

Science Bowl 2004

a regional middle school competition
April 23-24, 2004



AMES LABORATORY

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mark your calendars for April 23-24, 2004, and be a part of the inaugural Ames Laboratory/Iowa State University Middle School Science Bowl. Form a team and show you've got what it takes to compete against the best teams in the Midwest. Comprised of both academic and fuel-cell car building competitions, this event is guaranteed to excite and challenge the Midwest's brightest middle school students.

The basics

- ▼ For students in grades 6, 7 and 8.
- ▼ Two-day competition
 - ▼ fuel-cell car competition
1 p.m. on Fri., April 23.
 - ▼ academic competition
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., April 24.
- ▼ Held on the beautiful Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa.
- ▼ Teams from Iowa and surrounding states.
- ▼ Winning academic team advances to the National competition.
- ▼ Meals and overnight lodging provided. No registration fee.

Form your team

Teams consist of four students, one alternate and one coach. The coach may be a teacher or parent. Any students in grades 6-8 may form a team.

Four of the team's five players compete at any one time. Substitutions may occur during the two-minute half time or between matches.

Note: An alternate is encouraged at the regional competition but only four team members may travel to the National competition.



For coaches

Available resources are listed at www.scied.science.doe.gov/nmsb/resources/htm.

The academic competition

The Ames Lab/ISU Middle School Science Bowl is one of 20 regional competitions held across the nation. The academic competition is a fast-paced question-and-answer contest where students answer questions about earth, physical, life and general sciences and math. Both pool-play and double-elimination formats are used.

Each 16-minute match has a two-minute intermission. Questions are read aloud by a moderator. Any player can buzz in to answer a “toss-up” question. Points are awarded for a correct answer, and the team then has an opportunity to answer a bonus question. At the end of the match, the team with the most points is declared the winner.



The car competition

Teams will construct a fuel-cell car onsite. The provided kit contains a solar panel, electric motor, fuel cell, a basic body frame and additional supplies. Using these materials, teams will build a hydrogen fuel-cell powered vehicle and then race it.

Teams cannot bring a pre-constructed car or any additional parts.



Ames Lab and ISU scientists, staff and students serve as officials for both competitions.

The awards

Trophies are presented to the top two teams in each competition. Each player on those teams will receive an individual award.



On to the Nationals

The U.S. Department of Energy will pay all expenses for the coach and four members of the winning academic team to compete in Golden, Colorado, June 17-20, at the National competition.

No school may compete in more than one regional competition. If the entire winning team cannot participate in all National activities, the second-place team will attend instead.

For more information about the regional Middle School Science Bowl, contact:

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www.ameslab.gov/community/msscibowl.html