

January 2, 2020

Dear Chemistry Teachers:

The Local Exam for the 2020 High School Chemistry Olympiad, hosted by the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society, will be held on **Wednesday, March 18th, and Thursday, March 19th, 2020**. The exam will be conducted between 3 and 6 p.m. at over 30 high school campuses covering all of Los Angeles County. Schools with 10 or more participants may request to have the exam administered at their school. If these dates don't work for your school because of Spring break, please contact us to see if we can accommodate you the week before (no single student exceptions). If you will not be holding the exam at your school, we will notify you of the exam location, time and date for your students by March 15th.

The Local Exam is a two-hour multiple-choice test prepared by the National Office of the American Chemical Society, Education Division. It is designed to test the student's knowledge of a wide variety of topics in chemistry. If you would like to review previous years' exams to practice or to determine if you would like to participate in the contest, you may check out the American Chemical Society web site www.acs.org/olympiad and click on past exams. I strongly encourage you to have students prepare for the test by reviewing previous years' exams. The test essentially covers the same material each year. The exam is not only a way for your students to gauge how well they compare to other students in Los Angeles County, but the results can also indicate how your chemistry program compares to that of other high schools.

The Local Exam top 15 scorers (must be U. S. citizens or permanent residents, with no more than two from any one school) will be nominated to compete in the **National Exam, which will be held on Saturday, April 25th at California State University, Dominguez Hills**. The top 20 national winners will be invited to attend an all- expenses-paid, two-week study camp in June. At this camp, four finalists will be selected from the U.S. Team to represent the United States in the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO), which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on July 6-15, 2020.

On **Friday, May 29, 2020, the annual SCALACS High School Awards Night** will recognize and honor the Local Exam winners, the National Olympiad nominees, the individual school high scorers with 10 or more participants, and their teachers. The student who scores highest will receive \$500. Monetary awards and certificates will also be awarded to the remaining top 20 students. School team awards will be presented to the school with the highest combined scores for the top ten participants and to the school with the highest combined scores of ten first year chemistry students.

In an effort to promote chemistry in our schools, we hope you will encourage your students who show an interest and aptitude in chemistry to enter the contest. You may enter as many students as you wish. **There is a participation fee of \$10.00 per student. Single students (not participating with their school) are \$15 per student. The deadline for all entries and fees of \$10.00 per student is due by Monday, March 2nd, 2020. After March 2nd, the cost is \$15.00 per student. To sign up, fill out the enclosed form and send it with a check or purchase order made payable to the American Chemical Society or you can sign up and pay online at www.scalacs.org/?page_id=236.** You will receive further details of the contest (exam rules, directions and parking information, etc.) by return email.

If you have questions, please contact the Section Office by email at office@scalacs.org or at (310) 327-1216. You may also contact me by cell phone (626) 622-7776, or by email at Delker@earthlink.net. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,
Gerald Delker, Ph.D.
Chair, SCALACS ACS National Chemistry Olympiad

HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY CONTEST & OLYMPIAD PARTICIPATION FORM

Please print and complete entire form

Teacher's Name: _____

High School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City, State: _____ ZIP _____

School Phone: _____

E-Mail (used to report results): _____

_____ *I have at least 10 students taking the test and would like to have the exam presented at my school, if arrangements can be made.*

_____ *I have at fewer than 10 students taking the test and will be notified of the test site.*

Number of Students Participating: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Note: Copies of previous years exams are available to help prepare your students. Please go to www.chemistry.org/olympiad and search on H. S. Olympiad Tests. There are copies of many previous local and national Olympiad tests available in pdf format to download.

I certify that all students participating in the exam attend school in the Southern California Section (email Nancy Paradiso in the Section Office at office@scalacs.org if you need clarification).

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE _____

Please mail this completed Participation Form with a check
(\$10.00 per student,
\$15 for single students not participating with their schools).
Please make all checks payable to: American Chemical Society

American Chemical Society
Southern California Section
14934 S. Figueroa Street
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 327-1216

Or you can sign up and pay online at www.scalacs.org/?page_id=236. You will receive an email confirmation by March 1st.

Deadline for receiving this form: March 1st, 2020. After March 1st, the cost is \$15.00 per student.