



December 2021

Dear Colleague,

As the Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator for the Southeastern PA Section of the American Chemical Society (SEPSACS), I am pleased to announce that SEPSACS will again be participating in the annual U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). The primary goals of this program are to stimulate interest and achievement in chemistry among high school students throughout the United States and to provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools.

My immediate task is to encourage you and your students to participate in this program. It is the responsibility of SEPSACS to nominate students from our region of Pennsylvania to take the USNCO national examination. In order to identify these students, we host and conduct a Local Section Exam (LSE) (annually held in March), and the top finishers on that exam move on to the USNCO National Exam (annually held in April). Our section, based on its population, is permitted to nominate up to ten students who take the LSE to move on to the National Exam. [Here](#) is a detailed set of rules for the USNCO exam.

Both the LSE and Part I (multiple-choice section) of the National Exam will be offered to SEPSACS participants in an online, virtual format again this year. My understanding is that Part II (free-response section) of the National Exam will be taken at a separate time from Part I, and will be a paper-and-pencil exam. A decision as to whether there will be a laboratory component to this year's USNCO exam will be made by the end of February by the national ACS office. I will be passing along more detailed information to you as I receive it from the ACS office.

Our section's LSE will be given on Saturday, March 19, at 3:00 p.m. The LSE will be given virtually via an online portal that students will register for closer to the time of the exam. I will email the participants with those instructions closer to the time of the LSE. I will proctor the LSE in a Zoom setting. Participants will need two devices: one to take the exam (a computer or tablet device would work well for that) and a second device with a camera for proctoring purposes.

Students can prepare for the Chemistry Olympiad by using past exams available at [www.acs.org/olympiad](http://www.acs.org/olympiad).

***\*\*\*At this time you can share this document and [this link](#) with your students so they register with me for the LSE, and they can mark their calendars to reserve the afternoon of Saturday, March 19, 2022, for the LSE that begins at 3:00 p.m. I encourage your school to participate in this academic competition. The deadline for registration for the LSE is Friday, February 11, 2022.\*\*\****

The top three student scores on the local section exam are recognized with a cash award at the SEPSACS Education Night, which this year is held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at Messiah College. The top 150 scoring students on the USNCO national exam receive recognition from the ACS Office for outstanding performance at the national level. We hope these recognitions will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

Students competing in the USNCO are eligible to be selected as members of the United States team for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). For the past thirty-eight years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in examinations, get to know students from other countries, and learn about the host country's culture over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. The 54th international event will be organized by China, July 10-20, 2022.

Thank you for helping promote chemical education in this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd K. Trout". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd K. Trout, Ph.D.

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