurements to improve precision.
- Give your answer in the proper units and be sure to include the units with your answer.
- Be sure calculations are set up and carried out properly.
- Work in a neat organized fashion showing all work where partial credit is possible.
- Be sure your answer makes sense.
- Remember that calculations may be used for breaking ties