

FAQ Elementary Science Olympiad
Auburn University Regional Tournament

General:

Q: Can students write their answers in cursive?

A: Students may write in cursive or print; however, the answers must be legible.

Q: Will spelling count or will points be deducted for the variety of tests we take?

A: Yes, spelling does count and can be used to reduce points or break ties.

Q: For the events that have students answering questions at timed stations, will they be given a warning such as "10 seconds left" before they are to move to the next station?

A: A timer will be projected in the room so that students may review remaining time.

Aerodynamics:

Q: What is meant by "plain white paper"? Is this computer/printer paper, construction paper, or cardstock?

A: 8.5" x 11" Copy Paper, 20 lbs., 92 Brightness, can be purchased at any office supply store.

Q: If students complete their airplane before the 10 minutes is up, may they practice flying them?

A: No practice time will be given.

Barge Building:

Q: Will the kiddos have a sample of the item that will be the load to use when constructing their barge?

A: The students will be shown the item and given the objects average mass before they begin construction.

Q: Also, if one falls off but the barge doesn't take on water will their event be over, or must the barge take on water first?

A: When loading, if an object falls off the barge, but the barge does not take on water, that object will not count for the total amount held; however, they will be able to keep loading. Loading will stop when the water enters the barge.

Categories:

Q: Would Andean mountain cat be allowed as an answer for "A" under endangered species?

A: Yes, the Andean Mountain cat (*Leopardus jacobita*) is an endangered species.

Q: Is it allowed under category "natural disaster" to list a name of a natural disaster ex: hurricane such as Opal for the letter "O"?

A: We will allow a hurricane name if it made significant landfall and was rated category 4 or higher at landfall.

Q: Also, under category "Planets", can we use minor planets?

A: No, A **minor planet** is an astronomical object in direct orbit around the Sun (or more broadly, any star with a **planetary** system) that is neither a **planet** nor exclusively **classified as** a comet.

Q: Please clarify the rules/my thinking for Categories. Students will write those five categories across the top of their cards. Then teacher will draw five letter tiles and those go down the y-axis to form a chart. Teacher will then start a timer and students will need to complete each column for each letter as quickly as possible. This process is done for each of the three students on the team. Each receiving different categories, and likely different letters. Am I correct in my thinking? Please clear up any misconceptions I have! Will the three students be able to work together or completely solo, scores added together for an overall score?

A: Yes, it sounds like you are correct in your thinking. The biggest difference from the SO rules and ours is they had more categories/letters. We limited ours to 5 and 5, so 25 total blanks will need to be filled in. They will not know the letters and categories until they arrive. It will likely be different categories and letters for each of the three cards. They may work together; however, others will be close by, so they should whisper. Each correct answer is worth 1 point, so the team with the most points wins. The tie breaker will be the highest points on a card in one single round.

Q: Programming-as in computer programming?

A: Programming is the process of taking an algorithm and encoding it into a notation, a programming language, so that it can be executed by a computer.

Q: Planets, we only have 8 named planets, so are we looking for words related to planets for the other letters?

A: We will accept actual planets and words associated with planets.

Crime Busters:

Q: Are students allowed to bring one 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper with notes for reference for Crime Busters?

A: No. Students will only bring their goggles and lab coats or aprons to the event.

Q: For Crime Busters, will the students be able to take the powders out of the vials or containers and examine on a paper towel?

A: They will be able to transfer powders to different vial, piece of paper, or perhaps a petri dish in order to use the liquids and magnifying glass for identification.

Disease Detective:

Q: Do you have specific diseases/injuries that my students need to study?

A: General disease control and identification

Q: As well, can the two students talk to each other during the event?

A: Team members will be allowed to talk to each other; however, they will want to whisper as others could possibly hear them as well.

Q: I saw that spelling counts on the website, and I just wanted to double check that it applies for this event too.

A: Yes, spelling does count and can be used to reduce points or break ties.

Food for Thought & Energy

Q: In the category Food for Thought, the Science O Rules Manual refers to the food pyramid. Should students have an understanding of "Choose My Plate" as well? It seems that "My Plate" has replaced the pyramid.

A: Yes, students should have an understanding of MyPlate, as it is the current icon to represent US dietary recommendations.

Grasp a Graph:

Q: The manual says 1 participant but the Auburn SO Clarification PDF says 2. I assume we should follow the SO clarification but wanted to double check.

A: The Auburn SO FAQs and Clarifications supersede any rules in the SO Manual.

Q: Will compasses be provided for students to aid in drawing a pie graph? Are they allowed to bring them in?

A: Compasses will not be allowed to be brought in nor will they be provided.

Pentathlon:

Q: If students have allergy to latex or eggs and want to participate in pentathlon, will they be allowed to wear gloves?

A: Yes. However, we have no plans to use eggs or latex in the Pentathlon event.

Q: What is meant by general science questions? Can this be narrowed down to a subject or subjects i.e., chemistry, physics, geology, biology, etc.?

A: General science refers to the broad range of science topics such as chemistry, physics, ecology, biology, geology, astronomy, etc. We will be asking questions that could cover any, all or additional categories. We suggest purchasing or using the Brain Quest games (<https://www.amazon.com/Brain-Quest-Questions-Know-All/dp/1563058812>) as a guide if you are stumped as to how to review for this event.

Q: I have assigned 5 students (3 boys and 2 girls). Is there any way that they could all participate in this event?

A: The Auburn SO FAQs and Clarifications supersede any rules in the SO Manual. Pentathlon will have 4 total student participants.

Rock Hound:

Q: Can you clarify what the "completed rock chart" is that students should bring for rock hound?

A: The Rock Hound chart should include the items listed in the 2019 AU Event Information document, for Rock Hound, under the heading "The Competition", number 2 where it lists the questions that will be asked about rocks.

Q: Can the 8 ½ x 11" chart include pictures?

A: Yes, the Rock Hound chart may include pictures.

Straw Tower:

Q: Do you know what type of drinking straw will be provided?

A: The type of straws will be given at the competition.

Q: Will rulers and scissors be provided?

A: Rulers and scissors will be provided.

Q: Of what material will the loading block be made or can you give the starting weight of the first loading block?

A: We will not be giving the material or weight of the loading block.

Q: The two rule sheets vary. We need to clarify which are the official rules.

A: Auburn University Rules supersede any other rule sheets.

Q: Specifically, we would like to know the score of the following 3 towers:

A: Height in cm x 2 + the weight held in grams; highest score wins. A tower that holds the block and/or additional weight will be ranked higher than a tower of the same height that did not hold weight.

Tower A: 50 cm hold block (30 g) and no extra weight

A: $50 \times 2 = 100 + 30 = 130$

Tower B: 60 cm but fails to hold block

A: $60 \times 2 = 120$

Tower C: 40 cm holds block (30 g) plus additional 40 g

A: $40 \times 2 = 80 + 30 + 40 = 150$

Q: Also, will the students be required to move the towers before loading?

A: Towers will not have to be moved; however, they cannot secure the tower to anything.

Q: Finally, are the straight pins still a valid option to the masking tape?

A: Please see attached Clarification document and refer to the FAQ page online at http://www.auburn.edu/cosam//departments/outreach/programs/Science%20Olympiad/Elementary%20Science%20Olympiad/faq_2019