

NEVER ALONE

The Virginia Science Olympiad (VASO) program utilizes several hundred volunteers to assist with their hosting responsibilities for Regional and State tournaments. To accomplish all of the needed tasks, services and support activities associated with hosting, volunteers will be solicited from within the host school's student, faculty and staff population as well as a large population of alumni and other community volunteers. In addition, volunteers will be sought from the family members and friends of tournament attendees.

Competitors come from the elementary, middle and high school population, ages of participants generally range from age 8 thru 18 and will almost exclusively be minors.

Security and safety are key considerations for both competitors and volunteers throughout all tournaments. To assure that competitors are safe during their time at the host facility, the following practices will be in effect:

- All volunteers will need to sign in prior to being allowed to serve in their volunteer capacity.
- All competitors will have a participation wristband and will be required to wear it at all times throughout the competition.
- All volunteers will have a nametag with identifying credentials and will be required to wear their credentials at all times during their volunteering time.
- VASO will assign volunteers so that competitors will not be placed in a situation where they are in a one-on-one situation with any volunteer.
- All volunteers will maintain a minimum two-person rule for all their interactions with individual competitors. This requirement is satisfied if the interaction occurs in an open venue in which the volunteer and the individual student(s) are observable by other volunteers and/or the public.
- All classrooms or event rooms may be visited without prior notice by VASO board members or tournament staff.