Science Olympiad State Incentive Grant 2024: Auburn University Report

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
College of Sciences and Mathematics

Program Background Information: Auburn University was awarded a $10,000 Science Olympiad State Incentive Grant for the 2023-2024 Science Olympiad Season. With these funds, Ewald and Gilpin wanted to accomplish two main goals with their proposal "Rebuilding Science Olympiad in Alabama":

1. New coach recruitment through Science Olympiad "Rodeo" (30 new teams 2023-2024)
2. Establishment of Auburn University Science Olympiad Alumni Chapter

Science Olympiad Rodeo 2023-2024

Ewald and Gilpin hosted 4 Professional Development Workshops, which counted as teacher state professional development credit and TEAMS credit for high school teachers; A total of **117 Teachers** attended; **760.5 Professional Development Hours awarded**

Locations:

1. South: University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL (9/21/2023)
2. Southeast: Troy University, Troy, AL (9/22/2023)
3. Mid-state: Lab on Dexter, Montgomery, AL (9/26/2023)
4. North: Athens State University, Athens, AL (10/10/2023)

32 of the 117 teachers that attended these workshops registered a team. 27 have never coached Science Olympiad or have not coached a team in over 3 years.

Many of the teachers that did not start a team this year are going to attend a tournament in Spring 2024.

Finances:

- The Rodeo was allocated $5,000 from the grant
- Expenses including In-State Travel, Business Meals, and AU Hosted Event Meals and Refreshments totaled $3,544.25. The remainder will be used to host two more Rodeo Trainings in Summer 2024.

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Science Olympiad Alumni Society 2023-2024

Gilpin recruited Auburn University undergraduate and graduate Science Olympiad Alumni and volunteers to start a AU Science Olympiad Alumni Chapter. So far in this academic year (23-24), the group had **6 chapter meetings**, **29 members** and has starting collaborations with the College of Science and Mathematics STEM Outreach Center to aid in planning for Spring Tournaments.

Chapter Meetings:

1. September 28, 2023: Interest Meeting focused on future goals, Started Website
2. November 9, 2023: Planning Meeting for AU Elementary Science Olympiad (assigned Test Writers, Event Coodinators, General Volunteers, Started a Resource Bank), Discussed Mentorship at Millbrook Middle School (A Rodeo Attendee needed help), Officer Position Nominations opened (voting online post meeting)
3. November 27, 2023: Officers Announced, Working groups for making Divisions B/C Resource Banks and writing AU Elementary Tests
4. January 24, 2024: Defined roles for Elementary Science Olympiad Event Day, State Science Olympiad Planning
5. February 21, 2024: Working meeting planning for Alabama State Science Olympiad Events
6. March 17, 2024: Working meeting to gather supplies and print tests for Alabama State Science Olympiad Events

The Science Olympiad Alumni Society became an official AU Student Organization on November 10, 2023

Collaborations with COSAM STEM Outreach:

1. Elementary Science Olympiad: SOAS members wrote **17 out of 20 tests** needed for the event; **14 of 18 members registered to be Event Coordinators**
2. State Science Olympiad: SOAS members will be coordinating **6 events** Fast Facts (B), Roller coaster (B), Tower (B/C) and Write It Do It (B/C)
3. Rodeo Attendee Mentorship: One SOAS member **mentors a local Science Olympiad Coach** over email and Zoom

Finances:

- SOAS was allocated $5,000 from the grant
- Expenses included SOAS dinner meeting meals totaling $445.20. They did not need to purchase materials for Science Olympiad Tournaments hosted at Auburn University and they were unable to travel to Regional Tournaments throughout Alabama this year because they occurred over AU Spring Break. They anticipate using the rest of this money as they plan for next year since their group is now more established.