

Cream of the crop compete in Macomb Science Olympiad

Winners advance to state finals April 30

MACOMB DAILY



A young scientist from Stevenson High School walks away with her medal and a big smile during the Regional 7 Science Olympiad Competition. Stevenson High School's science team, along with Eisenhower High School and Chippewa Valley High School won the honor to advance to the state science competition April 30.

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At one time the biggest cheers at a science fair went to the kid who figured out how to simulate a volcano eruption?

Not anymore.

Today's young scientists – like the hundred or so who competed in the Regional 7 Science Olympiad Competition at Macomb Community College South Campus recently – are not only designing moveable objects but solving the world's problems.

“This is the cream of the crop,” said Kimberly Popso, Science Olympiad board chair and among the science enthusiasts supporting the competition that has teams of students working to research and create projects related to genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology.

“These kids work really hard to be able to participate. They sacrifice their summer to research their topics,” Popso added, noting some of the rabbit holes that the students find themselves in can go on forever, from discovering a species of bird to learning about its walking pattern or its

lineage in time and what enabled them to survive while other species died. Hours are put in weekly, from fall until spring, to master the sciences or remedy the problems given to them.



Hundreds of students competed in the Regional 7 Science Olympiad Competition. Photo courtesy of Kimberly Popso.

As early as middle school, participants become part of competing teams and by the time they graduate high school have enough knowledge to take on jobs or college research projects.

“They become experts in their field,” Popso said.

Those who go on to become professionals often return as judges and supervisors for the competition such as Emily Huening, a representative with the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association who traveled from across Michigan to run the botany trial event or Sgt. Sue Dumas, who brought members of the Macomb County Sheriff’s Office to help out with the forensic/crime buster event.

“The scientists, sheriffs, and experts that participated did an amazing job,” Popso said. “The sheriffs stayed all day and even helped deliver awards afterwards. The remote sensing scientist even came back for a debrief to help our region prepare for States.”

This year’s Regional 7 Science Olympiad Competition was held on March 19.



It was a great day for Macomb County’s future scientists, researchers and engineers. Photo courtesy of Kimberly Popso

Despite delays caused by the pandemic, hundreds of students participated in the competition, although even more are expected next year when schools have more time to prepare. Many awards were given out during the day including the final rankings for each school, which determined what schools would advance to the Michigan Science Olympiad Tournament held annually at Michigan State University.



A proud student displays his medal during the Regional 7 Science Olympiad held in March at MCC. Photo courtesy of Kimberly Popso

The finalists who competed in the Macomb Science Olympiad heading to the state competition April 30 include:

The top three high schools in Division C include:

1. Eisenhower High School (Utica Community Schools)
2. Chippewa Valley High School (Chippewa Valley Schools)
3. Stevenson High School (Utica Community Schools)

The top five middle schools in Division B include:

1. Malow Junior High (Utica Community Schools)
2. South Lake Middle School (South Lake Schools)
3. St. Augustine Catholic School
4. L'Anse Creuse Middle School North (L'Anse Creuse Public Schools)
5. Eppler Junior High (Utica Community Schools)

For more information about the Michigan Science Olympiad Tournament, visit <https://miscioly.org/2022-state-tournament>