

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
2020 INDIANA SECTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD EXAMINATION
March 28, 2020

Dear Chemistry Colleagues:

Honor your best chemistry students by providing them with an opportunity to participate in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) competition sponsored by the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The Local Section USNCO examination will be held at 8:30 on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School. The exam serves two purposes: 1) to recognize the best high school chemistry students and high schools in the Indiana Section and 2) to select ten students to take the national USNCO exam in April.

Indiana Section ACS recognition awards will be based on student performance on the 110-minute multiple-choice Local Section Chemistry Olympiad Examination written by a national USNCO committee. Copies of Local Section Chemistry Olympiad Exams from previous years can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html>

Click on the Exams link to access local section and national exams.

[Indiana Section ACS Awards](#)

Indiana Section ACS awards are given in two categories: 1) First-Year Exam (students who have taken one year or less of a high school chemistry course and 2) Advanced Exam (students who are enrolled in a second or higher high school chemistry course). The top three students in each category will receive a recognition plaque and a \$100 cash award. Students who finish in the top 10% in each category will also receive recognition plaques. Additionally, the top scoring student from every school represented by a minimum of three students will have their name inscribed on a perpetual plaque displayed in that school.

The five top scoring schools in each category will receive a team plaque and a one-year membership for one teacher in the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT). Teachers receiving the membership may opt to apply the award as partial payment for membership in the American Chemical Society.

[National USNCO Participant Selection](#)

Those students who wish to compete for an opportunity to take the USNCO national screening exam at Butler University in April 2019 will also take an additional 45-minute open-ended exam written by the Indiana Section USNCO committee. Twelve Indiana Section students with no more than two students from a single high school may take the USNCO national screening exam to attempt to qualify to participate in the Air Force Academy workshop at which the USNCO team is selected. The twelve students will be selected based on their composite performance on the USNCO Local Section Exam plus the additional open-ended questions written by the USNCO chairs.

Of over 10,000 students who take the USNCO exams annually, each of the past ten years the Indiana Section ACS has had between one and five students finish in the top 20 and thus participate in the USNCO training camp with several other Indiana Section students finishing in the top 150. Last year the Indiana Section ACS had four students in the top 20, one of whom was an alternate on the U.S. team. In the last dozen years, we have had three students make the U.S. team and win gold medals in the international competition.

Please share with your students the excitement of competing for individual awards, school awards and the possibility of becoming a member of the United States National Chemistry Olympic team. Challenge your best students to participate in this year's Indiana Section High School Examination. Registration forms will be sent to all teachers who wish to honor their top-performing chemistry students. **Note that there is no limit to the number of students from a given school allowed to take the exams.** Rules and registration forms are attached.

Sincerely,

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