

4TH ANNUAL 
U.S. Physics Olympiad
— for middle-school students —

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**Be Part of Science-Education History:
Join the 4th Annual U.S. Physics Olympiad for Middle-School Students**

Olympiad Day: March 28, 2024. This is a virtual competition that will give your best and brightest students in grades 6, 7 and 8 – and their dedicated teachers – a chance to shine.

Registration Deadline: March 26, 2024. There is no application fee.


Estimated time to complete application: 15 minutes (see instructions below)

Eligible applicants: School leadership, teachers, coaches, parents/guardians are invited to apply on behalf of middle-school students.

Announcement of winners and prize distribution: April 29, 2024

Event host: Physical Science Research Associates (Phycira), the nation's leading company devoted to making physics a separate discipline in U.S. middle schools; making physics education fun for students and teachers; and to making America more competitive as a global force in science and technology.

The Olympiad is supported by leading American firms, national laboratories and government organizations.

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Background

The tradition of holding national and international Physics Olympiads for middle- and high-school students started in 1967 among Eastern European nations. Other European and Asian countries eventually joined these competitions. The United States launched its own national physics competition for high-school students in 1986. Since then, the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Institute of Physics have been sponsoring and organizing a U.S. high-school team to compete in the exciting and highly competitive International Physics Olympiad.

Until recently, there had never been a nationwide physics competition for U.S. middle-school students. The Inaugural Middle School Physics Olympiad, organized by Physical Science Research Associates (Phycira), was held on April 29, 2021, and attracted 1,012 participants from nearly every state. The historic event comprised two sessions that challenged students to answer questions and solve problems based on current, U.S. physical-science curricula. The second Olympiad took place on March 31, 2022, with more than 1,500 participants, and the third Olympiad took place on March 9, 2023.

It is fitting that Phycira is leading this event. The company has earned national and international attention for innovation in physics education, including the popular Physics in a Box program that is being used successfully by schools nationwide. Phycira's goal is to take U.S. science education (especially physics education in middle- and junior-high schools) to the highest international levels. It is doing just that by providing comprehensive support to teachers and school leadership teams.

In addition to recognizing and rewarding student excellence, the goals of this national physics competition for middle-school students are to expand awareness about the critical need for physics education in all grades of middle- and junior-high school; provide networking opportunities for science teachers; and to encourage and prepare students to compete in national and international competitions when they reach high school.

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Event Details

The 4th U.S. Physics Olympiad for Middle-School Students is a one-day, virtual event. The competition will ask students to answer questions and solve problems in the fields of mechanics, optics, and electricity & magnetism.

The first part of the competition will give students 90 minutes to answer 25 multiple-choice questions. They will be delivered electronically to the coaches of registered participants at 8 a.m. (local time for each participant) on March 28, 2024. Coaches will be responsible for supervising students, scanning their answers and returning all responses for evaluation by 12 p.m. (participants' local time). The second part of the competition consists of six, open-response, pre-algebra-based physics problems to be completed within 90 minutes. It will start at 1 p.m. (local time for each participant/team), with all answers to be submitted by 5 p.m.

The competition will be overseen and judged by a team of internationally renowned scientists and distinguished school educators led by Dr. Anatoliy Glushchenko, University of Colorado Professor of Physics.

The results of the competition will be announced on April 29, 2024. All participants will be given certificates to recognize their academic excellence and celebrate their participation in this national event. The top performers will receive special certificates. We hope the certificates will be distributed at school-wide award ceremonies.



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[Start Application](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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Questions?

We are happy to answer your questions or provide additional details.
Please contact us at: **Olympiad@phycira.com**.

We look forward to receiving your application and seeing you at what is sure
to be an exciting event!

The Phycira Team