MASON HIGH SCHOOL AND SHADY SIDE ACADEMY TEAMS CROWNED CHAMPIONS AT 6th ANNUAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
University of Michigan Science Olympiad Alumni Club Brings More Than 2,000 Visitors to Campus

February 24, 2023, ANN ARBOR, Michigan — Student teams from Mason High School in Mason, OH and Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, PA took top honors at the 6th Annual Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament at University of Michigan on Saturday, February 18, 2023. More than 88 teams from 6 states traveled to the Ann Arbor campus to compete in a variety of hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) challenges. The event was entirely run by the University of Michigan Science Olympiad Club, a registered student organization consisting of ~70 dedicated members. Several Washtenaw County-area teams participated.

"Congratulations to our winners, and to all teams that competed last weekend! It was an honor to host some of the most talented STEM students from across the Midwest on UM's beautiful campus," said EmJ Rennich, director of UM Science Olympiad. "I'd like to thank our 500+ UM student volunteers, 64 knowledgeable event supervisors, and 15 passionate board members for their hard work. Without these amazing people, USMO 2023 never would have become a reality!"

Teams of 15 students competed in events like Bridge, where an efficient balsa wood structure is designed to hold the most weight; Flight, where aeronautical devices post maximum times aloft; Disease Detectives, where students solve epidemiological mysteries based on outbreaks. On Saturday, 46 different events touching every letter in STEM provided a platform for students to display their talents in lab, research, and engineering settings.

Science Olympiad CEO Jenny Kopach traveled from Chicago to attend the event and meet with several University of Michigan department heads at a VIP lunch arranged by the student organization. "As an alumnus of Michigan (LSA '90), I could not have been more impressed by the all-hands effort of the Science Olympiad Alumni Club on Saturday," said Ms. Kopach. "These students are so committed to advancing opportunity in STEM education that they put hundreds of hours into organizing this event. Their efforts turn the phrase 'leaders and best' from words to action."

"It's been exciting to watch the University of Michigan Tournament grow in just a few short years", noted Nath Akella from the Michigan Science Olympiad State Board and former Science Olympiad High School Coach. "I had the awesome experience of working with these students when I coached, and it was always enjoyable to see how

much they grew from the experience. My team has nearly 30 alumni who attended Michigan, many of whom continue to work with Science Olympiad. They often note how much it influenced their education and shaped their goals. I am excited for us to continue to partner with UMSO to help all students enjoy all things science!"

A full list of tournament winners and official tournament results, including event-by-event scoring, is posted here: [UMSO 2023 Official Results]

The tournament's official award ceremony livestream can also be found at the following link: [UMSO 2023 Award Ceremony]

Other **top high school (Division C) winners** at the Tournament include:
- Second: Marquette University High School (Milwaukee, WI)
- Third: Solon High School (Solon, OH)
- Fourth: Carmel High School (Carmel, IN)
- Fifth: Munster High School (Munster, IN)

Other **top middle school (Division B) winners** at the Tournament include:
- Second: Clague Middle School (Ann Arbor, MI)
- Third: Solon Middle School (Solon, OH)
- Fourth: Boulan Park Middle School (Troy, MI)
- Fifth: McCord Junior High School (Sylvania, OH)

UM Science Olympiad (UMSO) is a student-run organization that focuses on putting on high-quality tournaments at the University of Michigan and increasing access to STEM educational opportunities for middle and high school students. UMSO aims to excite these young scientists through high quality events and provide quality resources for those not able to attend our annual tournament! See tests/keys from all previous tournaments at our website.

Science Olympiad is an Oakbrook Terrace-based, national non-profit organization founded in 1984 dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 STEM education, increasing interest and opportunity in science, creating a technologically literate workforce, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

One of the nation's top public universities, the University of Michigan has been a leader in research, learning and teaching for more than 200 years. With one of the highest research volumes of any public university in the country, U-M is advancing new solutions and knowledge in areas ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to driverless vehicle technology, social justice, and carbon neutrality. U-M's alumni body is one of the largest in the world and includes a U.S. president, scientists, actors, astronauts, and inventors.

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