



## QUALIFYING FOR STATES

Divisions B and C of Science Olympiad are structured as a series of qualifying tournaments where schools become eligible to compete at the next level of tournament based on their overall ranking – first regional, then state, and finally national. At the regional level, schools are allowed to field multiple teams, but schools can only earn one spot for one team at the State Tournament. A school qualifies for the State Tournament based on the overall competition ranking of its highest-placing team at its own regional tournament. Scores are not compared across regional tournaments or divisions. Schools qualify as a whole, not students, except for the Gold Bids explained on the next page.

The total number of available slots at the State Tournament can vary slightly from year to year depending on facility capacity and other factors. Those slots are proportionally allocated to each regional tournament according to the number of schools, not teams, at that tournament for each division. For example, if the State Tournament will have 20 Division B teams and 20 Division C teams, and Regional A has 40% of all Division B schools and 20% of all Division C schools in the state, then 8 Division B and 4 Division C schools will qualify for the State Tournament from Regional A. We announce the number of available state bids from each regional tournament after we finalize the school regional assignments and the State Tournament capacity.

On the right are the final rankings of the Division C teams at the 2024 VT Regional Tournament. The full results can be found [here](#). The superscript diamond next to the team's overall ranking indicates that the team earned its school a bid to the State Tournament. There were three available Division C state bids to be earned at this regional tournament.

It may initially look odd that the second and third place teams do not have a diamond, but Blacksburg HS already earned a state bid from their higher ranking team in first place, and schools cannot earn more than one state bid. Similarly, it may initially look like the schools in ninth and eleventh place did not get state bids, but they had teams that ranked higher that earned the bids on behalf of the schools.

Team	Overall
Blacksburg H.S. Crackle Blacksburg, VA	1 <sup>◇</sup>
Blacksburg H.S. Pop Blacksburg, VA	2
Blacksburg H.S. Snap Blacksburg, VA	3
West Springfield H.S. Protons West Sprin...	4 <sup>◇</sup>
Tandem Friends School Bozons Charlott...	5 <sup>◇</sup>
Hidden Valley H.S. Roanoke, VA	6
Cave Spring H.S. Knights Roanoke, VA	7
Christiansburg H.S. Blue Demons Christ...	8
West Springfield H.S. Electrons West Spr...	9
Powhatan H.S. Powhatan, VA	10
Tandem Friends School Badgers Charlot...	11

Schools may select any students they wish for their state team, including students from their lower ranking regional teams and even students who did not compete at the regional tournament at all. We strongly urge coaches to communicate how they will determine the state team members to students and parents early in the season. Keep in mind that a device can only be presented for judging at a tournament if it was built exclusively by the fifteen members of the team, so if a device was built by a student you did not place on your state team, that device cannot be taken to the State Tournament.



## GOLD BIDS

Beginning the 2023-2024 season, VASO implemented what we call Gold Bids in an effort to allow students from schools with less established teams a chance to experience the State Tournament. This is the only mechanism for students to qualify in individual events instead of a whole fifteen student team. Depending on the event, there may be one, two, or three students competing together, but for simplicity we will refer to them as “pairs” of students since that is the most common case.

If a school does not qualify for the State Tournament but has a pair take first place in an event, then that pair will be invited to participate only in that specific event at the State Tournament. No other students may be substituted in their place. Schools may earn more than one Gold Bid if they take first place in more than one event. If a school qualifies as a whole for the State Tournament but does not include its regional gold medalists on its state team, those students are not eligible for Gold Bids.

Gold Bid pairs compete on an exhibition basis only, meaning they can earn medals, but do not displace the rankings of other teams. On the right are the top ten teams in the Astronomy event at the 2024 Division C State Tournament. The full results can be found [here](#). Rock Ridge HS earned a Gold Bid for this event, so their team is marked “Ex” for exhibition in the peach box. All six medals were awarded normally to the top six schools that qualified as a whole for the State Tournament, and then an additional second place medal was awarded to the exhibition team, since their score would have earned them second place. The exhibition team does not affect the other schools’ rankings, and thus has no impact on overall rankings or which schools qualify for the National Tournament.

Team	Astronomy
TJHSST Alexandria, VA	1
Rock Ridge H.S. Ashburn, VA <span>Ex</span>	2
Langley H.S. McLean, VA	2
Oakton H.S. Vienna, VA	3
BASIS Independent McLean McLean, VA	4
Westfield H.S. Chantilly, VA	5
James Madison H.S. Vienna, VA	6
Woodson H.S. Fairfax, VA	7
Albemarle H.S. Charlottesville, VA	8
Independence H.S. Ashburn, VA	9
Blacksburg H.S. Blacksburg, VA	10

The Virginia State Tournament typically includes some trial events, which are new events being tested before they become full events. Medals are given in trial events, but the rankings are not included in schools’ overall scores. Gold Bid teams are allowed to compete in any or all of the trial events offered in their division, and they are scored as normal, non-exhibition teams in those events. If a school earned Gold Bids for more than one event, they may still only enter one pair in each trial event. It is up to the coach’s discretion to determine which of their students will participate in each trial event.

Gold Bids are only offered for the State Tournament. The National Tournament only allows schools to qualify as a whole, not individual students.